

**AGENDA WORK SESSION  
February 13, 2014 – 5:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The  
February 27, 2014 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 13, 2013, 5:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the February 27, 2014 Council Meeting and other items. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert announced that he will adjourn the meeting by 8:00 pm tonight because of the inclement weather.

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

**New Business: Discussion**

**Discussion of Wolftever Development** – Mayor Lambert introduced Mr. John Healy from Wolftever Development. Mr. Healy stated they own the property on Camp Jordan Parkway and they want to discuss the next steps of the development. They are actively working to develop the property and are working with potential tenants. He stated there is interest in the site, but he cannot make any announcements at this time. Mr. Healy stated they are now in the process of engineering the site. City Attorney North stated he has had calls about potential issues with TDOT. Mr. Healey stated there are no issues with TDOT; they are working with them on landscaping and other issues. Councilmember Gravitt asked Mr. Healy if there was anything the City could do to try to progress this along. Mr. Healey stated the most important thing is the border region process; it is necessary to get this deal done. He also stated he wants to incorporate this development into the park as much as possible. Council discussed the Industrial Development Board which has not met since 2008. This Board must be involved in the Border Region process. Mr. North stated the existing charter for the board is still in place. He suggests that council go ahead and appoint members. This is separate and distinct from the Economic Development Advisory Committee. He stated that State law requires members be from groups such as the Chamber of Commerce or similar civic organizations unless there are no members suitable or available. He believes that we do not need both boards; there is too much duplication. Mr. Gravitt stated we need to have people with expertise in finance and development. Mr. North suggested that council come prepared to make their appointments at the council meeting in two weeks. The Mayor thanked Mr. Healy for his time.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FEES FOR THE EAST RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER** - Director Martin stated these fees have not been changed in many years. He stated that other facilities in our area charge more than what the proposed fees are for the community center. Mr. Martin will have the fees that we currently charge and the proposed fees for the next council meeting.

**Cumberland Securities** – Mayor Lambert introduced Mr. C. L. Overman with Cumberland Security. Mr. Hyatt stated that Mr. Overman had approached him about refinancing or refunding some of the City's debt. Mr. Overman stated that we have three outstanding pieces of debt that can be refinanced. He stated that Cumberland has worked with the City, most recently in 2007, on refinancing some of their debt. He stated that the debt is currently on variable rates but can be

locked in on fixed rates. Mr. Overman gave various options on combining some of the debt. He stated this could be put out for bid and any bank or financial institution could bid. Mr. Overman recommends combining the debt at a 2.28% interest rate. The payment would be approximately \$260,000. The Mayor thanked Mr. Overman for his time.

Mayor Lambert stated that a citizen has asked him about having a dog park. The Mayor has discussed this in previous meetings.

Councilmember Sewell stated that Hamilton County schools will be closed the next day.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**February 13, 2014 - 6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 13, 2014, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert announced that he would like to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm in order for everyone to get home safely due to the inclement weather. Any items not addressed will roll over to the next meeting.

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

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

Mayor Lambert made the following changes to the agenda.

- Item B – Special Proclamation was removed from the agenda.
- Item K under New Business – Discussion of Industrial Development Board was removed from the agenda.
- Item B under Old Business – Discussion of 911 communications – Vice Mayor Bethune would like to move this item to the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Item I under New Business- Approval to waive fees for Bug-a-Palüza for use of Camp Jordan in April 2014 – This item was moved to the first item under New Business because it is time sensitive.
- Item K under New Business - Approval for East Ridge High School to use Camp Jordan fields for softball play day and the City donate their portion of concession money to the ERHS softball team – This item was moved to the second item under New Business because it is time sensitive.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes January 23, 2014 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes January 23, 2014 Council Meeting
- C. Declaration of surplus property

Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Communication from Citizens:**

Rick Carpenter, 3119 Chickalilly, asked if there was an update to his payment problem with WWTA. He also wants to discuss a storm culvert on Bennett Road and if it is the responsibility of WWTA or the City of East Ridge to clean it out. He would also like to propose that the council make a motion to recognize U.S. currency as a form of payment. Mayor Lambert stated

he has spoken with Don Seagle regarding what he was told to do by WWTA Attorney Clem. Mr. Clem told the Mayor that he asked all board members to refer any questions that Mr. Carpenter had to Mr. Clem. The Mayor stated he doesn't know if that is proper action, but stated he would feel more comfortable talking to Mr. Carpenter after the meeting about his discussions with Mr. Seagle.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Hyatt sent an email to Cleveland Grimes with WWTA to get information on this. City Attorney North stated he has done research on cash payments and stated there is no prohibition against charging higher amount for cash payments; other utilities and tollways do it. Mr. Carpenter stated they will not allow him to pay with cash, but Mr. North stated he was told cash payments are accepted. Mr. Hyatt stated he received the same information from Mr. Grimes. The Mayor stated he does not like the idea of going to Wal-Mart and adding a fee, but it is not against the law. The Mayor stated we have provided all the information that we can and he will talk to Mr. Carpenter after the meeting.

Ann Ludwig, 3510 Pinellas Lane, stated there is a problem with cars blocking driveways on Pinellas Lane. She would like no parking signs put up on the street. She would also like hidden driveway signs put up because of the blind hill and you cannot see the driveways. The no parking issue is on the agenda for tonight and Director Wheeler will have Traffic Control check into signage for the hidden driveways.

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, stated she has addressed this problem before. She would like for the City Attorney to check into the City doing yearly rental permits. This has been a state law for 2 years that allows the city to do this. Councilmember Gravitt stated that the City of Red Bank does this, and possibly Collegedale. Mr. North stated that this was discussed, and no decision was made to determine if we would include single family, duplexes, multiple, apartment complexes, etc. Mr. North will check into the legislation and bring something back to Council.

#### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Vice Mayor Bethune thanked all the City employees who cleared the road during the recent snow storm.

Councilmember Sewell stated he has had calls from citizens thanking the road crews for the job they did. He also stated he had a call from a citizen about coyotes getting into garbage cans on Shelby Circle.

Councilmember Manning thanked TDOT and the employees for clearing the roads.

Councilmember Gravitt echoed the comments of the other councilmembers.

Mayor Lambert stated city crews did a great job.

#### **Communication from City Manager/Staff:**

Mr. Hyatt thanked all the departments who worked together during the recent snow storm and also thanked the directors and chiefs.

Mr. Hyatt also discussed a University of Tennessee pilot program that incorporates students to work on projects for the City. UT has approached the City about being an early participant.

Cost would be from \$3,000 - \$9,000 per semester. Mr. Hyatt will do more research on this and bring back more information to the next meeting.

At this time, Mr. Hyatt asked Directors to give reports for their departments for January:

- Parks and Recreation – Director Martin stated we are trying to upgrade programs for seniors. He also stated that the Camp Jordan fields are in good shape. The Street Department has torn down the old concrete block bleachers and the old concession stand on the upper fields. Mr. Martin also stated the contract for the Christmas light show has been signed and US101 will be the title sponsor.
- City Services – Director Wheeler stated she is proud of how streets, sanitation, recreation and traffic all worked together during the snow storm. She stated that the first storm at the end of January cost the City \$15,615.
  - The Street Department, as well as clearing streets, has done drain cleaning, helped the Sanitation Dept. and has done work at the ballfields at Camp Jordan.
  - The Library has checked out 3,088 books, 44 ebooks and logged 559 computer hours on computers and had 16 attend the children's programs.
  - Traffic Control has produced 52 new signs, done maintenance on 8 signs, 15 shop tasks, 3 street light request, 5 street cut inspections, hung 3 banners, 13 signal repairs, installed 8 sign posts and 4 various requests from ERPD.
  - Building Maintenance has worked in eight of the City's facilities doing repairs, etc.
  - Sanitation has had a net savings of \$9,564.97 from recycling and a total of 320 tons recycled. Total expense for January was \$24,945.76 and revenue was \$1,242. The recycle program has over 2,200 participants and we have only 50 – 60 cans left.
- Fire Department – Chief Williams stated the department had 292 calls in January, 210 medical and 91 fire-related. He stated that during the snow storms, the departments incurred no overtime expenses because of the volunteers. He also stated they had to pay special attention to citizens on breathing machines and heart machines. The Chief also commended the Sanitation Department because he noticed one of their employees taking a garbage can back to the house for one of the citizens.
- Police Department – Chief Reed stated the department had 30 hours in overtime due to the recent snow storms and used reserves as much as possible. They had 98 calls in a 24-hour period during the storms. The Chief stated the department has some older 4-wheel drive vehicles that have wear and tear on them and they may need to be replaced for situations such as the snow storms. He also stated that during the most recent snow storm, there were no accidents reported. Chief Reed also commended the street crews for the work they did clearing the streets.

#### **Old Business:**

**Board Appointments** - Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to remove this item from the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

- Beer
- Library
- Zoning Appeals
- Personnel

Councilmember Manning reappointed all the same members to these boards.

Vice Mayor Bethune reappointed all the same members to these boards.

Councilmember Sewell reappointed all the same members to these boards.

Councilmember Gravitt made the following appointments:

- Beer Board – Carnell Story, 620 Melville Avenue
- Library Board – Donna Reed, 5316-A Dupont Street.
- Personnel Board – Jackie Cagle, 1809 Tombras Avenue
- Zoning Appeals – Liz Norris, 600 Brookfield Avenue

Mayor Lambert reappointed all the same members to these boards.

The personnel board must be approved by Council. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve the members to the Personnel Board as follows:

- Vice Mayor Bethune nominated Doris Rogers
- Councilmember Gravitt nominated Jackie Cagle
- Councilmember Sewell nominated Shelly Williams
- Councilmember Manning nominated Mimi Lowrey
- Mayor Lambert nominated Jackie Perry

Vice Mayor Bethune would like to make sure before the vote, that this will be an active board. Mr. Sewell and Mr. Bethune withdrew their motion and second. Mr. Bethune stated we need to define what the board does. The Mayor stated this was established in the ordinance that created the board. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve the members of the Personnel Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. The Mayor would like for Council to get copies of the ordinance that established this board in order to discuss at the next agenda meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Approval to waive fees for Bug-a-Palüza for use of Camp Jordan in April 2014 –** Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the request to waive fees. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Approval for East Ridge High School to use Camp Jordan fields for softball play day and the City donate their portion of concession money to the ERHS softball team –** Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the request to use the fields and donate the City's portion of concession money to the ERHS softball team. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2366 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON THE STREET CONTAINED HEREIN –** City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2366. Mr. Gravitt requested that Traffic Control look at additional signage for the hidden driveways. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2367 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING PURCHASE OF A SIDE-ARM AUTOMATED GARBAGE TRUCK** – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2367 which recommends the bid of Lee Smith. Director Wheeler stated this is not the lowest bid but it is the lowest bid that meets specifications. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Bethune – yes; Councilmember Gravitt – pass; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – yes; Councilmember Gravitt – abstain. Councilmember Gravitt stated that he would abstain because he is doing an appraisal for Lee Smith at this time. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2368 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2176 TO CHANGE THE CRITERIA FOR APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Mayor Lambert stated council may want to remove this item until a decision is made about the Industrial Development Board. Vice Mayor Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gravitt, to table Resolution No. 2368. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2369 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDS (LPRF) GRANT** – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2369. Director Martin stated the total grant would be \$200,000 with the City responsible for 50% or \$100,000. This would be in the next budget year. Mr. Martin stated this is a play park for children plus it has a workout park for adults and would include a restroom. Mr. Martin recommended putting the facility and restroom next to the picnic pavilion at Camp Jordan. Amanda Miller, City Services, is working on the grant and stated we must have three public meetings before April and also meet with PARTAS. Ms. Miller stated we cannot limit the use of the space and it must be open area for public use. It also has to be ADA accessible. Mr. Gravitt asked if we apply for the grant, are we required to accept it. Ms. Miller stated that if this resolution is approved that constitutes acceptance of the grant. Mr. Hyatt stated that if we are awarded the grant and refuse it, it may influence getting grants in the future. Council discussed putting this play park either at the pool property, McBrien School or replacing Pioneer Frontier. Councilmember Manning and Councilmember Sewell withdrew their motion and second. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2369 with the amendment that it states the play park will be placed on city-owned property. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2370 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING PARTIAL PAYMENT OF MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES OF RETIREES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WHO RETIRE DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Bethune stated this resolution states this benefit will be paid until the age of 65. He stated his motion in the previous meeting did not state an age and that is what Council approved. Mr. Bethune wants to take out the 65 age limit. Councilmember Gravitt stated we should not pay insurance benefits to people for the rest of their lives; they are eligible for Medicare. He stated this would be a financial burden on the City. Mr. Gravitt stated he can go with the age of 65 but no more. Mr. Bethune wants to know why we are revoting, since this has already been voted on. Councilmember Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2370 without the age limit of 65. The

Mayor wants to know what it will cost the City. He has not seen any plan on how this will save the city money. Mr. North stated he prepared a resolution without the age of 65. He also stated since this was voted on in the last meeting, no motion needs to be made if there is no age limit. Mr. Bethune and Mr. Manning withdrew their motion and second. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gravitt, to approve Resolution No. 2370 as written with the 65 age limit. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Bethune – no; Councilmember Gravitt – yes; Councilmember Manning – no; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – abstain. This item will rollover to the next meeting. This resolution will be brought back before Council without the age limit and at that time an amendment could be made. The Mayor and Councilmember Gravitt want to see numbers of what this will cost the City. Mr. Gravitt would like for the City Manager, Ms. Qualls, Ms. Perry and possibly one of the auditors to get solid numbers on the cost of the program.

**ORDINANCE NO. 963 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NOS. 932 AND 938 WITH REGARD TO THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. Mr. North stated that based on previous discussions, he included the following stipulations in the ordinance:

- The elected court clerk is required to be a resident of East Ridge.
- After this year's election, the election will be every four years in November in conjunction with the City's election.
- The elected clerk must comply with existing City of East Ridge personnel policies.

Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 963 on first reading. The Mayor stated he can see the logic in holding the court clerk election in August because the judge's election comes up in August but does not have a problem if it is held in November. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Any item that was not covered in tonight's meeting will roll over to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

**AGENDA WORK SESSION  
February 27, 2014 – 5:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The  
March 13, 2014 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 27, 2013, 5:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the March 13, 2014 Council Meeting and other items. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

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

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 961 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 956 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2014 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT...” BY DESIGNATING FUND BALANCE FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES FOR THE GENERAL FUND (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – This will be for second and final reading dependent on passage of first reading tonight. There were no questions or comments.

**ORDINANCE NO. 962 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY TREASURER (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – This ordinance will be on second reading dependent on passage of first reading tonight. There were no questions or comments.

**Army Corp of Engineers flood study** – The Corps representative was not present at this time but was on his way to the meeting. This item was moved to later in the agenda.

**New Business: Discussion**

**Discussion of Personnel Board** – City Manager Hyatt stated that Ordinance 879 is attached, which created the board and set out the procedures. Members were reappointed last meeting but Council had questions about the duties of the board. Mr. Hyatt stated he could possibly schedule a class with MTAS for the boardmembers.

**Fire Safety Grant** – Chief Williams asked that this item be added and possibly move it over to tonight’s regular meeting since it is time sensitive. This grant is through FEMA and would provide a fire prevention/fire education trailer. It can be used in schools, day cares, in neighborhoods and for special events in Camp Jordan Park. The grant is for \$100,000 with a 5% match from the City. Mayor Lambert moved this item up to tonight’s agenda as Item G.

**Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial** – Mayor Lambert discussed construction of a Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial which was previously planned to be put at Camp Jordan. The Mayor stated he would like to do something, possibly on a smaller scale at City Hall, to honor those who gave all for their country. Director Martin stated that we did not set aside money at the park for the memorial, only the land. Mayor Lambert moved this item up to tonight’s agenda as Item H. Mr. Martin will contact the Vietnam Veterans of America to get advice on a design. Councilmember

Gravitt suggested checking with the high school construction academy and the ROTC. The Mayor would like to dedicate the memorial on Memorial Day.

Mayor Lambert stated that Item 3B and 3C – Special Proclamations will be removed from tonight's regular meeting.

The Mayor also stated he has to leave this meeting but will be back in time for the business section of the regular meeting.

**Army Corp of Engineers** – Tom Herbert, Lacey Thompson, and Craig Carrington are back for an update on the report they gave in November. Mr. Herbert stated the cost of the feasibility flood study would be \$700,000 with the City responsible for half or \$350,000. Mr. Herbert also stated the Corp is ready to move on their side, as soon as they have the funding in place. The study will give the City options on what could be done to alleviate the flooding. The Corps has no way of knowing right now what the total project would cost.

Councilmember Sewell asked the Corps for ideas of what could be done. Mr. Herbert stated houses could be raised, do channeling in the streams, or do buyouts of property.

Councilmember Manning stated he lives in a flood area and has heard about the studies for many years, but nothing ever happens. Water still comes from both Georgia and Chattanooga.

Councilmember Gravitt asked what the time frame would be for the City to decide what they are going to do. Mr. Herbert stated the Corps needs to know something as soon as possible, because Washington could pull the money and use it for other projects.

Councilmember Sewell stated we need to do something, but is concerned where the money would come from. He suggested asking the County to help. Mr. Herbert stated that a coalition would be acceptable, but FEMA and Corps money cannot be mixed. He also stated that payments could be spaced out and not paid all at one time.

Vice Mayor Bethune suggested going forward with this item at the next council meeting. We can have a conference call if necessary, so the Corps representatives would not have to come back.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**February 27, 2014 - 6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 27, 2014, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Vice Mayor Bethune called the meeting to order.

Rev. Ronnie Mitchell, East Ridge Baptist Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present were:** Vice Mayor Bethune, Councilmember Gravitt, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton. Mayor Lambert was not present for roll call but came in later in the meeting.

Vice Mayor Bethune stated that the proclamations on tonight's agenda will be postponed until a later date.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes February 13, 2014 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes February 13, 2014 Council Meeting
- C. Approval of January 2014 Financial Statement

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

City Attorney North read a statement that there is an ongoing investigation regarding the wrecker ordinance. Until the investigation is concluded, it would be inappropriate for him, the council, or any employees to comment on the situation.

**Communication from Citizens:**

Donna Reed, 5316 Dupont Street, made a statement regarding the insurance issue on tonight's agenda. She stated the employees do an excellent job, but it is not right for the City to pay someone's premiums for life. She stated that a lot of citizens are on fixed incomes and this benefit comes out of citizen's tax money. She also stated she does not know of any others employers that provide this benefit for life. She also stated it is not right to give the benefit to some and not all employees.

Mark Brandt, 4422 Lanior Circle, invited council to the neighborhood watch meeting next Thursday at 6:30. He stated that someone from the Sheriff's Department and also Judge Starnes would be there.

Tamara Ray, 3511 Pinellas Lane, stated that since no parking signs were put up on Pinellas Lane, there is nowhere for her children that drive to park. City Manager Hyatt stated that council voted in the last meeting to put up no parking signs on the road. Amanda Miller, City Services, stated that someone had complained about the safety issue with cars parking on the road. Traffic Control did a study of the area and found blind curves and it was also hard to maneuver sanitation trucks and emergency equipment on the road.

Frances Pope, 1913 Close Road, discussed the council considering lifetime benefits for employees and spouses. She stated this could jeopardize the financial situation of the city. Ms. Pope quoted from previous minutes where our auditor at the time had concerns about the city paying benefits for spouses. She also stated this is just for a handful of employees and it could mean higher premiums for other employees in the future due to the amount of claims. It would be a tax burden on the citizens.

Rick Carpenter, 3119 Chickalilly Drive, stated that Chris Clem with WWTA made the statement that Mr. Carpenter has been rude and threatening with the council. He stated that he appreciates the help Council has given him. Vice Mayor Bethune stated that Mr. Carpenter has been very nice and not rude when he has come before Council. Mr. Carpenter asked that his statements be a part of the minutes that Mr. Clem is a “master of rhetoric, of contradiction and miscorrection.”

#### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Manning had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Gravitt had nothing at this time.

City Attorney North had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Bethune had nothing at this time.

#### **Communication from City Manager/Staff:**

- City Manager Hyatt read a letter from Donna Reed and members of East Ridge Revitalization thanking the City for their support of this program.
- Hidden driveway signs were put up on Pinellas Lane.
- Yearly rental permits – Mr. Hyatt has information on this and will add it to the next agenda
- He is looking into repairs of the restroom at McBrien to keep kids more in one area.
- Budget Review – Finance Director Qualls stated we are in a surplus in every fund after seven months in the budget. She stated that property tax collections are up; we are at 55.8%. Delinquent tax is at 83%. Local option sales tax is up almost 10%. At the end of January, sanitation collections are at 57%. Next month we will get a large amount from Hamilton County on property taxes.

Vice Mayor Bethune announced the following changes to the agenda.

- Resolution No. 2370 will be moved after Resolution No. 2371.
- Item G added under New Business – Resolution No. 2372 regarding a fire grant.
- Item H added under New Business – Discussion of Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial

#### **Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 963 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NOS. 932 AND 938 WITH REGARD TO THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading) - City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell,**

to approve Ordinance No. 963 on second and final reading. Mr. North stated the ordinance calls for the clerk to be a citizen of East Ridge, for the election to be held in November after the 2014 election, and that the clerk will follow the same hiring and firing procedures as other departments. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2369 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDS (LPRF) GRANT (amend location to Monroe Street) -** City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2369. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

At this time, the Council took a 10-minute break.

After the break, Mayor Lambert came into the meeting so Resolution No. 2370 was moved back to this portion of the agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2370 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING PARTIAL PAYMENT OF MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES OF RETIREES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WHO RETIRE DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME -** City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to rescind Resolution No. 2370 on the grounds that some of the councilmembers misunderstood the specific benefits that were being voted on. The Mayor is concerned how rescinding the resolution would impact the two employees that have submitted retirement letters. City Attorney North stated that there has been a misunderstanding about the benefits being for life or until age 65. Mr. North had a transcript of the discussion and motion from the last meeting and he read the motion from the transcript as follows:

*Vice Mayor Bethune: Make a motion for a 90-day window that the City of East Ridge pay 100% of the employee's benefit on health insurance and 50% of the spouse's insurance, and anyone that's went out, which is ten employees, I think she said, that anyone that's went out gets credit for the 50% on the spouse, because they're already getting the 100% on the employee, and must be 25-year employee. Mr. North: When does the window start? Vice Mayor Bethune: 90 day window effective the first of February, yes, to end May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

He also stated that an earlier resolution capped the benefits at age 65, and then the retirees would go on Medicare. The motion made and approved on January 23<sup>rd</sup> was not specific; it did not state benefits would be paid for life and it did not state that benefits would be cut off at age 65. Mr. North believes the employees understood it would be 100% for life.

Vice Mayor Bethune asked if what was voted on in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting became law at that time. Mr. North stated that technically what became law stated no designation of benefits for lifetime or age 65. Mr. Bethune also stated that Mr. Gravitt knew what the motion was at the time of the vote. Mr. Gravitt stated he did not know it was for lifetime benefits and could not assume that Mr. Bethune meant lifetime benefits.

Mr. Sewell stated this began when some employees asked him about insurance when they lost benefits under a previous City Manager.

Mr. Bethune stated if the positions are not filled, the City would save \$104,000 on salaries. Mr. Hyatt stated that if all 13 employees who are eligible retired, it would cost the City \$106,000 annually. He also stated that savings would only come if the positions are not filled, but stated these two employees would not be replaced.

Mr. Gravitt stated the resolution did not state these benefits had this benefit for life; he does not mind extending the benefits to age 65. Both Mr. Gravitt and Mr. Sewell thought the benefit would only go to age 65, not life.

Mr. North stated he has prepared three resolutions for council's consideration, one which states how Mr. Bethune intended his motion in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, one that states how Mr. Gravitt and Mr. Sewell understood the motion, and one with the original motion with a verbatim transcript attached. Mr. North recommends that Council approve the resolution with the verbatim transcript attached.

Mr. Gravitt stated the resolution also calls for credit for former employees that had already retired. Mr. North stated he believes Mr. Bethune meant to go back and allow spouses of former employees that retired to get credit and only pay the 50%. Mr. Bethune stated that is correct that the two employees would get that for their spouses.

Mayor Lambert asked Mr. North that if council changes the rules in the middle of the game, could it could possibly open the City up to a lawsuit. Mr. North stated that it could, but council is going to have to decide tonight if the benefits would be extended for life or age 65. Mayor Lambert stated he is not in favor of extending lifetime benefits, but has a problem telling these two employees they will not get the lifetime benefits if that is what they understood.

At this time, Mr. Gravitt withdrew his motion to rescind Resolution No. 2370 and Mr. Sewell withdrew his second.

Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell (for discussion purposes), to amend Resolution No. 2370 to keep our commitment to the two employees that have retired, eliminate the 90-day window for retirement, and limit the retirement window to seven days from tonight as of March 7<sup>th</sup>, after which the benefit will be changed back to age 65.

Mr. North restated Mr. Gravitt's motion as follows: to amend the resolution about the retirement incentive benefit and the City will to provide that at 100% employee benefits for people with 25 years of service for the two employees that have already retired, 100% for life and the two employees spouses will receive 50% of that benefit until the employee dies. That same benefit can be received for anyone that qualifies and retires by March 7<sup>th</sup> that has the 25 years of service. After that time, the provision reverts back to age 65.

Councilmember Gravitt stated for him it is not about the savings, it is about his parents and other retirees that are struggling to pay for their health insurance. He stated that we are putting this benefit for these two employees on the backs of these taxpayers that cannot afford their own insurance. But with this confusion of this resolution, we have to reach some kind of happy medium.

Mr. North asked council if there was anything else that is not understood or vague about the motion. He stated that life, dental and vision are not included in this resolution. Mr. North stated this would be taken away from the old retirees.

Mr. Gravitt asked how this would impact our contract with Blue Cross. Melissa Rominger with JMD Group, our insurance broker, stated that currently retirees are covered to age 65. The City would have to get an exception for lifetime coverage on the two employees, and there is no guarantee the exception would be granted by Blue Cross. Ms. Rominger will not know until next week if the exception is granted, and it could possibly increase the city's premium. If the City had to purchase an individual policy on the two employees, it would be more expensive.

Councilmember Sewell suggested tabling this item until we get all the information from the carrier. Mr. Gravitt stated if we do not vote to amend this now, it leaves the resolution open as far as age. Mayor Lambert stated the window needs to be closed now even if nothing else is done. Mr. Gravitt withdrew his motion to amend Resolution No. 2370, and Mr. Sewell withdrew his second.

Councilmember Gravitt then made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2370 to change the insurance benefits for retirees to 65 years of age to be paid at 100% and 50% for spouses effective immediately and to close the window for retirement immediately for lifetime benefits.

Mr. Gravitt asked Freida Wheeler what her perception of the motion was. She stated she understood it was to provide lifetime benefits for employees retiring in that 90-day window. Mayor Lambert asked that any motion made be withdrawn. Mr. Gravitt withdrew his motion.

At this time, the Mayor called for a 10-minute break to draft a motion.

After returning from the break, the Mayor made a motion that we adopt Resolution No. 2370 with following amendments:

- The window of opportunity for retirement is closed immediately allowing only the two employees that have tendered letters of retirement to be eligible for the benefit.
- Specific details on vision, life and dental to be determined. (These benefits are not currently included)

Councilmember Sewell seconded for discussion purposes. Mr. North stated that Resolution No. 2370 as voted on in January would have to be adopted tonight and then amended by the Mayor's motion. He recommends adopting the version of the resolution with the transcript.

Mayor Lambert and Councilmember Sewell withdrew their motion and second.

Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve Resolution 2370 with the verbatim transcript with an effective date of January 23, 2014. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gravitt, as follows:

- The window of opportunity for retirement is closed immediately allowing only the two employees that have tendered letters of retirement to be eligible for the benefit.
- Specific details on vision, life and dental to be determined. (These benefits are not currently included)

The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of 911 communications** – Captain Mullinax discussed information he has gotten on relocating a 911 system back to East Ridge. He stated it would cost the City approximately \$850,000 to operate a 911 system, with the large expense being personnel. He stated it was a possibility that the 911 board would donate software to the City, such as they did for Soddy Daisy, but there was no guarantee. Captain Mullinax also stated that the 911 fee on phone bills would not come to the City but would go to the state to be dispersed. The Captain also stated we have the second highest call load in Hamilton County and we would only have two dispatchers on duty at any given time. Councilmember Sewell asked the Captain and Chief Williams what they recommend. Chief Williams stated having the 911 county system is a positive for East Ridge. They have state of the art equipment and other dispatchers can pick up the call load when they get behind. He also stated that call from cell phones are an issue because of the signal. For the most part, the fire and police are happy with the county 911 system.

#### **New Business:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 961 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 956 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2014 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT...” BY DESIGNATING FUND BALANCE FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES FOR THE GENERAL FUND (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** - City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 961 on first reading. Director Qualls explained that this is for a settlement, an additional salary, and to purchase a garbage truck and the City self-finance it. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 962 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY TREASURER (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gravitt, to approve Ordinance No. 962 on first reading. City Manager Hyatt stated he has done phone interviews with two candidates. Once this ordinance is approved, Mr. Hyatt stated he could make an offer. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Bethune – yes; Councilmember Gravitt – yes; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – no. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2371 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE INCREASING RENTAL FEES FOR THE EAST RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER** - City Attorney North read on caption. Director Martin stated it cost us at least \$100 per event to cover personnel costs. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve Resolution No. 2371. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

#### **Discussion of Industrial Development Board – possible appointments**

- Vice Mayor Bethune appointed James Citty
- Councilmember Manning did not have an appointment at this time.
- Councilmember Sewell appointed Kelley Steele with FSG Bank.
- Councilmember Gravitt appointed Barton Burns, an Attorney and CPA
- Mayor Lambert appointed Ruth Braley

City Attorney North asked if these appointees met the requirement of being members of the Chamber of Commerce or similar civic organizations. Councilmembers will find out about this.

Mayor Lambert stated the board must have seven appointees, and recommended the two remaining slots be filled by council vote at the next meeting. Mr. North stated the charter for the board has been dissolved but it can be reinstated.

**Discussion of Pool Property at 4150 Monroe Street** – Director Martin stated crews have started clearing the property, taking down fencing around the tennis courts, and breaking up the asphalt on the tennis courts. He is checking to see what we can and cannot put in the pool to fill it. Amanda Miller has started the application for a grant for a play park at the property, with a walking track and dog park. Mr. Martin is going to meet with the Vice President of Marketing of Playcore, who also lives in East Ridge, about the park.

**Discussion of Fuel Pumps** – City Manager Hyatt stated that the City’s fuel pumps are antiquated and we cannot get parts for repairs. Councilmember Sewell asked if we could move the pumps to the park maintenance area. Amanda Miller stated that we can fill or dig out the tanks. Mr. Hyatt believes that we need above ground tanks. Mr. Gravitt asked if we have estimates to have an above-ground tank installed. Sanitation Supervisor Petty stated he has an estimate of \$88,000 for a 10,000 gallon tank but it does not include running electricity. Councilmember Gravitt asked if it would be more cost effective to enter into agreement with a local gas station. City Manager Hyatt stated that where he was previously, they used Mapco. This would be a better reporting system and the station may possibly give a discount. At the present time, we pay \$2.77 per gallon for regular gas. Mr. Hyatt stated we will look into this possibility. We could continue to have a diesel tank for the Fire Department. Mr. Hyatt will get a cost for removing or filling the gas tanks.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2372 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT UNDER THE FEMA FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROGRAM** – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2372. Chief Williams stated the grant is for \$100,000 with a 5% match from the City. The grant would provide a fire trailer that could be taken to schools, churches and events at Camp Jordan for fire education. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial** – Mayor Lambert stated he believes the Council made a commitment to the citizens to build a memorial to Vietnam Veterans from East Ridge who gave their lives in this war. He would like to see a memorial in front of City Hall that is specific to the Vietnam War. He believes these veterans got “shoddy” treatment when they returned home after fighting for their country. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to construct a memorial at City Hall and not to exceed \$15,000 for the construction. Councilmember Sewell stated we could possibly get the High School Construction Academy involved. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.