

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

**May 12, 2022
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on May 12, 2022, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Rev. Danny Lance, Truelife Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Chauncey, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Helton, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Employee Milestone Award – Mayor Williams announced the April award for Shawwna Skiles for 15 years of service.

Special Proclamation – Mayor Williams read a proclamation in recognition of Public Works Week. City Manager Dorsey thanked the supervisors for the hard work they do and then presented the proclamations to the following supervisors of the Public Works Departments.

- Chris Vaughn, Street Department
- Mike Ailey, Traffic Control
- Michael Howell, Building Maintenance
- Robert Parker, Solid Waste/Sanitation

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes April 28, 2022 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of March 2022 Financial Report

Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens: None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Helton congratulated Vice Mayor Chauncey on winning the election.

Vice Mayor Chauncey and Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- The Mayor congratulated Vice Mayor Chauncey on the election.
- Chief Allen announced the Spring N2 Safety event will be Saturday, May 14th at Camp Jordan from 10am – 2 pm.
- Library Events:
 - May 3, 2022 - Summer reading registration. Contact the Library at 867-7323 if you have questions.
 - May 25, 2022 - Lunch Brunch for grades 1 – 5. Bring your lunch and listen to reading. Participants can also draw pictures from the books.
 - May 26, 2022 - Adult only spring craft event. All supplies will be provided but space is limited so call to register.
- We received notification from EPA that the air quality monitor behind City Hall will be removed from the Dog Park area.
- May is motorcycle safety awareness month.

Communication from City Manager:

- Splash pad update – We are finishing the fencing and pouring more concrete. The target date for opening is right before Memorial Day. There is a problem with the water coming on when the power goes off. We are working to correct that.
- We are working on a grand opening date for the Dog Park.
- We received an email from TDOT that they have increased the amount of money they will pay the City for mowing at Exit 1. An amendment to the contract is on tonight’s agenda as an addendum.
- Update on paving – We are still looking at spot paving. Mr. Dorsey had Street Supervisor Vaughn divide the City into quadrants on a map and make recommendations for each quadrant. We are also looking at the amount for materials and mobilization costs.

Old Business:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 1167 - Rezoning of 1200 South Seminole Drive from R-1 Residential District to R-2 Residential Duplex District – City Attorney Litchford read the ordinance on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. Nathan Garmany, 2553 Wessex Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37412, the applicant, was present to answer any questions. No one came forward in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1167 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1200 SOUTH SEMINOLE DRIVE, TAX MAP #168F-C-008, FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-2 RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated this is an existing duplex. It was formerly zoned urban residential, but with the adoption of Ordinance 481, the zoning was R-1. Rezoning to R-2 would bring it into conformity. Councilmember Witt

made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Ordinance No. 1167 on second and final reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Helton - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION NO. 3266 - Sign Variance for Portofino's – City Attorney Litchford read the ordinance on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The applicant was not present. No one came forward in favor of or in opposition to the variance. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 3266 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO THE CITY'S SIGN ORDINANCE NO. 1028 TO ALLOW INSTALLATION OF A ROOF-MOUNTED SIGN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6511 RINGGOLD ROAD, TAX MAP #169L-L-007 - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated that in C-2 regulations, a building can be five feet off the right-of-way. This has interfered with being able to place a monument sign; therefore, they are requesting a sign on top of the building. The sign would be eleven feet high, but part of the sign skeleton would be hidden behind the parapet. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3266.

Councilmember Witt asked if they could put a sign elsewhere, such as on the side, and not on top of the building. Mr. Howell stated it would be difficult because the drive-thru will be on the west side of the building. Mr. Dorsey asked if the sign could go on the side or on the front of the building. Mr. Howell stated that it could, and it would not need a variance. Mayor Williams asked if this would be the only sign on the building. Mr. Howell stated there would be a neon sign on one side of the building, similar to the current Portofino's. The Mayor also asked if the sign would have lighting. Mr. Howell stated what has been proposed is a static sign with no lighting, but that could change. Mayor Williams asked if we grant a variance on this sign, would it open it up to any kind of lighting of the owner's choice. Mr. Howell stated that it would. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Mayor Williams, to table Resolution No. 3266, in order to get a final decision on what the owners want. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3267 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING A TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENTS BEER PERMIT FOR RANDALL CARPENTER, ON BEHALF OF OUT OF THE GATE DOG SHOW - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3267. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3268 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR USE OF DICKERT POND AT CAMP JORDAN BY THE EAST RIDGE OPTIMIST CLUB FOR A FISHING RODEO - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated

the event will be June 11th and they will also need the PA system, tables, and chairs. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3268. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3269 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR USE OF CAMP JORDAN ARENA BY THE EAST RIDGE OPTIMIST CLUB FOR A FUNDRAISER CAR SHOW - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated that it is important to support these fundraisers, but suggested that during the budget discussions, the Council could consider charging for the City's costs for these events. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3269. Councilmember Witt stated the Resolution states the proceeds from the fundraiser go to the Needy Child Fund; they actually go to help pay expenses for the Optimist's costs for projects. The resolution will be corrected. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3270 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) PREVIOUSLY LEASED 2020 POLICE MOTORCYCLES FROM BUMPUS HARLEY-DAVIDSON OF MURFREESBORO LTD., LP FOR USE BY THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Allen stated we have leased these three motorcycles for two years. We can either turn them back in or purchase them for a total cost of \$41,550.00. They are all low mileage. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3270. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. (Food City) Certificate of Compliance for Wine Sales (No Action Required) – City Manager Dorsey just wants to make the Council aware that this is coming forward. It is not an action item. The Mayor and/or Councilmembers just need to sign the Certificate of Compliance.

RESOLUTION NO. 3271 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 3260 REGARDING THE CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“TDOT”) FOR THE CITY TO PROVIDE MOWING SERVICES AT THE I-75, EXIT 1 INTERCHANGE FOR FY 2022-2023 – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated the TDOT contract was approved at the April 28, 2022 meeting in the amount of \$8,820. We received notification from TDOT that they are increasing the amount they will pay the City from \$45 per acre to \$50 per acre for a total amount of \$9,800 per year. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3271. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the May 26, 2022 Council Meeting:

8. Old Business:

9. New Business:

- A. **Presentation of FY 2023 Budget** – City Manager Dorsey stated he will go over the department budgets with the department heads. He will present the budget at the next meeting and then Council can schedule a workshop. If any Councilmember wants to go over the budget before then, they can contact him to set up a time.

Councilmember Cagle asked if Food City was going to install sidewalks in front of their new store. City Manager Dorsey stated there is nothing in our ordinances that require installing sidewalks. Mr. Howell stated some businesses install sidewalks, even though they are not required.

Mr. Dorsey stated that the Multi-Modal project will begin next week.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**May 26, 2022
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on May 26, 2022, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

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

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Chauncey, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Helton, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes May 12, 2022 Council Meeting
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property

Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens: None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle, Vice Mayor Chauncey, Councilmember Helton, and Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- He asked everyone to keep the families of the shooting victims in Buffalo and in Texas in their prayers.
- Spring N2 Safety was May 14th. It was a great event with a good turnout and lots of activities.
- The EPA monitor is gone from the Dog Park.
- The Red Wolves will play at home on May 28th with fireworks after the game.
- There will be a Memorial Day event on May 30th at 1:15 pm at Pioneer Frontier Playground, with a laying of a wreath in honor of fallen service members.

Communication from City Manager:

- The Splashpad will be opening tomorrow morning at 11 am, with an opening ceremony in the next week or two.

- Street Paving – Mr. Dorsey and Street Supervisor Vaughn have identified roads for spot paving, and he is figuring the costs. He is working with Asa Engineering on the project and could possibly have more information or a resolution at the next meeting.
- He discussed an agreement with Talley Construction in which Talley wants to use the vacant Animal Shelter lot for an equipment storage site for the multi-modal project. City Attorney Litchford stated he would handle the agreement, and the City would not be responsible for any of the equipment. Talley would also have to restore the land to its prior condition.
- Finance Director Qualls stated we are required to have an actuarial done every year on OPEB benefits, since we pay insurance on some retirees until they are 65. The bill for the actuarial has increased to \$13,216.00, which will have to be approved by Council. Resolution No. 3273 was assigned to this item. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3273. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.
- There will be an employee picnic tomorrow from 11 am – 1 pm, to thank them for their hard work. Mr. Dorsey invited Councilmembers to come by.
- Update on N. Mack Smith Road - We are analyzing right-of-way numbers from Asa Engineering. We will have \$1 million from the Hamilton County. Mr. Dorsey hopes to have a resolution for this at the next meeting. Councilmember Cagle asked about paving Scruggs Road. Mr. Dorsey stated that part of the road was repaved but there is a problem with heavy construction traffic using the road from Georgia to Ringgold Road. This could be a more expensive project because of that.

Old Business: None

Mayor Williams stated Council tabled Resolution No. 3266. Since that time, the developer has withdrawn the sign variance application and no further action is needed.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3272 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO DONATE TWENTY UNITS OF BODY ARMOR TO AWAKENED GENERATION MINISTRIES TO ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS FROM UKRAINE - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant Chief Uselton stated we have twenty units of body armor that have expired. The Police Department was contacted by this charity about donating the body armor. The charity will ship the armor to Ukraine. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3272. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Presentation of FY 2023 Budget – City Manager Dorsey read the overview of the budget. He stated it has been prepared at a maintenance level. He also stated the main sources of revenue are property taxes and local/state sales taxes. Some highlights are:

\$170,000	Year 2 payment to Hamilton County EMS
\$300,000	New Animal Shelter Architecture/Engineering Costs
\$335,000	Eight Police vehicles
\$106,150	New Fire Engine (7-year loan)
\$100,000	Property Demolition/Cleanup
\$75,000	Tractor Shed for Camp Jordan
\$67,500	Updated Court Software
\$55,500	Police Replacement Tasers
\$32,900	Increase in 911 Dispatch funding
33%	Increase in Fuel Budgets Citywide
4%	Cost of Living Raise for Employees

Mr. Dorsey stated he has proposed no property

tax increase. He would like for Council to decide when they would like to have a budget workshop.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the June 9, 2022 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

- 3. B. Employee Milestone Awards for May - Mayor Williams stated we will have two awards for May.

- 8. **Old Business:** None

- 9. **New Business:**
 - A. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Approval of FY 2023 Budget (1st reading)** – No discussion

 - B. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Budget Amendment (1st reading)** – Ms. Qualls stated this is the final clean-up of this year’s budget.

 - C. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Right of way abandonment for 6521 Ringgold Road – Wally’s Restaurant - Tax Map #169L L 004.01 (1st reading)** – Chief Building Official Howell discussed the three abandonments on the agenda. He stated the roads were closed to the public by Council in 1972 but were never abandoned. The applicant wants to abandon them now and the property would go to the surrounding property owners. Mr. Howell asked the Planning Commission to add a condition on the Slater Road abandonment to leave it open to traffic in order not to affect the surrounding businesses.

 - D. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Right-of-way abandonment for 6519 Ringgold Road - Super 8 Motel - Tax Map #169L L 004 (1st reading)**

 - E. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Right of way abandonment for 6517 Ringgold Road - Future Site Candlewood Inn & Suites - Tax Map #169L L 004.02 (1st reading)**

- F. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - IDB Appointment by Mayor Williams** – The Mayor stated all three of these appointments have been properly advertised.
- G. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - IDB Appointment by Vice Mayor Chauncey**
- H. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - IDB Appointment by Council**
- I. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Approval of bids for property clean up at 711 State Line Road** – Chief Building Official Howell stated this property went before the Housing Commission and a clean-up order was issued. We have advertised for bids for this cleanup since an original quote was over \$10,000. City Attorney Litchford agreed that this would have to be bid out. He also stated that all the items cleaned up, including vehicles, will go to the salvage company. Mr. Litchford stated a lien will be placed on the property.

Mayor Williams wished everyone a blessed and safe memorial day.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.