

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE**

**March 13, 2025
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on March 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Robert Jones gave the invocation. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Tyler, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Ezell, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, Deputy City Recorder Qualls.

Attendance: thirty-four

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2025, Council Meeting
- B. Approval of January 2025 Financial Report

Councilmember Ezell made the motion to approve the consent agenda, second Vice Mayor Tyler. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous, motion approve.

Communication from Citizens:

Lisa Thomspson, 620 South Sanctuary Road - opposed to moving the dog park.

Jane Stevens, 728 Frawley Road, 512 - opposed to moving the dog park.

Holly Page, 3700 Connelly Lane – opposed to moving the dog park.

Nicholas Deslattes, 3507 Crabtree – likes where the dog park is but is excited about a new dog park.

Allie Broersma, 4307 Dupont Street - opposed to moving the dog park.

Greg Fisher, 4603 Maryland Drive – opposed to moving the dog park.

Sandy Kirk, 353 Sunrise Terrace - opposed to moving the dog park.

Jacqueline Lewis, 4113 East Ridge Drive- opposed to moving the dog park.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle- ask if anyone had called about a water leak between the church and Food City on Ringgold Road. Also, a question regarding citizens leaving their garbage cans out after pickup has been done for the day. What can we do to resolve this?

Staff are working on where to tag the cans so citizens will know that they need to remove their cans from the street.

Vice Mayor Tyler – nothing currently.

Councilmember Witt – nothing currently.

Councilmember Ezell – Spoke to some of the neighbors on Springvale and they do not want a park there due to dog parking.

Mayor Williams –

The City Library has the following events coming up:

- Diamond art painting – March 20th
- Drawing with Mr. Alec – March 22nd
- Bedtime Stories the 3rd Monday of the month from 7 – 7:30 pm.
- STEM – the 2nd Monday of the month.
- Home School Book Club – 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
- Novel Idea Book – 2nd Saturday of the month
- Patrons can “check out” TN Aquarium passes.

Communication from City Manager:

- North Mack Smith – Starting March 17th.
- Multi-Purpose Building (Pavillion) – slabs have been done and now laying vertical walls.
- Bids were open this past Tuesday on the expansion of the Construction. The bid is under review right now and will be presented at the next meeting.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1216 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1093 IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN MANDATORY BUILDING CODE(S) AND RULES PROMULGATED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE (second reading) City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated that the City adopted the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code on February 28, 2019. The state's adoption of the 2018 IECC incorporates insulation, fenestration, testing options from the 2009 IECC, so it is necessary to update the East Ridge Ordinance 1093 energy code to ensure alignment with the state of Tennessee energy code amendments. Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Ordinance 1216, second Vice Mayor Tyler. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

9) New Business:

Mayor Williams moved Resolution No. 3664 from J to A under New Business

RESOLUTION NO. 3664 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, NAMING A NEW LOCATION OF THE EAST RIDGE DOG PARK – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller explained that with the completion of the multi-purpose facility and the uses that both the City and citizens hope to use the event center the noise with it being located within proximity to an active dog park would keep some from using it and the City should look at a new location. There are two options: either Springvale Park or Camp Jordan. Pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update one of the recommendations for Springvale Park was the addition of a dog park. Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Resolution 3664 with the location being Springvale Park, second Vice Mayor Tyler. After discussion Councilmember Cagle made the motion to table this resolution, second Councilmember Ezell. The being no further discussion Mayor Williams asked for roll call. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Tyler – Yes, Councilmember Cagle – Yes, Councilmember Ezell – Yes, Councilmember Witt – No, Mayor Williams – Yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3655 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO OPEN A MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT AT FIRSTBANK - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls explained that staff wanted to move funds from the General Fund Operating Account to a Money Market Account which would earn more interest and staff would still have access to the funds if needed. Vice Mayor Tyler made the motion to approve Resolution 3655, second Councilmember Witt. After discussion, Mayor Williams asks for roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2545 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A BID FOR A SOUND ATTENUATION SYSTEM AT THE EAST RIDGE ANIMAL SHELTER – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller explained that City staff met with the Input Group on February 25th to negotiate a comprehensive sound attenuation system that would be within the City's budget not to exceed \$200,000. The revised proposal was received and reviewed by staff on Monday, March 10 and the numbers submitted are as follows:

○ Inside wall and ceiling acoustic tiles	\$62,068.57
○ Sound system integration	\$9,760.00
○ Outside sound barrier wall (atop of concrete wall)	<u>\$120,941.75</u>
Total	\$192,770.32

Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Resolution 2545, second Vice Mayor Tyler. After some discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3657 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A NOMINATION BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDREA WITT TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE EAST RIDGE HOUSING COMMISSION – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams stated that

there had been some email issues for members of the Council and that staff would move Resolutions 3657 and 3658 to the March 27th meeting. Mayor Williams made the motion to table these resolutions until the March 27th meeting, second Councilmember Ezell. Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3658 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVING A NOMINATION BY CITY COUNCIL TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE EAST RIDGE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Passed to March 27th meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 3659 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A NOMINATION BY MAYOR BRIAN WILLIAMS TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams stated that he had interviewed all those that had applied for the library board appointment and that his selection is Lori Commons appointment is Lori Commons in the form of a motion, second Vice Mayor. Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3660 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE THREE (3) PORTABLE RADIOS FOR THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES STATE-WIDE CONTRACT #424, PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 12-3-1201(b) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton explained that the police department would like to purchase three portable radios from Motorola Solutions on sate bid. The price includes the accessories needed. The purchase of the radios was included in the budget. Total purchase price is \$16,842.24. Vice Mayor Tyler made the motion to approve Resolution 3660, second Councilmember Ezell. The being no discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3661 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton explained that the Police Department would like to purchase five body cameras from Motorola Solutions to complete the outfitting of all front-line officers. The purchase price is \$23,090.00. The purchase of the cameras was included in the budget. The purchase will be under Sourcewell contract 042021-MOT. Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Resolution 3662, second Vice Mayor Tyler. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3662 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) MOBILE RADIOS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton explained that the Police Department would like to purchase five mobile radios from Motorola Solutions on State bid (SWC #424). This will allow the Police Department to outfit all needed vehicles with a mobile radio. The total cost is \$25,028.80. The purchase of the radios was included

in the budget. Vice Mayor Tyler made the motion to approve Resolution 3662, second Councilmember Witt. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3663 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, NAMING THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller explained that the multi-purpose facility needs to have a name so that the sign design can be fabricated. City staff narrowed the list down to five names. Mayor Williams stated that he liked Venue 1921, the majority of the council agreed. Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Resolution 3663 with the name being the Venue 1921 at East Ridge. Second Vice Mayor Tyler. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3665 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT THE HAMILTON COUNTY 2024 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT- City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton explained that the Hamilton County District 3 Homeland Security Council had selected the Police Department to receive \$15,107.02 of grant funding. The department will purchase AVO- N Protective Mask Kits to be utilized by the ERPD SWAT Team with these funds. Vice Mayor Tyler made the motion to approve Resolution 3665, second Councilmember Witt. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3666 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AWARDED A BID FOR THE 2025 STREET IMPROVEMENT/ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller explained that bids for the street resurfacing program were opened on March 4 and the City received two bids, Talley Construction and Caldwell Paving and Grading. Caldwell Paving and Grading was the low bidders in the amount of \$1,501,825 (adjusted due to math errors) Mr. Miller would like for Council to add to the motion to award “not to exceed \$1,437 976”. Councilmember Witt made the motion to approve Resolution 3666, second Vice Mayor Tyler. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3667 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE NORTH MACK SMITH ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO ADAMS CONTRACTING, LLC – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller explained that Adams Contracting LLC was awarded the North Mack Smith Road Widening Project in the amount of \$2,335,643. Due to utility conflicts, Adams Contracting was unable to start the project, and the project was suspended on April 23, 2024. All the utility work has finally been completed, and Adams Contracting will be starting on March 17th with completion in 270 days. They are now requesting a change order in the amount of \$28,845.36 to resume work. The change order comprises material escalators, additional demobilization and mobilization, additional surveying, and additional scheduling. Councilmember Ezell made the motion to approve

Resolution 3667, second Councilmember Witt. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the **March 27, 2025**, City Council Meeting
(see Attachment A)

8) Old Business:

None

9) New Business:

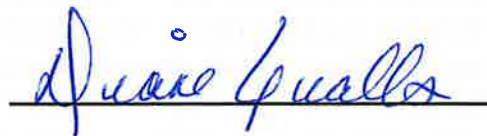
- A) **RESOLUTION NO. ____** Amendments to the HR Rules & Regulations – Human Resources Director Sinigaglio explained that the changes were being done in an effort to update our handbook to reflect policies that the City did not have in a written policy but as a verbal policy.
- B) **RESOLUTION NO. ____** Amendments of Consultant Contract with Volkert, Inc. for John Ross Road Resurfacing Project PIN#131488. The change of order is due to having to redo the bid.
- C) **RESOLUTION NO. ____** Accept Bid Award for the East Ridge Community Center Expansion Project LPRF Grant. Bids were open on Tuesday and Staff is meeting to review on Friday.
- D) **Discussion of City Charter Review Committee** – City Attorney Litchford will review the files from City Attorney Anderson and City Attorney North and report back to the council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



MAYOR



DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE**

**March 27, 2025
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on March 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Danny Lance gave the invocation. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Tyler, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Ezell, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, Office Assistant Bowers.

Attendance: 12

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2025, Council Meeting
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property – Police Department, Sanitation

Vice Mayor Tyler made the motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Councilmember Witt. There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams asked for a roll call. The vote was unanimous, motion approve.

Communication from Citizens:

None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Ezell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Tyler asked that Staff to look into who owns the cell phone tower on Blackhawk Trail. City Manager Miller stated he would look into it.

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at the time.

Mayor Williams reported the events and programs from both the Parks & Recreation department and the Library.

Communication from City Manager:

City Manager Miller reported on the following:

- The Building & Codes department are working with new upcoming businesses – Smoothie King & Jersey Mike’s Subs in the old BB&T Bank property at the corner of North Mack Smith Road and Ringgold Road.
- The building site beside Parkridge East Hospital is about to start construction on several homes in the Graston Multi-Family development.
- Construction has begun on 2 acres of land beside Sweet Bay Apartments on Fountain Avenue – 15 patio homes are proposed.
- The restaurant chain Whataburger is going to the site of the former Wally’s Restaurant.
- In the old Seahorse Farms property, off Frawley Road, plans are under review. The neighborhood will consist of 108 two-story townhomes.
- The new Welcome to East Ridge sign has been installed near the Chik-fil-a restaurant. Waiting on electrical hookups for both new welcome signs.
- The newly named “Venue 1921 at East Ridge” (12,000 sqft) have several active construction items – walls, fire protection, temporary electrical, the parking lots etc.
- Informed the Council that the new City Clerk, Jennifer Deitrick, will start on Monday, March 31st, 2025. She comes from the Town of Farragut with 11 years of experience. He stated that she will be a great asset to the City.
- Mayor Williams discussed taking one of the old Wally’s signs and placing it in the History Center.

8) Old Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3657 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A NOMINATION BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDREA WITT TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM O N THE EAST RIDGE HOUSING COMMISSION– City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Attorney Litchford explained that this is an appointment but in resolution form, memorializing the appointment to the unexpired term made by Councilmember Witt. After much discussion and editing of the resolution wording, Vice Mayor Tyler made a motion, seconded Mayor Williams, to memorialize the appointment of James Meyers to the East Ridge Housing Commission. Mayor Williams asked for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3658 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A NOMINATION BY CITY COUNCIL TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE EAST RIDGE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams asked for nominations from the Council. Vice Mayor nominated Stan Allen to the appointment. Vice Mayor Tyler made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to memorialize the appointment of Stan Allen to the East Ridge Industrial Development Board. Councilmember Cagle stated that an error was found in the appointment service terms. The resolution will be updated to the correct term limits. Mayor Williams asked for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

9) New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3668 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 3241, WHICH APPROVED THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANUAL – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Human Resources Director Sinigaglio went over the proposed changes and additions. City Manager Miller explained that the upcoming updates were triggered by the audit of another city's policies. These changes will help to make clear and enforce policies. Vice Mayor Tyler made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to accept the proposed changes to the Human Resources Manual. After discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved

RESOLUTION NO. 3669 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VOLKERT, INC. RELATING TO THE JOHN ROSS ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT City Attorney Litchford read on caption. EDC Administrator McAllister gave the history of the grant. He explained that at the beginning of the project, Volkert, Inc. was selected to do engineering and CEI services and project administration when it became time for construction; this included bids. After the first round of proposals were open and rejected, Volkert, Inc. requested an additional fee to cover the costs of an additional bid for the project. EDC McAllister explained that a cost cut measure was to have WWTa take responsibility of the manholes along John Ross Road. The amendment cost will be \$5,000. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ezell to approve the amendment with Volkert, INC. for \$5,000. There was discussion amongst Council regarding street cuts that are not remediated to City specifications. Further, the department responsible for monitoring these road cuts must stay on top of these projects in order to make the party involved in the road cut held accountable to restore the project to the satisfaction of the City. After discussion, Mayor Williams asks for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved

RESOLUTION NO. 3670 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A BID FOR THE EAST RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller introduced Michael Prader from H&K Architects that works alongside Kimley Horn in the design of the expansion project. City Manager Miller began by saying that the funding is a 50/50 grant project under the State Local Parks & Recreations Fund. The City's portion of the grant will be \$600,000 and the State will be \$600,000 for a total project cost of \$1,200,000. He continued to discuss items, with subsequent costs for each. City Manager Miller also mentioned other items that were not included in the original bid, which would be needed and completed now instead of waiting. He asked for the additional funding to come from the Capital Improvement Fund Balance. City Manager Miller recommended awarding the bid to Pillar Construction in the amount of \$1,718,000. Discussion was had between City Manager Miller and Council as to where funding for this and other related projects would come from. Councilmember Witt, seconded by Vice-Mayor Tyler to accept the resolution as captioned.

After some discussion, Mayor Williams asked for a roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for April 10, 2025, City Council Meeting
(see Attachment A)**

8) Old Business:

A) Discussion of City Charter Review Commission – City Attorney Litchford researched for the previous Charter Review Commission from 2008. Eight changes were put on the November ballot to approve or deny these recommended changes. He further found information on another Charter Review Commission around 2013. It hasn't been indicated that changes were suggested at that time. City Attorney Litchford has reached out to previous City Attorney Hal North for any information he may have during that time and confer with MTAS for their opinion as well as find out more information. Council discussed that it would be time for another review of the charter and will discuss further at the April 10th meeting.

9) New Business:

A) RESOLUTION NO. ____ Appointment to the Zoning Appeals Board Councilmember Cagle – No discussion.

B) RESOLUTION NO. ____ Appointment to the Zoning Appeals Board Vice Mayor Tyler – No discussion

Councilmember Ezell brought up the dog park. Discussion between Council and Mr. Miller was had regarding the cost of moving the dog park and where it could be placed. He stated that it would have to be investigated if property was purchased with grant funds, what can be done with it as far as putting the park, restrooms, lighting, etc. Mayor Williams brought up turfing an alternative to growing grass.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



MAYOR



OFFICE ASSISTANT