

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION**  
**January 14, 2016 – 6:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The**  
**January 28, 2016 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on January 14, 2016 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the January 28, 2016 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

**Present were:** Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager/Chief Williams, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

**Presentation of Audit** - Mayor Lambert introduced Jason Martin, with Henderson, Hutcherson and McCullough to present the City's audit. Mr. Martin stated that the most important thing in an audit is the auditor's opinion on the financial statements. He stated the City received a good opinion; everything was materially correct and there were no findings. Mr. Martin stated we have \$4.2 million in the general fund at the end of the budget year. Total assets are \$9.9 million and total liabilities are approximately \$5.8 million. We have approximately \$4.2 million in reserves. Overall, with all funds, there was a net income increase of \$520,000. Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1001 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 481), WHICH AMENDS TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 108 THROUGH 110 OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE, AS IT RELATES TO ON-PREMISE AND OFF-PREMISE SIGN AND BILLBOARD REGULATIONS (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – Mayor Lambert stated this will potentially be second reading of this ordinance if approved tonight. Fire Marshal Custer stated basically there are no additional changes to this ordinance but there are areas of concern. He stated the section on LED lighting has been taken out, until he receives further guidance from Council. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated he has concerns about LED signs. Building Official Hayen stated the City could purchase equipment to monitor the LED lighting, but his department does not have the manpower to do the monitoring. Councilmember Cagle asked Mr. Custer and Mr. Hayen if this was their way of getting additional employees, since it will be discussed on tonight's regular meeting agenda. They stated that it was not. Mayor Lambert stated that these gentlemen said nothing inappropriate, because there is a staffing problem in the Code Enforcement Department. Chief Williams stated that LED signs are a concern when driving. They are blinding and drivers cannot see traffic approaching. Chief Williams also stated there is a staffing problem all over the City.

**New Business Discussion:**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO PROHIBIT THE PARKING OF PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN COMMERCIAL PARKING LOTS FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – Mr. Custer stated this ordinance should address complaints from citizens, especially on Ringgold Road.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM WALMART FOR THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 EACH** – Amanda Miller stated this is a housekeeping issue since we have already received the grant. Chief Williams stated Walmart presented these grants at their grand opening. This will be done in two separate resolutions.

**Presentation of Economic Impact Analysis – Dr. William Legg** – Dr. Legg will present this at the January 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**January 14, 2016  
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on January 14, 2016, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Councilmember Manning gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present were:** Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager Williams, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton. Councilmember Cagle was not present.

**Presentation by Director Martin** – Mr. Martin announced on behalf of Titan Light Shows, that the City's portion of the income from the Christmas Nights of Lights show is \$30,310.00.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes December 10, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes December 10, 2015 Council Meeting
- C. Approval of November 2015 Financial Report

Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Lambert recognized City Attorney North to speak. Mr. North introduced Nicole Osborne, who recently joined Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel.

Mr. North also stated that Item C, Ordinance No. 1003 pertaining to revisions in the stormwater program should be removed from the agenda. There have been further changes and a new ordinance will be provided by Hamilton County Stormwater.

Mr. North would also like to remove Item J pertaining to Superior Creek Lodge. He stated that Superior Creek owners will need to make application to the City for an extension or go through a variance process with the Zoning Appeals Board.

At this time, Mayor Lambert administered the officer's oath to Officer Cory Hinsch and Officer Gregory Beck.

**Communication from Citizens:**

Matthew DeGlopper, 706 Pyron Lane, stated the City needs LED signs but they need to be monitored. He also stated that a black background with red lettering on the signs is not as blinding. He also stated that the Code Enforcement Department needs more employees to handle inspections.

### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Manning asked Chief Reed if all the motorcycles will have the same equipment. Chief Reed stated that the two newer ones have upgraded equipment and the older two have the older equipment.

Councilmember Manning asked why the City Attorney has not received any applications for the City Manager position. Mayor Lambert stated based on the language at the last meeting, the applications would come to the Human Resources Department at City Hall. Mr. North stated in that meeting that they should physically come to City Hall. Mayor Lambert stated that the attorney could look at them at any time or take them with him tonight. Mr. Manning stated that the applications have always gone to the City Attorney's office. Mayor Lambert stated we have not done that every time we have advertised. Mayor Lambert stated the ad states the applications will come to City Hall and then could be reviewed to see who meets the qualifications. Mr. Manning stated he said three times the applications should go to the City Attorney. Mr. Manning stated he played the tape and also stated his comments were cut out. Mayor Lambert has also listened to the tape. Mayor Lambert stated that if Mr. Manning's remarks were cut out, that is a criminal offense. Mayor Lambert stated that we have to trust what is on the official recording devices that we use. Mr. Manning stated again that his comments did not get recorded either on the audio or the video recording. Mayor Lambert stated there is either a grand conspiracy going on Mr. Manning does not remember correctly. Mayor Lambert stated he has watched the video and there is no glitch in the tape. Mayor Lambert stated in the grand scheme of things it does not matter if the applications come to City Hall or to the City Attorney and asked Mr. Manning what the difference is in them coming to City Hall or to the attorney. Mr. Manning stated we pay the attorney to protect us. Mr. Sewell stated we have a Human Resources department to handle these things. Mr. Manning asked the City Attorney if he agreed for the applications to come to City Hall. Mr. North stated that he said it did not matter if they came to him or to City Hall. Vice Mayor Gravitt read the following from the minutes of December 10, 2015: "Mr. North stated the resumes should be physically sent to City Hall. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to advertise the position....." Mr. Gravitt stated we have already approved these minutes. Mr. Manning stated he did not make a motion to send the applications to City Hall; he made a motion for them to be sent to the City Attorney but that part was cut out of the recordings. Mayor Lambert asked Mr. Manning why he voted to approve the minutes if they were incorrect. Mr. Manning stated "just forget it. I know what's going on." Mayor Lambert reiterated that at the end of the day it does not matter where the applications come; Mr. North will be able to look at them. Mr. Manning wants to know who is looking at them now. Mayor Lambert stated that Trish Perry, Human Resources Manager, has been receiving the applications. Councilmember Sewell stated that he does not have a problem with Ms. Perry looking at the applications. Mr. Manning stated that he did have a problem with Ms. Perry looking at them. Mayor Lambert encouraged everyone in the room to look at the video and check the audio and the minutes that the Council unanimously approved 30 minutes ago and see what reality is.

Councilmember Sewell stated that Camp Jordan Parkway and Ringgold Road have a lot of dust and debris from the construction and believes that Brown Bros. Construction should clean it up.

Vice Mayor Gravitt updated everyone on what is going on in the Legislature. He also stated he worked with Nicole Osborne in Nashville. She was a liaison with EPB.

Mr. Gravitt stated that a lot of time is spent on grant resolutions. He would like to do a grant consent agenda tonight and from now on, having all resolutions listed and just voting one time to approve all.

Mayor Lambert went over the deletions from tonight's agenda.

- Item C – Ordinance No.1003 – Second reading on the stormwater ordinance will be removed.
- Item F – Audit presentation was done in the agenda work session.
- Item I – Discuss/Take Action on City Manager Resumes Being Submitted to City Attorney will be removed
- Item J – Request from Superior Creek will be removed.

Mr. Gravitt also stated a moratorium on LED signs was not part of the discussion in the agenda work session, but he would be agreeable.

Mayor Lambert asked the status of the engineering services for the TDOT, Exit 1 project. Chief Williams stated that since the meeting with Arcadis Engineers, we have not pursued this. The Chief was not sure if the Council wanted to go forward with Arcadis or send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering Services. The Mayor and Vice Mayor stated they would like to send out RFPs, but the Vice Mayor stated the engineer needs to be on the TDOT approved list. Ms. Miller stated this could be incorporated into the TIF, but we must apply by January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Lambert suggested that Ms. Miller contact Steve Allen with TDOT.

Mayor Lambert stated that someone asked him the process for opening a package store. He told that person it would have to be placed on a referendum of the voters. He stated he is not advocating this one way or the other, but did want to inform Council that someone was interested.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that in 2013, the City received \$400,000 from the malt beverage tax.

**Communication from City Manager** – Interim City Manager/Chief Williams had nothing at this time.

### **Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1001 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING (ORDINANCE NO. 481), WHICH AMENDS TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 108 THROUGH 110 OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE, AS IT RELATES TO ON-PREMISE AND OFF-PREMISE SIGN AND BILLBOARD REGULATIONS (1<sup>st</sup> reading – tabled November 12, 2015) - City Attorney North read on**

caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to remove this item from the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 1001 on first reading. Fire Marshal Custer would like to get feedback from the Council before second and final reading. He stated a decision should be made on LED signs, at least temporarily. Vice Mayor Gravitt would like to see either a moratorium or a section on LED signs at the next meeting. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Manning - no; Councilmember Sewell - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1002 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 989 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT . . .” BY CHANGING THE REVENUE OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND AND DEBT SERVICE FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL FUND AND GRANT FUND (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 1002 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1003 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AMENDING TITLE 18 OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY CODE BY REVISING CHAPTER 6, ENTITLED HAMILTON COUNTY STORM WATER POLLUTION PROGRAM (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – This item was removed earlier from the agenda at the request of the City Attorney.

**Approval to Purchase Software Licensing for Mobile Cad for the Police Department In-Car Computer Program** – Chief Reed discussed this item at the last meeting. He stated that 25 licenses would be \$34,250. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated this is to upgrade technology in the police vehicles. Chief Reed stated the City raised over \$90,000 from the sale of surplus and confiscated vehicles that was used to purchase computers. The licensing fees are the only thing the Chief has asked the Council to provide. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the purchase of 25 licenses for a total amount of \$34,250. Chief Reed stated the licenses will not transfer to newer vehicles; they will stay with the vehicles to which they were assigned. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion/Take Action on 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** – Mayor Lambert stated last year we used proceeds from the light show to build a fence in the park. Council discussed at the last meeting using the proceeds for the birthday celebration. There is also \$10,000 that was budgeted for Liberty Fest that could be used. Chief Williams suggested using part of the proceeds to recoup costs for services that Fire and Police provided during the light show and at Santa’s Village. Mayor Lambert stated if we don’t have a “big name” band, such as we had when Atlanta Rhythm Section came to Camp Jordan, then no one will show up for the event. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Mayor Lambert, to use \$25,000 for the birthday celebration and the remainder go back into the Fire and Police budgets. After further discussion, Councilmember Manning and Mayor Lambert withdrew their motion and second.

Mr. Manning made a motion, seconded by Mayor Lambert, to use \$15,500 from the light show proceeds and \$9,500 from the Liberty Fest budget for the birthday celebration. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Manning - yes; Councilmember Sewell - no; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1004 – AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS TO COMPLY WITH UPDATED FEMA FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to approve Ordinance No. 1004. Mayor Lambert stated this ordinance will adopt the updated FEMA flood maps. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2534 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS FOR WHICH AN APPLICANT FOR A RETAIL FOOD STORE WINE LICENSE CAN OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FROM THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2534. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Manning - no; Councilmember Sewell - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved

**RESOLUTION NO 2535 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) WALK WITH EASE GRANT** – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to combine Item C (Resolution No. 2535), Item D (Resolution No. 2536) and Item E (Resolution No. 2537) into a Grant Consent Agenda to be approved in one motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the Grant Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2536 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE PETCO FOUNDATION: GRANTS FOR SHELTERING AND ADOPTION ORGANIZATIONS GRANT - FY 2016** – Approved in the Grant Consent Agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2537 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE TML PROPERTY CONSERVATION MATCHING GRANT** – Approved in the Grant Consent Agenda.

**Presentation/Discussion of Audit – Jason Martin, Henderson, Hutcherson and McCullough** – Mr. Martin presented the audit in the Agenda Work Session.

**Discussion of National League of Cities Conference – Washington, DC –** Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Sewell, and Mayor Lambert stated they will not be going to Washington. Mr. Manning stated that he and Councilmember Cagle are still considering going. He will decide by the next meeting.

**Discuss/Take Action on Adding a Position in Building/Codes Department - Councilmember Sewell –** Mr. Sewell stated that with all the new development, we need to add another position in the Building/Codes Department. Currently, there is an employee working in Administration that is still being paid from Codes. There was discussion of creating another position in Administration to free up the position in the Codes Department. Chief Williams stated he realizes that the Codes Department is short handed but so are many other departments, such as Fire and Police. Mayor Lambert would like to see requests from other departments at budget time if they are short handed. Councilmember Sewell would like to fill this position now and look at another position at budget time. Mayor Lambert stated the total benefit package based on \$15 per hour would be \$54,000 for a full-time person in Codes. Councilmember Sewell made a motion to create a position in Administration to free up a position in Codes. Chief Williams stated that the Administration Department is also shorthanded. Mayor Lambert suggested waiting until the next meeting to consider this in order to get more information. Mr. Sewell withdrew his motion. Mr. Gravitt asked that anytime things like this are discussed, if the Human Resources person could be at the meeting.

**Discuss/Take Action on City Manager Resumes Being Submitted to City Attorney -** Councilmember Manning discussed this item earlier in the meeting.

**Request from Superior Creek Lodge to Extend Deadline to Rehab Property -** This item was removed earlier from the agenda at the request of the City Attorney.

**Mayor's Appointment to the Hamilton County Stormwater Management Committee –** Mayor Lambert appointed Brad Hayen, who is the Chief Building Official. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the appointment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discuss/Take Action on Amending the Façade Grant Guidelines – Mayor Lambert –** The Mayor stated at last meeting a gentleman came forward who thought his grant application was approved. He is the property owner, but does not have a business at the location. The grant currently requires that the business be occupied. Mr. Sewell asked if this grant could be used for signage. The Mayor stated that it potentially could. The Mayor would like to create packets of information in order to let more property/business owners know about this grant. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to clarify the grant guidelines so that a property owner can make application for this grant without having a tenant currently in the building and to make the funding applicable to signage for the business. Ms. Middleton stated that the original resolution would have to be amended by resolution. Resolution No. 2538 was assigned to the resolution to amend the original resolution. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION**  
**January 28, 2016 – 6:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The**  
**February 11, 2016 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on January 28, 2016 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the January 28, 2016 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

**Present were:** Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager/Chief Williams, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

Director Martin introduced Jarron Ritchie, the General Manager of the new Bass Pro Shop coming to East Ridge. Mr. Ritchie stated he is excited about being a part of the East Ridge Community. Mr. Martin presented Mr. Ritchie a bread basket from a local Chattanooga bakery and other items made in the Chattanooga area, such as Little Debbie, Moon Pie, etc.

**Presentation of Economic Impact Analysis – Dr. William Legg** – Director Martin stated that revenues for Camp Jordan have increased. The deficit that has to be reimbursed by the General Fund has been reduced from \$857,000 to \$548,000. Mr. Martin stated that Dr. Legg was not able to do the presentation tonight because of recent surgery. He introduced Bruce Hutchinson, Economics Professor at UTC, to present the study. Mr. Hutchinson stated the key factor from this study was the reduced deficit that has to be reimbursed by the General Fund. He believes that Camp Jordan has a positive economic impact on the community. Events at the park bring in outsiders who spend money at local hotels and restaurants. Mr. Hutchinson there is room for growth, and the City should coordinate with Bass Pro for joint ventures and special events at the park. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Hutchinson if the economic impact from the park outweighed the \$548,000 deficit that has to be reimbursed. Mr. Hutchinson stated that according to Dr. Legg's numbers from Chattanooga Sports that big events in the park could spur over \$2 million in economic impact. Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Hutchinson for the presentation.

At this time, Mayor Lambert recessed the Agenda Work Session, which will be continued after the regular meeting.

After the regular meeting, Vice Mayor Gravitt called the Agenda Work Session back to order.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1005 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN COMMERCIAL PARKING LOTS FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – This ordinance is on tonight's regular meeting agenda and will be discussed further at that time.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT FOR RAGAN SMITH TO DO THE NECESSARY SURVEYING FOR THE LPRF GRANT –**  
Vice Mayor Gravitt stated this and the following resolutions concerning grants could be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED CHANGE ORDER FROM RAGAN SMITH IN REGARDS TO THE LPRF GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS AND THEIR COST IN REGARDS TO THE LPRF GRANT**

**Grant Consent Agenda:**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 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 KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL – CIGARETTE LITTER PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM**

Vice Mayor Gravitt adjourned the meeting.

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

**January 28, 2016  
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on January 14, 2016, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Councilmember Manning gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present were:** Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager Williams, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes January 14, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes January 14, 2015 Council Meeting
- C. Approval of December 2015 Financial Report

Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Cagle - abstain; Councilmember Manning - yes; Councilmember Sewell - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved.

**Communication from Citizens:**

Pam Stone, 1557 Cora Drive, stated that someone is living in a RV at the corner of Greenslake and Bennett and would like for someone to check into that. Chief Williams stated there is an ordinance on tonight's agenda dealing with RVs on commercial lots. Ms. Stone also stated that the traffic signal at Greenslake and Bennett and signals 11, 12, 13 and 14 on Ringgold Road are malfunctioning and would like some to check those.

Matthew DeGlopper, 706 Pyron Lane, discussed pawn shops submitting their tickets to the East Ridge Police Department. He stated there is an online system called Leads Online that pawn shops can use that would provide the city with a national database to search for stolen property.

**Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Sewell asked what the status is of the new Fire Station. Chief Williams stated they have met with an architect and are currently reviewing plans. He stated they have a cost for site work which he believes is somewhat high. The Chief also stated he may not recommend going with a new building altogether, but using part of the old structure that was taken down and stored. He may know more by the first week in February.

Councilmember Sewell asked Council to reconsider spending money for a birthday party this year, since other costs have come up. He suggested waiting until the City's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Councilmember Cagle thanked the Police Department for escorting the funeral of a young girl who was involved with sports at Camp Jordan.

Councilmember Cagle discussed the Ridgeside contract. He stated he has asked for figures but has not received them. He stated that the cost of fire and police services has gone up, and if we are short staffed, then why are we furnishing services to Ridgeside. Chief Williams stated their fee is based on a formula just as it is for East Ridge citizens. The Chief will look into this and get back with Council. Councilmember Sewell suggested fire and police keep a log of how many times they go to Ridgeside each day.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked how many resumes we have received for the City Manager position. Mr. North stated that he has been provided 40 so far. The position was advertised with TML, ICMA, in the newspaper and is currently on the City website. The City Attorney will look through the resumes to see which ones qualify under the Charter. Councilmember Cagle would like to get copies of the top five or ten candidates. Mayor Lambert would like to see all the resumes or at least all the ones that qualify.

Mayor Lambert congratulated Vice Mayor Gravitt on being named the Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Assessor's Association.

Mayor Lambert stated that in 2013, permit fees were \$53,700, in 2014 fees were \$60,000 and in 2015, permit fees were \$223,000. Mr. Lambert commended all of our staff for the good work they do.

**Communication from City Manager:** Chief Williams commended Public Works for all they did during the recent snow event. He stated they were out all night sanding the roads. He also thanked the Fire and Police that were out in the bad weather. The Chief also addressed Matthew DeGlopper's comments about the online system for pawn shops. The Chief stated the City is going forward with the software purchase.

Councilmember Manning thanked Melvin Petty for providing dumpsters in neighborhoods after the recent flooding.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that all the lights are burned out on the back side of the walking track at Camp Jordan. Director Martin stated he would get those replaced. Mr. Gravitt stated it takes time and money to replace and maintain equipment and we are doing the best we can to do that.

Mayor Lambert stated that tomorrow, January 29<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for City Manager applications and it is also Chief Williams' birthday.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1001 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING**

**ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 481), WHICH AMENDS TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 108 THROUGH 110 OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE, AS IT RELATES TO ON-PREMISE AND OFF-PREMISE SIGN AND BILLBOARD REGULATIONS (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt has spoken to Fire Marshal Custer and to billboard advertising companies regarding this. He stated these companies have agreed to meet with City officials regarding the ordinance. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to put a moratorium on all LED signs and regular billboards that could be converted into a LED sign. Mr. Sewell and Mr. Gravitt withdrew their motion and second. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to table Ordinance No. 1001. Fire Marshal Custer stated it is a good idea to meet with these companies to get a clearer understanding of the signs. Roll call vote to table was unanimous. Motion approved. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve a Resolution which was assigned No. 2543, to place a 90-day moratorium effective immediately on any construction of LED signs and/or billboards and any conversion of signs and/or billboards from posterboard to LED and/or electronic. Mr. Gravitt stated this is for all signs. Mr. Sewell stated there was a sign constructed but they did not get a permit. Mr. Custer stated the sign would have to be removed. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Manning - abstain; Councilmember Sewell - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved. Mr. Gravitt stated there are between 60 and 70 billboards within eight miles on Ringgold Road and he believes we have enough. We are oversaturated with them and it looks gaudy. Mayor Lambert stated there was no rhyme or reason on how the city developed; it is a “hodge podge.” He doesn’t want the signs to be the same way; we cannot allow technology to dictate to us what our city looks like.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1004 – AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS TO COMPLY WITH UPDATED FEMA FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 1004 on second and final reading. Mayor Lambert stated the floodplain maps must be adopted by February 3, 2016. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1005 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN COMMERCIAL PARKING LOTS FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – At this time, Mayor Lambert left due to a family emergency and Vice Mayor Gravitt took over the meeting. Chief Williams stated that the RVs cannot be parked at businesses or allow a third party to park them at a business. Mr. Gravitt stated the City already has an ordinance that prohibits living in an RV. If this ordinance is approved, it will apply to commercial property, not residential. If a property is zoned commercial, but there is a residence on it, parking of the RV would be allowed. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Ordinance No. 1005 on first reading. At this time, City Attorney read on caption. This

ordinance only applies to licensed sales, service or storage of RVs. Mr. Gravitt would like to add language that would allow licensed car lots that sell RVs to be exempt. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2541 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE SEATBELTS ARE FOR EVERYONE (SAFE) CAMPAIGN** – Vice Mayor Gravitt removed this item from the Grant Consent Agenda since it is not actually a grant. City Attorney North read on caption. Assistant Chief Allen stated this program is to encourage citizens to wear seatbelts, which is done through enforcement and education. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2541. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Grant Consent Agenda:**

- 1) **RESOLUTION NO. 2539 – 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 WALMART FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**
- 2) **RESOLUTION NO. 2540 – 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 WALMART FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
- 3) **RESOLUTION NO. 2542 – 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 TDOT CMAQ PM2.5 CLEANER DIESEL TECHNOLOGIES GRANT**

City Attorney North read all the Resolutions on caption. Councilmember Cagle stated we have already received the Walmart grants and asked why the Police grant was receipted in the Grant Fund but the Fire grant was receipted in the Needy Child Fund. Chief Williams stated we were putting money directly back into Walmart through purchases for the Needy Child Fund. Finance Director Qualls will do a journal entry to make this correction. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the Grant Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discuss/Take Action on Adding a Position in Administration** – Chief Williams stated this was discussed in the last meeting pertaining to a position in Codes. Councilmember Sewell stated adding the position in Administration will help “free up” a position in Codes. This employee works in Administration but is still being paid from the Codes Dept. Chief Williams stated there is an employee shortage in Administration caused by employees previously being moved to other departments. Administration employees are overloaded and doing multiple jobs. Chief Williams stated the problem for many years has been no step pay plan. He stated that some employees who have been here a short time are making the same as some 20-year employees. He is

working on a plan now to present at budget to remedy that situation. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to table this item until the next meeting in order to have a job description for the position. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Manning - yes; Councilmember Sewell - no; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.