

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

**March 11, 2021  
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on March 11, 2021, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Pastor Terry Arnold, Pentecostal Church of East Ridge, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Williams stated it is good to see people in the audience, but we are still following COVID protocol for social distancing.

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

**Employee Service Award:** At the first meeting of each month, the Mayor stated he will recognize who has reached an employment milestone. Employees as of the end of February are Eric Bowen – 25 years, Matt Talley – 15 years, Diane Qualls – 10 years, and Myra Miracle - 5 years. The Mayor thanked them for their service and stated he and the City Manager will give out pins, certificates, and checks on Monday.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes February 25, 2021 Council Meeting
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property

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

**Communication from Citizens:**

David Tyler, 4701 Fountain Avenue, Vice President of the Optimist Club, stated the club has taken great precaution about conducting their meetings during the pandemic. He stated the group is interested in moving their meetings back to the Community Center, with at-risk members Zooming in. City Manager Dorsey will address during his report.

**Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Witt and Councilmember Helton had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Chauncey thanked Director Wilson for cleaning up the outer perimeter of the track and stated the park looks very good.

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams asked everyone to keep City Manager Dorsey and his father in their prayers. Mr. Dorsey's father is in the hospital.

**Communication from City Manager:**

- The parking lot at Camp Jordan is paved and should be striped soon.
- Liquor stores applications are due Monday, March 15, 2021 at noon.
- We have applied for a dog park grant in the amount of \$25,000 possibly to be located at Springvale Park. He and Vice Mayor Chauncey have discussed putting a second dog park behind McBrien School, with some businesses helping to cover the costs.
- Mr. Dorsey stated we are looking at slowly opening up the Community Center for group meetings. He stated we still need to keep in mind the legal issues such as someone catching COVID at one of these group meeting and possibly looking at an agreement for these meetings. Staff would have to be on call to disinfect the rooms. Participants would still have to follow COVID protocols which are still in place.

Mayor Williams reminded everyone to change their smoke and fire detector batteries.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1144 – 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 6205 RINGGOLD ROAD, TAX MAP #169L-F-040, FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND M-2 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated this property is next to Textile Printing and has several different zones; this is just to make the zoning consistent. Vice Mayor Chauncey stated one resident had a concern, not objection, in the Planning Commission Meeting about a buffer between her property and the property being rezoned. The owners will have a 20-foot landscape buffer. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1144 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1145 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET, ORDINANCE NO. 1129, FOR VARIOUS EXPENDITURES IN THE GENERAL FUND, AND DRUG FUND USING FUND BALANCE (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated this amendment is to cover the salaries of two new police officers for three months and purchase two police vehicles. Those amounts are \$110,144 from the fund balance in General Fund and \$34,722 for equipment from the fund balance in the Drug Fund. There will also be \$646,000 from the fund balance to be used for the splashpad and the multi-modal grants and \$20,597 for police vehicle repairs after

an accident. The total coming out of the fund balance is \$776,741. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1145 on first reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3123 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY 2022 TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE’S HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Allen stated this grant requires that at least \$1,000 be spent for overtime and the remainder may be used for equipment. He would like to purchase two moving radar units for \$3,700 with the remaining \$1,300 to be used for traffic enforcement and overtime. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3123. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3124 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR USE OF CAMP JORDAN ARENA FOR THE EAST RIDGE NEEDY CHILD FUND TO HOST A CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN FUNDRAISER** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Williams stated that representatives from the Needy Child Fund approached him about waiving the fee for the car show, and he recommends we do so. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3124. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3125 – INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$750,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated we are looking at ways to refinance some of our debt but keep the same amortization schedule. Cumberland Securities does a lot of work with municipalities in Tennessee and could save the City money. Scott Gibson with Cumberland Securities was present to discuss the refinancing of bonds. Mr. Gibson stated the initial resolution allows for a 20-day protest period and the other is the main bond resolution. He discussed the City’s debt which is about \$7.4 million is variable rates and \$3.7 million is fixed. They recommend locking in fixed rates since interest rates are low. Savings on refinancing is about \$900,000. True interest cost is 1.85%, which can be locked in until 2039.

Councilmember Cagle asked if the number on page 1 included all the City’s debt. Mr. Gibson stated the amount is \$11.9 million which includes everything the City has except for a new loan.

Mayor Williams stated there was an increase of about \$300,000 on the principal but the total payment goes down about 1 million. The Mayor also stated we had some bonds that could be called at any time. Mr. Gibson stated that is true, the bank could have called these loans and the City would have to pay them off. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3125. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3126 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE,**

**TENNESSEE IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$9,200,000, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES; MAKING PROVISION FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS, ESTABLISHING THE TERMS THEREOF AND THE DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS THEREFROM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL, OF PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3126. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3127 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE PLAYGROUND AND SPLASHPAD EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE US COMMUNITIES PURCHASING COOPERATIVE, A DIVISION OF OMNIA PARTNERS, FOR THE LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (LPRF) GRANT** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. He stated this was an addition to the packet. Community Involvement Coordinator Bowers stated the prices will increase by \$50,000 on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost is approximately \$547,000. We will purchase the equipment through the US Communities Purchasing Cooperative, so it will not have to be bid out. The next step will be to bid out the construction of the project. The plans have been stamped and TDEC has approved them. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3127. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the March 25, 2021 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

**Old Business:**

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 1145 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET, ORDINANCE NO. 1129, FOR VARIOUS EXPENDITURES IN THE GENERAL FUND, AND DRUG FUND USING FUND BALANCE (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)** – No further discussion.
- B. **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - Approval of Temporary Special Events Beer Permit at Camp Jordan Arena for Randy Carpenter – Benefit Concert** – Director Wilson stated that Randy Carpenter is the owner of Family Concessions who has our concessions contract. This permit would be to serve beer at a Jimmy Buffett tribute band concert. City Manager Dorsey stated the promoters would have to make sure everyone follows COVID protocols.

**New Business:**

- A. Vice Mayor Chauncey would like to add “Discussion/Take Action for Construction of a Dog Park

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**March 26, 2021  
3:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on March 26, 2021, 3:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order. The regular meeting scheduled for March 25, 2021 was postponed until March 26, 2021, 3:00 pm due to severe weather.

The Mayor announced that we are still following covid recommendations. Persons attending should have at least two seats separating them as well as empty rows. Citizens may sit in an empty seat that has no sign attached to it.

Pastor Charles Cochran, East Ridge Church of Christ 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 March 11, 2021 Council Meeting
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property (fire/parks-rec)

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

**Communication from Citizens:**

Ryan Darling, 4117 Briar St., discussed the recent housing issue for the homeless in East Ridge and is disturbed by the Mayor's comments. Mr. Darling stated during a pandemic and tornado season, the homeless need a safe place and they cannot access social services without an address. He thinks this is a wonderful opportunity for East Ridge and we should be grateful. Mayor Williams stated he would respond during his communication.

Diane Stevens, 5334 Connell St., has an issue with neighbor playing loud music and fumes coming into their house from the neighbors' cars. She asked that something be done about this. City Manager Dorsey will schedule a meeting with Chief Allen to discuss Ms. Stevens' issues.

Patrick Grimes, 1413 Belvoir Lane, has concerns about Chattanooga housing their homeless in East Ridge and thinks we should ask Chattanooga what their intentions are. He goes by the Budgetel every day and stated that area is already in bad condition. He also stated that Chattanooga has a bigger police force to deal with homeless issues. He believes Chattanooga is "passing the buck."

### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Cagle stated he did not like the way we found out about Chattanooga housing homeless persons in East Ridge. He believes they should have come to Council to work out an agreement together.

Vice Mayor Chauncey also stated he did not like the lack of communication with East Ridge regarding housing the homeless at the Budgetel. He asked City Attorney Litchford if the Budgetel is in violation of our extended stay ordinance. Mr. Litchford stated we have discussed the ordinance with the owners in the past and the City has been looking into this.

Councilmember Helton and Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- The Mayor stated that homelessness is a regional problem, but we only found out on social media and the news media about Chattanooga's plan to move homeless people into the Budgetel in East Ridge. He and the City Manager had a meeting with staff from the City of Chattanooga yesterday to find out about their plan. Chattanooga has decided they are going to pause their plan for now and reevaluate the situation. If anything is done in the future, it should be through a mutual interlocal agreement. He believes this is a great program but feels that Chattanooga did not consider the burden they were putting on our taxpayers for Fire, Police and other City services.
- The westbound portion of the Bachman tunnel will be closed through April 16, 2021 due to the recent landslide at the entrance to the tunnel on the East Ridge side.
- Our hearts go out to the people of Alabama because of the recent deadly storms that went through that state. He also stated our area could have severe weather tomorrow.

### **Communication from City Manager:**

- Mr. Dorsey stated he has talked to TDOT regarding the tunnels. The westbound tunnel will be closed until April 16<sup>th</sup> and traffic will be rerouted down Germantown Road. He has contacted the Chattanooga Traffic Engineer about adjusting the traffic light at Germantown and South Terrace if traffic starts backing up.
- Mr. Dorsey appreciates everyone's condolences in the recent passing of his father.
- Staff is working on the budget at this time and is closely looking at revenues.
- Camp Jordan Park is under water at the entrance.
- Mr. Dorsey is going through the liquor applications and stated that hopefully we can have the lottery the second meeting in April. We have 4 applications for District A and 14 for District B.
- He stated we found out on Tuesday afternoon about the homeless issue with Chattanooga and had no knowledge before that of what was going on. He had a meeting Thursday morning with Mayor Berke's office. Mr. Dorsey stated the Mayor's office was unaware that we had extended stay ordinances. If anything is done in the future, we may need an interlocal agreement with Chattanooga. Chattanooga is now looking at the second lowest bidder, which is in Chattanooga, to provide these services. Mr. Dorsey realizes we have a homeless problem but feels that Chattanooga has a larger budget to handle these issues

plus they have a Social Services Department. He stated we could possibly look at a partnership in the future with Chattanooga and/or Hamilton County.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1145 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET, ORDINANCE NO. 1129, FOR VARIOUS EXPENDITURES IN THE GENERAL FUND AND DRUG FUND USING FUND BALANCE (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated there have been no changes since first reading. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1145 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3128 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING A TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENTS BEER PERMIT FOR RANDY CARPENTER, ON BEHALF OF CLYDE MASTERS PRODUCTIONS** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Wilson stated this is for a benefit concert in Camp Jordan Arena. Councilmember Cagle asked if the promoter will furnish security. Candie Carpenter, wife of Randy Carpenter, stated that no one had mentioned security to them. City Manager Dorsey asked the Fire Marshal to be on standby to make sure of the occupancy level because of COVID restrictions. Mr. Wilson stated the promoter usually hires off-duty officers to handle security. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3128. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion/take action for construction of dog park** – Vice Mayor Chauncey is still gathering information on donations. He would like to move this item to the April 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the April 8, 2021 Council Meeting**

8. **Old Business: None**

9. **New Business:**

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_** - Appointment to Zoning Appeals Board – Councilmember Helton
- B. **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_** - Appointment to Zoning Appeals Board – Councilmember Witt
- C. **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_** - RFP for installation of playground equipment (Bid Opening April 1, 2021) – Director Wilson stated the City advertised for proposals for installation of this equipment. The purchase has already been approved.

D. **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_** - Bids for utilities at playground/splashpad (Bid Opening April 1, 2021) – Mr. Wilson stated the splashpad requires utility hookups for water.

Councilmember Helton would like to add discussion of creating a Zone C for a third liquor store.

Councilmember Cagle asked about multiple people applying for liquor licenses at the same address. Mr. Dorsey stated it is possible to have four people who have a contingency contract depending on if they are selected in the liquor store lottery. Mr. Dorsey also stated we will have our independent auditor handle the lottery for the liquor stores.

Finance Director Qualls would like to add a resolution for a contract with HHM Certified Public Accountants for the 2021 audit.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.