

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

**July 8, 2021
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on July 8, 2021, 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.

Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2021 – Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Catherine Price, 123 Greenslake Road, with Friends of East Ridge Animal Services, is asking council to vote yes on Resolution No. 3169 to purchase the property on Stone Street, for new animal shelter.

Gary Nudd, 5310 Clemons Road, and owner of Southern Heritage Assisted Living facility, stated he has concerns about the proposed animal shelter, which would adjoin his property at one corner. He is concerned that the odors and noise would bother the elderly residents who live at the facility. He asked Council to take into consideration the effect this could have on area businesses.

Mayor Williams addressed this issue. He stated we have been looking for property for quite some time for a new animal control facility. We are in the early stages and do not have a design yet. We do not want issues with noise and smell. We want inside housing and walk areas, and will make every effort not to affect the surrounding businesses or new businesses coming in.

Teresa Ireland, 1511 Rebecca Drive, is the owner of apartments close to the proposed animal control facility. She is concerned about noise and odor bothering her tenants, some of whom are elderly.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle stated that street cuts on North Smith, McCall, and Landsell are sinking, and some are down to the gravel. City Manager Dorsey stated that the water company worked on some of those, and he will find out if permits have been pulled. Chief Building Official Howell stated that his department is looking into this and will find out more tomorrow.

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

Councilmember Witt stated the City needs volunteers for the 100-year celebration in September. There will be a volunteer meeting on Friday, July 16th at McBrien school. She asked that you get in touch with her if you plan to attend.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- No employee milestone anniversaries for the month of June.
- July 9, 2021, 11 am – 2 pm - Pandora Motorsports open house
- July 10, 2021 - There will be a Cruise-in, toy show, and swap meet at Camp Jordan to benefit the East Ridge Needy Child Fund. There will be a \$5.00 admission for the toy show and swap meet.
- July 30 – August 1, 2021 - Balloon glow at Camp Jordan with tethered rides. –
- Centennial celebration – Councilmember Witt already covered this information.
- Street cuts should be monitored and hold people responsible for repairing.

Communication from City Manager:

- Mr. Dorsey wished former Assistant City Manager Custer well in his new job. Mr. Dorsey has realigned Mr. Custer’s responsibilities, making Chief Building Official Howell over Building and Codes and Animal Control. Mr. Dorsey will directly oversee Street Department, Traffic Control, and Sanitation.
- Mr. Dorsey thanked Councilmember Witt for her work on the Centennial.

Old Business: None

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3162 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO ACCEPT THE 2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIRECT APPROPRIATION GRANT FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated this grant will be used to purchase police vehicles, with a small amount left over. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3162. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3163 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM MSE AMATEUR GROUP (CHATTANOOGA RED WOLVES) FOR SOCCER FIELD UTILIZATION AND PROGRAMMING SERVICES – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated we received proposals on June 29th as follows:

• Chattanooga Futbol Club (CFCA)	\$5,000 per field per year or \$20 per hour
• MSE Amateur Group (Red Wolves)	\$300,000 over a five-year period for 9 fields

Mr. Dorsey stated that both proposals to run the recreational soccer program at Camp Jordan are very good. Both plans to have school involvement. The Red Wolves plan to introduce other competitive sports such as kickball and flag football. He recommended approval of MSE

Amateur Group (Red Wolves). The City Attorney will do an agreement and bring back before Council. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3163. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Chauncey – yes; Councilmember Cagle – no; Councilmember Helton – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3164 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE SEVEN (7) 2021 FORD VEHICLES FROM LONNIE COBB FORD THROUGH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES STATE-WIDE CONTRACT LISTING #209, PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 12-3-1201(b) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant Chief Uselton stated this purchase is for one SUV and six F150 trucks, to be purchased through the Tennessee State Contract. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3164. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3165 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE IN THE HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM, KNOWN AS HGACBUY – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated we would like to use this co-op to purchase a fire engine. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3165. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3166 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FROM WAYPOINT SOLUTIONS, LLC THROUGH THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. IT Technician Josh Love stated that \$55,000 has already been budgeted for technology. Purchasing through Waypoint would cost \$45,000 plus a one-time on-board fee. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3166. Mayor Williams asked about a warranty. Mr. Love stated Waypoint was going to send him information, plus two hardware appliances to be installed at City Hall and the Police Department. If something does happen, Waypoint will reimburse the City depending on how we met their level. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3167 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE PEP RISK MANAGEMENT POOL “SAFETY PARTNERS” MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated we apply for this grant every year to purchase safety shoes, safety glasses, and reflective vests. We get reimbursed for half the amount up to \$3,000. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3167. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3168 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE IN THE TIPS PURCHASING COOPERATIVE – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated the City wishes to purchase a computer program for Building and Codes through this purchasing co-op. There is no fee or obligation, and the amount is budgeted. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3168. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3169 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE NEGOTIATION OF AND CONTRACTING TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, LOCATED AT 5302 STONE STREET, EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated our current facility is out of date and this property would be appropriate for a new animal control facility, even though some business owners have concerns about the noise and smell. Chief Building Official Howell stated this is a split zone parcel which can meet set-back requirements. A use on review would have to be done. Animal Control Supervisor Gilbert stated the front entrance would be on Stone Street with a walking track in the back. Mayor Williams stated he has talked to the owner of this property, Emerson Russell, and he is willing to work with us on a reasonable price. Mayor Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3169. Councilmember Cagle stated he has no objection to building an Animal Control facility, but we are offering three times the appraisal amount that is listed on the County Assessor's records. City Attorney Litchford stated that County appraisals are different from professional appraisals because professional appraisals look at prospective uses, whereas, the County does not. He stated that comparable sales would be anywhere from \$110,000 to \$139,000.

Mr. Litchford met with the owner, Emerson Russell, and Mr. Russell would like the following changes in the real estate agreement:

- Section 4-B - Purchaser may at his sole discretion terminate agreement. Mr. Russell is proposing to remove this section. There are still conditions to closing in Section 10 which will remain unaltered. There is no title issue and Mr. Russell will pay for the title insurance.
- Section 5 – Mr. Russell wants to do the closing at Choice Title.
- Section 7 – Seller will pay the title commitment and buyer will pay the deed recording.
- Section 17 – This section will be removed. Each party will bear their own cost for attorney fees.
- The Mayor would like to recognize Mr. Russell by naming the building after him.

Mr. Litchford stated he is comfortable from a legal standpoint with these changes and stated the motion, if made, should be to approve the amendments stated above by the City Attorney. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve the amendments to the real estate agreement as presented by the City Attorney. Roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Cagle - abstain; Councilmember Helton - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

Roll call vote on Resolution No. 3169 as amended: Vice Mayor Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Helton - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

Discuss/Take Action on Dog Park – Codes Enforcement Officer McAllister gave out information on the grant the City has been awarded for construction of a dog park. The grant required a specific property address, so Springvale Park was submitted, and we were awarded the grant for that location. Mr. McAllister had the lot lines abandoned through the County GIS system. He has reached out to the Boyd Foundation, the grantor, to see if the location could be changed, but has not heard back from them. Mr. McAllister also stated we must commit to and maintain an address for three years from the date the park opens, and if we do not, we would have to pay back \$25,000 to the Boyd Foundation. He stated it could jeopardize the grant if we move the park or try to split the grant. Councilmember Witt thanked Mr. McAllister for his hard work in obtaining this grant. Mr. Dorsey stated he is very proud of Mr. McAllister for handling this grant single handedly. Mr. Cagle discussed having an elevation survey done to see how much dirt would have to be brought in to get the property out of the flood zone. Mr. Dorsey stated that a lot of parks are built in flood zones, using weather resistant equipment, and certain types of grass or mulch. Chief Building Official Howell stated the property would need eight feet of fill dirt to get it out of the flood zone. Vice Mayor Chauncey thanked Mr. McAllister for his work on the grant, but still believes the park should be at City Hall. Mayor Williams asked Mr. Chauncey if he is considering having an additional park at City Hall or using the donations, he has gotten to construct the park at City Hall. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to table this item until the next meeting in July. Councilmember Witt stated she has had citizens tell her they want the park at Springvale. Mr. Dorsey also stated we did mention that the park would be at Springvale when we first discussed the grant. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Certificate of Compliance for MAPCO to sell wine – 6514 Ringgold Road – City Manager Dorsey stated that Council does not vote on this item, he just has to announce it for the record. The Mayor or a majority of the Council must sign the Certificate of Compliance which states the City received background checks on officers of the corporation and there were no convictions, and that the location complies with all zoning laws. The applicant would then submit the Certification of Compliance to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission for their license.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the July 22, 2021 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Personnel Board Appointment – Mayor Williams stated there is a vacancy on the board due to the loss of Frances Pope.

Other Business:

City Attorney Litchford stated he received notice from Judge Helton that he is resigning effective July 31, 2021, due to a family emergency. Mr. Litchford stated under Section 6-D of the Charter, the Council shall appoint a successor until the next election in August 2022. He also stated that various judges, such as Judge McVeagh and Judge Sells, have offered to fill in if necessary. Judge McVeagh stated he will sit in for free and also help train an interim judge. Court Clerk Cassidy discussed the possibility of Judge Wilson, the City Judge of Collegedale, sitting in until someone is appointed or the next election. She stated he can be compensated by two courts. She also stated Judge Helton would not be here the next two Tuesdays but may be here on July 27th. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to appoint Judge Kevin Wilson to serve until the next election with the same compensation as Judge Helton. Vice Mayor Chauncey asked if, from a legal standpoint, Council should take this action tonight. City Attorney Litchford stated that as a best practice, we could advertise the position and wait two weeks to appoint. Mayor Williams asked if this was effective August 1st or is it effective tonight. Mr. Litchford stated Judge Helton's resignation is effective August 1st. Councilmember Helton asked if Council could ask for the resignation immediately. Mr. Litchford will check with Judge Helton to see if he will make the resignation effective immediately. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**July 22, 2021
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on July 22, 2021, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Rev. Daniel Beard, Action 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.

Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2021 – Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens: None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Witt thanked the volunteers who are helping with the 100-year celebration.

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

Councilmember Cagle asked about the issue he brought up in the last meeting about the street cuts on N. Smith Street. Codes Enforcement Officer McAllister stated the Chief Building Official Howell contacted Street Supervisor Vaughn to follow up on this and get the street cut contracts updated.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- He also thanked the volunteers who are helping with the Centennial Celebration.
- July 30-August 1, 2021 – Balloon glow at Camp Jordan Park with tethered rides
- September 25, 2021 – Centennial Celebration to honor our history, celebrate progress and honor our future. The committee has done well in getting support.

Communication from City Manager:

- Mr. Dorsey stated the Centennial will have bands, crafts, food trucks, and fireworks.
- We advertised a Request for Proposals for solid waste disposal services. Currently, we take our trucks to the Allied Waste transfer station.
- We are also doing a Request for Qualifications regarding roadway access to the Red Wolves development.

- Mr. Dorsey discussed a request to purchase radios from a Homeland Security grant from 2019. He stated we still have \$15,000 left from a grant. Chief Williams stated Council approved the amount of \$15,000 and they went over the amount by \$13, plus it was approved in a different budget year. This was added to the end of New Business as Item D.

Old Business:

Discuss/Take Action on Dog Park – Vice Mayor Chauncey stated he reached out to the Dog Park Dash grant people and explained to them about the alternate site. He would like to table this until the next council meeting. Councilmember Witt asked if there is a timeline for the grant. Codes Enforcement Officer McAllister stated we are waiting on the presentation and then we have one full year. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to leave this item on the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3171 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ BY COUNCILMEMBER HELTON TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE EAST RIDGE PERSONNEL BOARD (Councilmember Helton) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Helton appointed Carol Grohn. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3172 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL PROGRAMS PROCUREMENT POLICY – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated the City must adopt the TDOT Local Programs procurement policy in order to process grant reimbursements from the state. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3172. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3173 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY REGARDING AMBULANCE MEDICAL SERVICES – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford has drafted an agreement which states it is a four-year term with the City paying \$170,000 per year for a total of \$680,000. This amount is based on population at \$8.00 per person. After four years, the City could renew under Section 4 of the agreement. He has spoken with Neill Sutherland, Assistant County Attorney, and she said under Section 2, we would not have to pay for the incentive under Section 4. Mr. Litchford stated that Councilmember Cagle would like to clarify Section 2 that any renewal would not include the incentives in Section 4; it would only be for the services. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve but to include an amendment in section 2 clarifying the renewal would be for services and that it would not include renewal of Section 4A incentives. Mr. Litchford will submit that clarification to Ms. Sutherland consistent with the motion. City Manager Dorsey asked if this would have to go back to the County for another vote, because there would not be enough time. Mr. Litchford stated that

Ms. Sutherland told him the incentives are not part of the renewal. Mr. Dorsey also stated that in Section 4A, the agreement states we would pay \$170,000 over four years, but the intent is for the City to pay \$170,000 each year for four years. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Additional Item:

Purchase of radios – This item was added during the Communication from City Manager. It was assigned **Resolution 3174**. The amount to purchase the radios is \$15,013.43. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3174. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the August 12, 2021 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

- **Dana Howe and David Tyler – Discussion of Centennial Celebration** – Mr. Dorsey stated Ms. Howe and Mr. Tyler will be here to discuss and promote the centennial.
- **Old Business:**
- **New Business:**
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Bids for Sports Photography (open on August 3rd)** - Director Wilson stated we will open bids on August 3, 2021 with a recommendation to Council on August 12, 2021.
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Annual Bids for Street Department Materials (open on August 3rd)** – City Manager Dorsey stated we bid these materials out every year and pricing is good for one year.
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment to Planning Commission (Mayor Williams)**
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment to Housing Commission (Vice Mayor Chauncey)**
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment to Housing Commission (Councilmember Cagle)**

City Attorney Litchford stated that previously, all the Housing Commission members were appointed at the same time without staggering the terms, even though they should have been. With the last appointments, staggered terms were set up for one, two, and three-year terms initially, with three-year terms when appointments were due. Kenneth Rogers and Lynda Stephens terms were for only two years.

- City Manager Dorsey stated he is tired of tractor trailers getting stuck in the tunnel. He has sent emails to TDOT regarding this issue, but has not heard back from them. The

City Manager stated there is a sign that says no trucks over 11 feet, but it has been laying in the grass for over a month. He stated it takes the City's time to respond when trucks get stuck. Mayor Williams asked is something could be done with directional apps to stop their navigation. Mr. Dorsey stated there is a truck app, but it is expensive. Chief Allen stated there is a fine for a traffic control device violation, but they would go to court for the Judge to decide. He also stated we could possibly contact the Tennessee Highway Patrol to see if they could do more than a sign violation.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.