

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

**February 9, 2023
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 9, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Debbie Lance, True Life Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Haynes, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Tyler, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Attendance: 17

Milestone Award for January 2023 – Mayor Williams announced that Sinisa Stojnic has 10 years with the City and Hal Duncan has 35 years.

Special Proclamation – Mayor Williams and Council presented a proclamation to the McDonald family on the occasion of the 106th birthday of Delapheene (Della) McDonald.

Special Presentation – Mayor Williams and the Council recognized Officer Alan Resendiz, Officer Teddy Dyer, Officer Arthur Richardson, and Corporal Joseph Jansen for saving the life of a young child who was in a car accident on I-75. Mayor Williams expressed appreciation from the Council and presented them with City challenge coins.

Chief Uselton also announced that the Police Department is accepting applications for the Citizen's Police Academy which will be starting on February 28th.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes January 26, 2023 Council Meeting
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property

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

Communication from Citizens: None

Communication from Councilmembers:

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

Councilmember Witt encouraged citizens to sign up for the Citizen's Police Academy.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- Library
 - February 14 - Storytime, 10:30 – 11:00 am
 - February 16 and 23 - Senior Bingo, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
- Parks and Recreation
 - Spring registration for soccer, baseball, t-ball, softball, adult softball is going on
 - April 25 - D-bat - Free clinic camp
 - April 28 - D-bat - Parks and rec night
 - June 13 - Softball night at Lookouts
 - Soccer all-star weekend with rec teams
 - April 29 - Red Wolves parks and rec night
 - March 5 - Last day of sign-ups for baseball, softball, t-ball
 - February 24 – last day for soccer sign-ups
 - March 19th – last day for sign-ups for adult softball

Go to agallum@eastridgetn.gov for more information.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Communication from City Manager:

- The new leaf truck arrived last week and is in operation in the northwest part of the City moving eastward.
- We will have presentations from three architectural firms on Tuesday, February 14th regarding the new animal shelter. It may be on the next agenda or possibly on March 9th.
- A Ringgold Road progress meeting was held today. Talley construction will be working on the south side for six more weeks until mid-March and then move to north side. Completion is scheduled for October or November 2023.

Old Business: None

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3355 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE AN APPOINTMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER CAGLE TO THE EAST RIDGE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SUSAN THOMAS - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Cagle appointed Jeff Ezell. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3355 appointing Jeff Ezell to the Industrial Development Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3356 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH FAMILY CONCESSIONS, LLC FOR THE OPERATION OF FOOD AND REFRESHMENT CONCESSIONS FOR THE EAST RIDGE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Parks and Recreation Director Skiles stated the term will now expire in 2027, and it can be renewed for one additional year after the fourth year. We have also added beer sales into the contract, giving

Family Concessions, LLC the first right of refusal to sell beer at non-city sponsored special events. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3356. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3357 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Skiles discussed the highlights which includes a \$2,000 sponsorship rider, a \$250 gift card, and startup packs of baseballs, softballs, and soccer balls. They also pay for our sports engine, which is the website. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3357. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3358 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM CHATTANOOGA DOCK BUILDERS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BOARDWALK AND FISHING PIER AT CAMP JORDAN PARK - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Skiles stated we received one proposal from Chattanooga Dock Builders. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3358. Jeff Sikes with Asa Engineering stated there is a discrepancy in the amount of the proposal. Page 11 stated the amount as \$163,822.22 as opposed to page 12 that states the amount as \$150,054.01. Mr. Sikes discussed other issues, such as the warranty on work below the waterline, additional cost for pile driving, and no construction schedule provided. He recommends the City and Chattanooga Dock Builders clarify these issues during the contract negotiations. Councilmember Cagle asked Mr. Sikes if they foresee any dynamite blasting. Mr. Sikes stated if they hit shallow rock they will auger, not blast. Mayor Williams stated the amount of the proposal is still under the \$250,000 amount we were awarded in the grant. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3359 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HHM, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR FY 2022-2023 AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND OTHER REGULATORY AGENCIES - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated we have used HHM since 2012 for our audits. The contract is for \$34,000, plus \$5,000 if a single audit is necessary. Mr. Miller stated the Multi-modal grant will have to be audited but not in this fiscal year; it will be in the next. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3359. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3360 – 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 RIVER CITY CORVETTE CLUB FOR A FUNDRAISER TO HELP BENEFIT THE EAST RIDGE NEEDY CHILD FUND AND THE CHATTANOOGA FOOD BANK - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Skiles stated the event would be a car show on August 5, 2023. The amount we are waiving is approximately \$1,700. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3360. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3361 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUND 2023 GRANT PROGRAM - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Development Administrator McAllister stated the City must submit an intent to apply letter to be eligible for the grant. If awarded, we will use the grant for improvement and renovations at the Community Center. The grant has a maximum of \$2 million with a 50% match from the City. Mr. Miller wants to expand the gym in order to get it tournament certified. At the present time, it is not a full court. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3361. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the February 23, 2023 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:**
- **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Bids for Seal Coating the Splashpad (opens February 16, 2023)** – Director Skiles stated this was not done when the splashpad was built. Staff feels that it needs to be sealed for safety reasons.
- **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - RFP for Generator at City Hall (opens February 15, 2023)** Chief Building Official Howell stated the servers are currently located at the Fire and Police building but will be moved to City Hall, in order to protect them better.
- **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Development Agreement with Kelley X-ray (if approved by IDB)** – City Manager Miller stated this business located at 1500 Fruitland Drive in the summer of 2022. They have invested \$855,000 into the business. They sell x-ray equipment to hospitals, veterinarians, etc. The IDB will consider this agreement on February 16, 2023.
- **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - RFQ – Construction of Animal Shelter** – Mr. Miller stated we received letters of interest from three firms. On Tuesday, February 14th, we will hear presentations from all three firms.
- **Mr. Miller would like to add the following:**
 - **Safe Routes to Schools Grant** – Mr. Miller stated we received this grant in 2015. It included sidewalks on the west side of Belvoir Avenue going north, and a pathway from East Ridge Elementary School to John Ross Road. The Belvoir portion of the grant was eliminated and the only thing left was the walkway which goes from the school and ends at John Ross Road, with no sidewalks from that point to Ringgold Road. He feels this is not a safe environment. It would cost the City \$250,000 to build a sidewalk from that point to Ringgold Road. The City will have to reimburse the State approximately \$24,000 for the amount we have received and give up the grant. Mr. Miller’s recommendation is to give up the grant.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.