

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
December 8, 2016 – 6:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The
January 12, 2017 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 8, 2016 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the January 12, 2017 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

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

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1025 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 1013 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT . . .” BY CHANGING THE REVENUES OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND AND DRUG FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND, FEDERAL FORFEITURES FUND AND DRUG FUND (2nd and final reading) – Mayor Lambert stated first reading will be in tonight’s regular Council meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 1024 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4333 LAZARD STREET FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-2 RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX DISTRICT, TAX MAP #169I-J-023 (2nd and final reading) – Mayor Lambert stated a public hearing and first reading of this ordinance will be in tonight’s regular Council meeting, so this will potentially be second reading.

New Business Discussion:

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL TO PURCHASE 2017 FORD EXPLORER UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON STATE-WIDE CONTRACT – Councilmember Cagle stated he would like to put this vehicle out for bids. City Manager Miller stated that if we bid it out and the state contract price is lower, we would still have to go with the lowest bidder, not the state contract price.

Setting a public meeting date on the expansion of CARTA service in East Ridge – Mayor Lambert stated he and the City Manager met with CARTA representatives to discuss the current service. The service was part of a three-year grant which is about to run out. He stated we have to make a decision if we want to continue service. The Mayor suggested having a public meeting, possibly in mid-March 2017, to get input from citizens. This item will be added to the next agenda in order for Council to schedule a date.

At this time, Vice Mayor Gravitt came in to the meeting.

The Mayor and Council had no further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**December 8, 2016
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 8, 2016, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert stated he appreciates Councilmember Manning and Vice Mayor Gravitt for their service over the past years.

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, City Manager Miller, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

The Mayor recognized Senator Todd Gardenhire, Councilmember-elect Williams and Councilmember-elect Helton.

Special Presentation from TN American Water – Firefighter Assistance Grant for \$500 – Community Involvement Coordinator Miller introduced representatives from Tennessee American Water Company to present a check in the amount of \$500 for the Fighter Assistance Grant. Chief Williams stated the grant will be used for protective hoods. The Mayor thanked Tennessee American Water Company for the grant.

Christmas Parade Awards – Ms. Miller recognized Court Clerk Patricia Cassidy and City Manager Miller for judging the parade floats. She presented a plaque to the Grand Marshals of the parade, the family of the late Perry Vandergriff, the former band director at East Ridge High School. Ms. Miller presented the parade awards as follows:

Non-Education

- 1st Alhambra Shrine Temple
- 2nd Ginger Brown's Academy of Performing Arts
- 3rd Camping World RV Sales

Education

- 1st (\$300) Belvoir Christian Academy
- 2nd (\$200) Cub Scout Pack 3062
- 3rd (\$100) East Ridge High School JROTC Marching Unit

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes November 10, 2016 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes November 10, 2016 Council Meeting
- C. Approval of October 2016 Financial Statement

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

Communication from Citizens:

John Temple, Mission Oaks subdivision, is requesting that the City put the Mission Oaks candlelighting event on the electronic sign in front of City Hall. They raise money for the Needy Child Fund every year and usually have firefighters and fire engines present. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to allow the event to be put on the electronic sign. Councilmember Cagle stated this could set a precedent for other groups to request messages or events on the sign. Mayor Lambert suggested that the City create a usage policy to govern what kind of messages we can put on the digital signs. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Carolyn Cox, 1301 John Ross Road, stated there is a drainage ditch behind the houses on John Ross Road with an easement that belongs to the City. She stated that people throw trash in the ditch, blocking up the ditch and causing trash to run into her yard. She has contacted Street Supervisor Branam, but nothing has been resolved. City Manager Miller will check to see if the City has recorded easements for the drainage ditch.

Vice Mayor Gravitt announced that he and Senator Todd Gardenhire will sponsor a local town hall meeting on January 19, 2017, 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle thanked staff for the great job they did on the Christmas Parade. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and also stated he appreciates Mr. Manning and Mr. Gravitt for their service on the Council.

Vice Mayor Gravitt suggested that the community service workers help clean out the drainage ditches in the City. Mr. Miller will check into this.

Mr. Gravitt also thanked everyone for their support while he was on the City Council.

Councilmember Manning thanked the Council and the City Manager, plus all the citizens for their support.

Councilmember Sewell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated he appreciated working with Mr. Manning and Mr. Gravitt.

Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Manning and Mr. Gravitt for their service to the City. He stated it is not easy but is very rewarding.

Communication from City Manager:

City Manager Miller thanked Mr. Manning and Mr. Gravitt for the opportunity to work with them.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1023 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 746, WHICH ESTABLISHED AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM, BY ADDING SECTION V. ADMINISTRATION, SUBSECTION (a) (9) (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Ordinance No. 1023 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 1024 – Rezoning of 4333 Lazard St. from R-1 Residential District to R-2 Residential Duplex District – Mayor Lambert opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. The Mayor stated this was approved by the East Ridge Planning Commission, mainly because there was no opposition from the neighbors in attendance. City Attorney North stated the ordinance would need to stipulate that if there is a change of ownership in the property, it would need to come back before the Planning Commission. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1024 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4333 LAZARD STREET FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-2 RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX DISTRICT, TAX MAP #169I-J-023 (1st reading) – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Ordinance No. 1024 on first reading, with the stipulation that if the subject property ceases to be occupied in its entirety by the owners, this would need to come back before the Planning Commission for further review. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION NO 2614 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF INTEREST BEARING EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTES, SERIES 2016, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$134,000, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID NOTES – City Attorney North read on caption. City Manager Miller stated \$145,000 was budgeted for these pieces of equipment, but the cost came in at \$133,400. He stated that there would be a \$500 issuance cost, plus \$21,000 in interest over 10 years if we pursue the note. He is now recommending that we take the money from the fund balance to pay for this equipment in order to save interest. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to take the money from the General Fund fund balance and not do the note for the equipment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 1025 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 1013 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT . . .” BY CHANGING THE REVENUES OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND AND DRUG FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND, FEDERAL FORFEITURES FUND AND DRUG FUND (1st reading) – City Attorney North read on

caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Ordinance No. 1025 on first reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Finance Director Qualls stated she will make changes before second reading to reflect the purchase of equipment in Resolution No. 2614 from the General Fund fund balance. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Cagle discussed the Financial Statement. He stated we have not received state income taxes. Ms. Qualls stated we receive that sometime in May. Mr. Cagle discussed various recreation issues, such as gate proceeds, track rental and field rental being down. Recreation Director Martin will check into this. Mr. Martin also explained the difference in hosting recreation tournaments and someone else hosting a tournament. Mr. Cagle also discussed the Community Center membership being down. He would like to do away with the membership fees.

Grant Consent Agenda:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2616 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SETDD) TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT PROJECT AT MCBRIEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2617 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM**
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 2618 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE WYSIWASH WELLNESS GRANT PROGRAM**

Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the Grant Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cagle stated the date in the agreement would need to be changed to December. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discuss/Take Action on conceptual plan to further develop recreational fields and facilities at Camp Jordan – Mayor Lambert stated he provided a resolution to Council that can be adopted or discussed. He stated he has had discussions with Mayor Coppinger and Commissioner Boyd, Bob Doak, and Tim Morgan about the possibility of joining together to make significant improvements at Camp Jordan Park, such as adding turf fields and new facilities. He stated the improvements could bring in events such as the Spring Fling. The Mayor stated the easiest, cleanest way would be a tax increment finance plan and allocate that toward the debt service. The total cost could be approximately \$15 million of City and County funds, but may not be that much. The Mayor stated that when Jordan Crossing is built out, the conservative estimate would be a value of \$75 - \$80 million. When you back out the education portion of the taxes, the County and City portion would be almost \$900,000 per year. This would earmark money that we are not currently receiving and could make Camp Jordan an asset at a new level. The Mayor stated he would like to have a motion to explore this possibility and development a plan to bring back to Council. Councilmember Manning made a motion,

seconded by Councilmember Sewell, for the Mayor, City Manager and City Attorney to work with Hamilton County to develop a plan to bring back to Council. Councilmember Cagle stated Council previously discussed taking over the sports facilities at the High School. He believes we need recreation facilities at this end of town. The Mayor stated that Camp Jordan is not like anything else; it is the largest municipal park in Tennessee. We have an opportunity to build upon what we have and enhance the Border Region District, which will benefit businesses. He stated our IDB Counsel, Mark Mamantov thinks this is a great idea. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated he would like to have it on record that the plan will come back before Council before any other action is taken. The Mayor stated this would also have to go before the Industrial Development Board and the County Commission. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discuss/Take Action on Cancelling the December 22, 2016 Council Meeting – Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to cancel the December 22, 2016 Council meeting. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor's Appointment to Hamilton County Water Quality Management Committee – The Mayor appointed Kenny Custer as the City's representative to the committee and Michael Howell as the alternate. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to approve the appointment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Request from Jay Desai to Relocate a Single Family Dwelling from Outside the City Limits to 354 Camp Jordan Road – Michael Howell, Codes Inspector, stated that staff recommendation is to allow the move at night. The house will be moved from Igou Gap Road to 354 Camp Jordan Road. Donald Payne, the mover, stated he will put up a cash bond. He stated he has never had an incident and hires off-duty East Ridge officers to escort the move. Chief Reed stated that Chattanooga Police would bring the movers to our city limits and East Ridge Police would take over from there. City Manager Miller stated he would have Traffic Control make sure of the heights. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the request. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert invited everyone to attend the swearing in ceremony on December 12th.

The meeting was adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE
48th INAUGURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

**December 12, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of East Ridge, Tennessee met pursuant to notice on December 12, 2016. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Reverend Chris Peponis, Fellowship Baptist Church, gave the invocation and everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Mayor Lambert welcomed everyone to the inaugural ceremony. He thanked Councilmember Manning and Vice Mayor Gravitt for their service.

The Mayor presented Mr. Manning with a plaque for his 12 years of service. Mr. Manning stated it has been an honor to serve and he will miss it.

The Mayor presented Mr. Gravitt with a plaque for his 4 years of service to the City. Mr. Gravitt thanked the Mayor and Council and stated he would still be around as State Representative. He recognized Marty Haynes, Hamilton County Assessor of Property, David Testerman, School Board Representative, and former councilmembers, Tom Card, Don Huskey and John Tilley.

Mayor Lambert recognized the current and former officials as well. He stated that trying to make the City a better place requires a team effort, not just one or two people.

Administering Oath of Office:

At this time, the Honorable Lila Statom administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Esther Helton.

The Honorable Marc Gravitt administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Brian Williams.

Election of Vice Mayor:

Councilmember Helton nominated Councilmember Larry Sewell to become Vice Mayor. Councilmember Williams seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Concluding Remarks from Mayor and Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle welcomed the new Councilmembers and stated he looks forward to working with them.

Councilmember Williams thanked the citizens and stated it is an honor to serve. He wished Mr. Manning the best and is looking forward to working with Mr. Gravitt at the State level.

Councilmember Helton thanked Judge Statom for swearing her in, her family and friends for supporting her, and the citizens for voting for her. She stated she is dedicated to progress and is committed to the community.

Vice Mayor Sewell congratulated Ms. Helton and Mr. Williams and is looking forward to working with them. He stated there are a lot of good things going on in the City.

Mayor Lambert stated he is excited about everything going on in East Ridge and he is very confident with this group. He stated that a reception will be held in the lobby and wished every a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting was adjourned

MINUTES OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CALLED MEETING

December 29, 2016 – 5:30 pm

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 29, 2016, 5:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting and all Councilmembers were given notice of call. The meeting was called for the purpose of the following:

- Accept the Resignation of City Attorney Hal North
- Discuss/Take Action on Appointing a New and/or Interim City Attorney
- Discuss/Take Action on Government Affairs Proposal from Nicole Osborne with Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel, P.C.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

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

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Helton, Councilmember Williams, City Manager Miller, Alex McVeagh for City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton. Vice Mayor Sewell was not present.

Communication from Citizens:

Denny Manning, 910 Sunnydell Circle, stated he would like to have Alex McVeagh as the City Attorney.

Frances Pope, 1913 Close Road, stated she would also like to have Alex McVeagh as the City Attorney or Interim. She stated that a name has been mentioned and some Councilmembers have met with this person. Councilmembers Helton and Williams, and Mayor Lambert stated they have met with this person individually. Councilmember Cagle stated he has not. The Mayor stated he sent an email on the previous Tuesday to the entire council and asked them to meet with this person, because he did not want the council to be blindsided at the last minute as they were in 2012. Ms. Helton and Mr. Williams stated they met with this person before the email went out. Ms. Pope stated it sounded like “there have been discussions going on in the background.” Mayor Lambert assured her there were no Sunshine Laws violations.

Mayor Lambert addressed Ms. Pope’s comments. He stated that four years ago, Ms. Pope did not stand up publicly and say firing John Anderson was wrong. Now she is and he believes that is a double standard. He stated it is no secret, partly due to an article in the paper that highlighted some of those issues, that he and Mr. North as well as Mr. Sewell and Mr. North have not been on the best of terms. He stated he highly respects Mr. McVeagh and Ms. Osborne with Chambliss, Bahner, and Stophel; this is not a reproach on them.

The Mayor stated that without John Anderson and Grant, Konvalinka and Harrison, the Border Region would never have happened. We owe that and Bass Pro, and everything that will come, to that law firm. He has respect for Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel but wants to reconnect in some way with Grant, Konvalinka and Harrison. He also stated the name he is recommending from that firm is Mark Litchford. The Mayor stated he is not here to besmirch anyone, including Hal North, but it is no secret that he would rather have a different city attorney.

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, asked why Council did not select John Anderson if he did such a wonderful job. The Mayor stated that Mr. Anderson would not come back if they “offered him 2 million dollars a year because of all the garbage he would have to take with this job.” Ms. Lowrey stated we do not know that we would not have the Border Region Act without that law firm. Mayor Lambert stated there is no other city in this part of the state that has the border region designation. He also stated that John Anderson has development connections with the people who passed the legislation. Ms. Lowrey stated that Mr. Anderson cost the City \$600,000 for part of the Exit 1 property. The Mayor stated that Mr. Anderson was fired in the middle of the process.

Jim Bethune, 710 Haven Hill Drive, stated he knows hiring Mr. Litchford is a “done deal.” He also stated the City spent \$211,000 for John Anderson’s fees in his last year. He stated the paperwork Finance Director Qualls provided is wrong and she does not know what she is doing. The Mayor stated he sat here for four years and watched Mr. Bethune embarrass countless employees. Mr. Bethune stated the Mayor has two people who will vote the way he wants them to; one whose legal counsel is Mr. Anderson and one who is related to Vice Mayor Sewell. Mr. Bethune also stated another employee with the City has Mr. Anderson as an attorney. He stated that Mr. Anderson averaged \$165,000 a year while he was the City Attorney. The Mayor has the official numbers but Mr. Bethune stated he did not care; they are wrong.

Councilmember Helton responded to Mr. Bethune’s comments. She stated she knows what happened in 2012 and Mr. Bethune does too. She stated he put Mr. Anderson’s bills in her mailbox and had a meeting at her house. She told him “not to talk about ethics” and also stated “nobody wants you up here.”

Councilmember Williams stated that he is not blood-related to Vice Mayor Sewell.

Mayor Lambert apologized if he has let this happen, but he has seen Mr. Bethune embarrass employees who have come to the microphone to speak. Mr. Bethune called the Mayor a liar. The Mayor stated it is disgusting that Mr. Bethune would call any employee incompetent or that they would deliberately provide erroneously information. The Mayor stated there are some employees here now who know that he is telling the truth. The Mayor stated he believes Mr. Bethune has gone after the City Recorder in the past and has now gone after the Finance Director. Mr. Bethune stated he has gone after both of them because they do not do their jobs.

Mayor Lambert stated that every day he is grateful that we have people who try to treat each other with respect. Mr. Bethune continued, from the back, to interrupt the Mayor several times. The Mayor cautioned him to keep quiet or be escorted out. He will defend

our employees because we have great employees. He will never attempt to embarrass any employee especially from the dais. Mr. Bethune interrupted again, so the Mayor had him escorted out of the meeting.

Accept the Resignation of City Attorney Hal North – **Mayor Lambert stated that on December 22nd, the City Manager received a letter of resignation from Hal North, and then read the letter. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to accept Mr. North’s resignation. Councilmember Cagle believes we would not have to vote to accept Mr. North’s resignation, since he never had a contract. Mayor Lambert believes it is appropriate to do so, since Mr. North could change his mind if Council does not vote. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Sewell - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Helton - yes; Councilmember Williams - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Appointing a New and/or Interim City Attorney – Councilmember Cagle nominated Alex McVeagh with Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel as the new City Attorney. Mr. Cagle asked Mr. McVeagh to discuss his qualifications for this position. Mr. McVeagh stated he has worked every single day for the last three years on East Ridge matters. He stated he was the head senate judiciary and law clerk at Vanderbilt. He communicates with MTAS on a weekly basis. He works with Chief Building Official Custer, Finance Director Qualls, and City Recorder Middleton on a regular basis. He believes he is qualified and can provide letters of recommendation. He stated that Mark Litchford is a great attorney, but would appreciate the opportunity to serve. He would take the same proposal as Mr. Litchford. Councilmember Cagle stated there is a potential conflict with Mr. Litchford, because the Wood Brothers with MPL use the same law firm. Mayor Lambert stated that according to the American Bar Association, it is almost impossible to find an attorney free of conflict. At this time, Mayor Lambert nominated Mark Litchford as the City Attorney. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Williams stated he had hoped to appoint an interim City Attorney, but feels that his hand is being forced into appointing a permanent City Attorney. Ms. Helton stated she also had hoped to appoint an interim. Roll call vote: Councilmember Cagle - McVeagh; Councilmember Helton - abstain; Councilmember Williams - abstain; Mayor Lambert - Litchford. The vote was a deadlock.

Councilmember Cagle made a motion to appoint Alex McVeagh as Interim City Attorney and leave his pay as budgeted. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to appoint Mark Litchford as Interim City Attorney. Roll call vote: Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Helton - yes; Councilmember Williams - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Motion approved. Mayor Lambert stated this would be effective on January 1, 2017, since Mr. North’s resignation is effective January 1, 2017.

Mayor Lambert made a motion regarding the Interim City Attorney as follows:

- Pay a retainer of \$8,000 per month, which shall cover all normal council and administrative work, providing day-to-day guidance on legal matters, preparing ordinances and resolutions, and attending meetings, as well as including incidental expenses such as phone calls, postage, photocopies, etc.
- \$175 per hour for litigation work authorized on behalf of the City; however, it would not include any in-depth work on the border region, such as incentive and development agreements.

Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to amend the Mayor's motion to begin seeking applications for a permanent city attorney. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Councilmember Williams then seconded the Mayor's original motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Williams stated that he was not aware that Chambliss, Bahner, and Stophel wanted to continue a relationship with the City; there was no mention of that in Mr. North's resignation.

Mr. McVeagh strongly recommended, for the protection of the City, that the City obtain an opinion from the Board of Professional Responsibility on any conflicts that could arise from hiring this firm.

Discuss/Take Action on Government Affairs Proposal from Nicole Osborne with Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel, P.C. – Mayor Lambert stated Ms. Osborne provided information, a resume and a proposal letter related primarily to lobbyist and advocacy for things that come up in Nashville, which could include code enforcement issues, utility issues, TDEC issues, etc. The fee would be \$15,000 per year. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve the proposal from Ms. Osborne. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert stated that Davis Lundy has drafted a letter for the small cities coalition asking the Hamilton County Commission to waive the appraisal fees the City would have to pay half of for the property reappraisals. He asked the Council to look over the letter and let him know what they think.

Mayor Lambert wished everyone Happy New Year.

The meeting was adjourned.