

MINUTES OF AGENDA WORK SESSION
February 12, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

To Set the Agenda For The
February 26, 2015 Council Meeting

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 12, 2015, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the February 26, 2015 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, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

New Business Discussion:

Discussion of Facade Grant Program – City Manager Hyatt stated \$100,000 was budgeted for this grant program for a central area on Ringgold Road. Mr. Hyatt asked the Council to consider what they would like in the grant program and bring suggestions back to the next meeting. Mr. Hyatt stated this would be a matching grant program where a business could apply for up to \$10,000 from the City, with that business matching that amount for the renovations to their property. The Council would establish what the property owner could do and what the money could be spent for. City Treasurer Jablonski stated this program will reward existing businesses in the community; it would not apply to start-up businesses. The City would also be eligible for Community Development Block Grants for this purpose under the Border Region Act.

Discussion of Sign Ordinance – City Manager Hyatt stated the sign ordinance is outdated and there are discrepancies in it. He stated Council needs to establish parameters for the ordinance. Mayor Lambert suggested getting John Bridger with the Regional Planning Agency involved in the discussions. Mr. Jablonski stated he has a meeting scheduled for the following Thursday with Mr. Bridger to discuss the ordinance.

Approval to Waive/Reduce Fee for District 12-0 Lions of Tennessee/GMT to Use the Community Center on June 9 – 11, 2015 for a Planning Session on rebuilding a Lion's Club – Director Martin stated that the City does not charge for most civic clubs. He also stated he needs to come up with a fee scale that is consistent for all the clubs. Councilmember Sewell suggested setting up rooms at the McBrien building for each civic club to meet. Mr. Cagle asked what the normal fee is for renting the Center. Mr. Martin stated it is around \$75.00, but fees vary depending on the event.

Other Business:

Councilmember Cagle asked Mr. Don Seagle, the City's representative to the WWTA Board, to come forward to discuss possible double billing by WWTA. Mr. Seagle stated he has received conflicting information about WWTA receiving the billing data from Tennessee American Water Company. He stated that some citizens were double billed and some were not. He will investigate the problem further.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked Mr. Seagle if he owns a water and environmental consulting business. Mr. Seagle stated that he does, but does not do any work for the City of East Ridge or for WWTAA. He does work for the City of Chattanooga, Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis and other cities.

None of the Councilmembers had any further business to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**February 12, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 12, 2015, 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, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes January 20, 2015 Called Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes January 22, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- C. Approval of Minutes January 22, 2015 Council Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes January 26, 2015 Called Meeting
- E. Approval of January 2015 Financial Statement
- F. Declaration of Surplus Property

Councilmember Cagle asked if the revenue for sale of land in the amount of \$12,890 was for the land we sold at Camp Jordan. Mr. Hyatt stated that it was. Mr. Cagle also asked if the amount in line item 43200 for \$8,809 was transferred from the general fund into solid waste. City Treasurer Jablonski stated that it was.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked why in the general fund the line items for state law enforcement education, state fire services educational grant, and state income tax were all at zero percent. Mr. Jablonski stated those are funds that we have not received yet, but do come in later in the budget year. Mr. Gravitt also asked about the budgeted revenue of \$15,750 for mowing services; he stated he has always heard it cost \$40,000 annually. Mr. Jablonski stated that if the exit is maintained adequately, it cost more than what TDOT pays the City. Mr. Gravitt asked if baseball, gate and tournament fees will increase when the season starts. Director Martin stated that they would. Mr. Gravitt asked what the status is of the TDOT Transportation Grant, Streetscape Grant and TIP Grant. Mr. Jablonski stated the applications went out in December and January and we are waiting to hear back on the grants.

Councilmember Cagle asked if we bill the State of Tennessee each time we mow Exit 1. Councilmember Sewell stated that TDOT pays the City for 10 mowings each year. Mr. Hyatt stated we probably mow at least 30 times, which could cost up to \$40,000 with labor. Mr. Hyatt stated that TDOT has approved the City planting wildflowers which will reduce the mowing area. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

John McNeel, 2017 McBrien Road volunteered to help get sidewalks and crosswalks for the City.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Manning had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Cagle congratulated the staff responsible for helping take down Fire Station 2. Mayor Lambert stated we met our obligation to have the building down by February 12th at midnight. Councilmember Sewell stated the staff did a good job considering they had a 5-day delay.

Vice Mayor Gravitt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Lambert had nothing further at this time.

Communication from City Manager:

Mr. Hyatt recognized Melvin Petty, City Services Superintendent. He stated he called Mr. Petty on Tuesday night and told him that the demolition of the fire station had to be finished. Mr. Petty and his crew helped finish the demolition and hauled off the remaining materials. Mr. Hyatt stated they did a tremendous job, even saving the block for future use. Mr. Petty stated he has been with the City for 38 years. Mr. Hyatt also commended Chief Williams and the Fire Department for doing a great job and for all the firefighters being able to work out of the same station. Mr. Hyatt stated he is looking into areas for a new fire department and is trying to set up meetings now.

Mr. Hyatt asked the City Treasurer to give an update on the financials. Mr. Jablonski highlighted the following for month ending in January:

- Delinquent property tax collections were up from 41% at this time last year to 76% this year.
- Local sales tax is up from 50% at this time last year to 56% this year. This will have an impact on the border region program and shows indicators of new development.
- Building Permits are up 200% and plan fees are up 700%.
- Business Licenses are at 77% of what was budgeted.
- Indoor Soccer has exceeded 100% of revenues.
- Court fines are up 70% of what was budgeted.

Mr. Jablonski stated the City is doing very well financially.

Mr. Hyatt stated he has talked to several individuals that want to bring new businesses to East Ridge; three last week and two today. He also stated that Life Care will have a hearing on March 25th for tearing down the existing structure and building several new structures. Mr.

Hyatt also stated the City should be closing on the pool property by mid-week or possibly within the next 72 hours.

Councilmember Manning commended the attorney for the good job he is doing.

Mayor Lambert stated the City has a lot to be proud of and a lot to look forward to.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 984 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 971 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT...” BY CHANGING REVENUES OF THE GENERAL FUND, GRANT FUND AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND DESIGNATING A PORTION OF THE FUND BALANCE OF THE STATE STREET AID FUND, FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND AND SOLID WASTE FUND, AND CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES FOR THE GENERAL FUND, STATE STREET AID FUND, GRANT FUND, FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND, SOLID WASTE FUND AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Ordinance No. 984 on second and final reading. Councilmember Cagle stated he noticed several line items have changed since first reading. The 3.5 million bond money has been taken out. He also stated on first reading, there was \$99,516 under grant fund revenue, but this time it is listed under expenditures. Mr. Jablonski stated it was an expenditure. Mr. Hyatt stated that on Page 1 of the ordinance, the \$36,000 entry is for the broker fee for the pool property, which was 6% of the selling price. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2458 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$525,000 TO PROVIDE SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 2458. Councilmember Gravitt asked, since we no longer own the sewer system, why we need to apply for this grant. Mr. Jablonski explained that the City can apply for the grant, but the WWTA cannot. The City will be a “pass through” for the funds, but the City will have no expense for the grant. WWTA will provide the matching funds. Mayor Lambert stated we must do this for the development around Exit 1. The current system does not have enough capacity for other new businesses coming in. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2459 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FENCING AT THE CAMP JORDAN AMPHITHEATER – City

Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion (for discussion purposes), seconded by Councilmember Manning (also for discussion purposes), to approve Resolution No. 2459. Director Martin stated we received bids ranging from \$18,562.50 to \$33,270.00. Mr. Martin has also obtained quotes on just the materials, if staff installs the fencing, that range from \$11,000 to \$18,000, plus the cost of concrete. He stated it could take staff approximately 6 – 7 days to install the fence. Councilmember Sewell and Councilmember Manning withdrew their motion and second. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to deny Resolution No. 2459. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve obtaining bids for all necessary materials to install the fencing. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Approval of Sponsorship for Scenic City Volks Folks Bug-a-Palüza for use of Camp Jordan in April 2015 – Director Martin stated we have sponsored this event in the past and recommends approval. He stated we will receive approximately \$2,000 in camping fees and \$2,000 from another event Volks Folks has in the fall. Councilmember Gravitt asked who provides security for this event. Chief Reed stated the Volks Folks people provide security, but he has officers patrolling regularly for the event mainly to keep the roadway open. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the City sponsorship for Bug-a-Palüza. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Independence Day Celebration – Director Martin stated he would like to provide this event free to the citizens. He would like to put the majority of money into the fireworks, and have a karaoke contest and food trucks. He stated the Beaters have agreed to play for \$2,000 and they have a good following. There will also be a rod run. There are also other events going on at the park that could draw more people to the celebration. Councilmember Gravitt expressed his concern about spending money on this event, since in previous years the event has not been successful. Mayor Lambert stated that possibly a big name band would draw a bigger crowd, such as when Atlanta Rhythm Section played two years ago. Mr. Martin stated a big name act could cost up to \$20,000 and the good acts may have been booked already; that should be done at least a year ahead of time. Mr. Gravitt asked Mr. Hyatt's opinion on holding this event. Mr. Hyatt recommends that we have the event, but is also concerned about getting a big name act. He would at least like to have fireworks. Mr. Martin stated that when Bass Pro Shop opens it could help draw bigger crowds. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to have the Beaters entertain, have another smaller act and do fireworks. The Mayor stated that if we continue with the celebrations, he would like to see .38 Special and possibly have sponsors for the event. A date of either July 3rd or July 4th will be decided at a later time. Chief Reed recommended having the celebration on July 3rd because he will be running enforcement on July 4th. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion/Take Action to Convert the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Variable Rate Loan Program – City Treasurer Jablonski recommended converting the BAN to the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Variable Rate Loan Program. Mr. Jablonski introduced Steve Walker with the TML Bond Fund, who gave a brief history of the fund, which was created as an alternative way for cities to borrow money. He stated the City has a good bond rating. We could convert the BAN to a .05 rate with a 1% fee for a total of 1.5% and a payment of \$90,000 per year for 20 years. It would take 4 – 6 weeks to close the loan. Mr.

Gravitt discussed consolidating all the City's debt. Mr. Jablonski stated he is working on that and it could possibly be done within the next three years. Mr. Hyatt asked Mr. Walker about the remainder of funds in the BAN account, approximately \$187,000. Mr. Walker stated it needed to be disposed of, the sooner the better. It could be used for a project or turned back in. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to convert the BAN to the TML Bond Fund Variable Rate Program. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Bids for mowing at Exit 1 – Mr. Gravitt asked that this be put on the agenda. He has always been told it cost the city \$40,000 on an annual basis to mow, but the City only receives \$15,000+ from the State. He suggested rather than the City purchasing and maintaining the equipment and hire extra personnel, we could contract out the mowing. Councilmember Sewell stated this has been discussed before and TDOT will not let us hire a private company to mow. He also stated that in the past, TDOT would not let the City plant wildflowers, but now they will, which will cut down the mowing area. Mr. Hyatt will check with TDOT on this matter.

Discussion of Speed Limit at Parkridge East Hospital – Mr. Gravitt asked that this be put on the agenda. He stated the speed limit on Spring Creek Road goes from 35 mph down to 15 mph in the school zone and then to 20 mph at the hospital. He does not see the need for this. He has also talked to Gerald Millsap, the CEO of Parkridge Hospital, who also does not understand the speed limit changes. Mr. Millsap told Mr. Gravitt that it would be fine with him to raise the speed limit to 35 mph in front of the hospital. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion to change the hospital zone on Spring Creek Road to the same speed limit as the remainder of Spring Road. Mr. Gravitt amended his motion to remove the 20 mph speed limit signs in front of Parkridge East Hospital. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion/Take Action for East Ridge City Council to Request State Legislature to Amend the Border Region Act – Mr. Gravitt also added this to the agenda. He stated the local delegation has made an agreement among themselves, that they will not accept any legislation from any city or municipality unless the council or commission votes on it. Mr. Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the amendment.

The mayor would like to offer an amendment to the motion to change the last sentence of Item 1, which states "This subsection could also be amended to allow the municipality to select the fiscal year to determine base tax revenues, but not earlier than fiscal year 2011 and to provide that the Department of Revenue would have a limited period of time to object to the eligibility of any costs." He would like to strike the part that states "This subsection could also be amended to allow the municipality to select the fiscal year to determine base tax revenues, but not earlier than fiscal year 2011" and leave the remainder of the sentence. He believes the bill would not pass with that language. Mr. Gravitt amended his motion to incorporate the Mayor's changes. Mr. Sewell seconded. Mr. Cagle suggested sharing this information with the Industrial Development Board. Vote on the amended motion was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF AGENDA WORK SESSION
February 26, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

To Set the Agenda For The
March 12, 2015 Council Meeting

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 26, 2015, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the March 12, 2015 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, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

New Business Discussion:

RESOLUTION NO. 2461 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, REQUESTING THAT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DELEGATION OF THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE BORDER REGION RETAIL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ACT – Mayor Lambert stated this item is in red which indicates staff would like to move this forward to tonight’s regular meeting agenda. City Manager Hyatt stated this is a time sensitive issue. City Treasurer Jablonski stated this item was voted on in the last meeting and this is a resolution to formalize that vote. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve moving this item forward to tonight’s regular meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ATLANTA PYROTECHNICS INTERNATIONAL, INC. FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT CAMP JORDAN PARK – Director Martin stated this is the same company that has done this in the past. The deposit will be paid out of this year’s budget and the remainder will be in the new budget. Mr. Martin stated the price did not increase, plus we are getting more fireworks.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR FENCING MATERIALS – Mr. Hyatt stated that staff originally put out a bid for installation of the fencing, but bids came in too high. It was rebid for just the materials. Mr. Hyatt believes that if we purchase the materials, staff can install the fence competently. The bid opening is tomorrow.

RESOLUTION NO _____ - REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR REAL ESTATE BROKER - Mr. Hyatt stated this RFQ was put out in order to look for property for the new fire station, and he believes we should go forward. Mr. Jablonski stated we have had two submissions so far and all are due by the following day. City Attorney North discussed the item on the regular meeting agenda to purchase two residential properties with two homes on them. He stated we could sell the structures and have them moved. Councilmember Gravitt asked Chief Williams if the homes are in good condition or could the Fire Department use them for fire training purposes. The Chief stated the homes are small but he does not know their condition or value. He stated that both lots are approximately 22,000 square feet. He stated currently the trucks will have to back into the station, but possibly in the future, they could have access from

the flea market property and drive in from the back. That property could even possibly be a right-of-way. Mr. Hyatt stated the road could be widened, and the property is fairly level which will make site preparation easier. The Chief stated that all utilities will come out of Tennessee.

Councilmembers Manning, Sewell and Gravitt had nothing further at this time.

Councilmember Cagle asked to discuss a personnel issue. He asked Mr. Hyatt if personnel changes were made and employees moved to other departments. Mr. Hyatt stated that Marilyn Tilley had been moved to Administrative Assistant in City Services which is a budgeted position and Amanda Miller has moved to the Police Department and is still being paid out of Administration until June 30th. No new positions have been created and no raises have been given.

Mayor Lambert stated he had spoken to a gentleman named Mike Fulham at the Chamber meeting, who is the son of Wayne Fulham, a fighter pilot during the Vietnam war. He told Mr. Fulham that his father's name is on our Vietnam memorial in front of City Hall. Mr. Fulham was not aware of this. The Mayor would like to find more family members of the veterans listed on the memorial who may not be aware of the memorial.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**February 26, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on February 26, 2015, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert thanked city crews for getting the streets in good condition during the very recent snow. He stated everyone was able to make the meeting tonight due to their efforts.

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 Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes February 12, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes February 12, 2015 Council Meeting

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

Communication from Citizens:

Harry Mackey, 410 S. St. Marks Avenue, representing the East Ridge Optimist Club, discussed a car show the club has scheduled on June 13, 2015 at Camp Jordan Park. He stated the Optimist Club sponsors the annual fishing rodeo at Camp Jordan and the 911 dinner for first responders at Camp Jordan Arena. He is asking the Council to either waive or discount the fee for use of the Arena. He stated that all money raised is spent to help children in East Ridge. Director Martin stated there are no conflicts that day and the group should be done by 4:00 pm. City Manager Hyatt recommended Council waive the fee. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to waive the fees for the event. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Manning had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Sewell commended Melvin Petty and the City Services crews for the work they did clearing the roads during the snow. He stated he rode with the fire and police during the night and also commended them for the work they did.

Councilmember Cagle and Vice Mayor Gravitt also commended city crews.

Mayor Lambert stated we have many great employees and thanked the citizens for their patience. He stated we do not have all the equipment bigger cities have but we get the job done.

Communication from City Manager:

Mr. Hyatt also commended Mr. Petty and his crews for keeping the roads clear. He stated we have 250 miles of paved roads that were cleared with two backhoes and a snow plow. He also commended Chief Williams and Chief Reed.

Mr. Hyatt stated that the proposed 911 fees are going up by \$14,000.

Mr. Hyatt asked the City Treasurer to discuss the BAN fund. Mr. Jablonski stated there is \$181,764 left in the BAN fund. He stated that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund highly suggested that this money be spent. Mr. Jablonski distributed a list to Council of various projects and/or equipment that the funds could be spent for, with four alternatives listed. He stated Council needs to make a decision by next meeting, since the funds have to be spent by the end of April. Mr. Sewell would like to see computers for police cars added to the list. Mr. Hyatt stated this might be possible if we move the mini-excavator to State Street Aid. Mr. Cagle asked Chief Reed if the computers and in-car cameras that were approved had been purchased. The Chief stated that they have not; we are trying to get licensing agreements and possibly 911 could offer the City the software package.

Mr. Gravitt would like to shift the purchase of the mini-excavator to State Street Aid and the refurbishing of the batting cages at Camp Jordan to the Parks and Recreation budget.

Councilmember Sewell asked what has been decided about purchasing another police dog. Chief Reed stated that has been put on hold due to staffing issues.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked where the batting cages that are on the list are located. Director Martin stated they are the cages at Camp Jordan. He stated these are cages that were started and never finished. They need new nets and carpeting. Mr. Martin also stated that Dick's Sporting Goods is having a clinic in March and the cages need to be updated before then. Vice Mayor Gravitt asked Mr. Martin to provide Council with a roster of players who live in the City. Mr. Martin will provide that after all sign-ups are done. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to allow staff to obtain bids for a mini-excavator, which is on the list Mr. Jablonski provided. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Sewell suggested bidding out all the items on the list, in order to know what will have to be spent on each item.

Councilmember Cagle asked Chief Williams how many thermal imaging cameras the Fire Department have. The Chief stated we have two but one is broken, and we can no longer get parts. The Chief stated having these cameras is a matter of life and death. The price for a new camera could run approximately \$10,000. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to allow staff to advertise for bids for the thermal imaging camera. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve adding computers for police vehicles to the list of items that could be paid for by the BAN funds. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mr. Hyatt informed the Council he will be at the TML meeting on Monday and Tuesday of the following week.

Old Business:

Discussion of Independence Day Celebration (Date) – City Manager Hyatt recommended having the event on July 3rd. Councilmember Cagle asked Director Martin if there would be a conflict with parking since there is a ball tournament going on. Mr. Martin stated there would be no soccer or Ultimate Frisbee that day, so there should not be a problem. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to hold the event on July 3, 2015. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2460 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES, LOCATED AT 1408 AND 1410 SAINT THOMAS STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A FIRE STATION – City Attorney North read on caption. Mr. North stated the purchase price in the contract is \$145,000, with a non-refundable deposit of \$3,600. The seller had to buy out an existing contract for the amount of the deposit. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle (for discussion purposes), to approve Resolution No. 2460. Joe Pleva, a broker with Keller Williams, and Nathaniel Robinette, the owner of the properties, were present to answer any questions. Councilmember Cagle asked if both houses were rented. Mr. Robinette stated the house at 1410 is occupied but the house at 1408 is not. The tenant has agreed to move to another property and will be relocated within the next 30 days. Mr. Robinette will reimburse the tenant's moving cost. Mr. Hyatt thanked Mr. Robinette for working with the City on this property; it is important for the future of the City. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Facade Grant Program – Mr. Hyatt stated that \$100,000 was budgeted for this program. City Treasurer Jablonski provided the Council with a presentation of the key points in the program. He stated the key elements of the program are for revitalization, beautification and quality redevelopment. The property owner would pay 50% of the project and the city would provide a 50% match. The limit would be \$20,000 for the project. Projects would include painting, signage, masonry, landscaping and parking. Owners would spend the money first and then be reimbursed by the City. The business owner would sign a contract for five years. If the business closed before the five years, the City would ask that the owner refund 40% of the funds he received from the City. Mr. Jablonski stated this would not hurt any business in East Ridge, but would help businesses succeed. Mr. Gravitt asked who would make the decision on which businesses qualify for the grant. Mr. Jablonski stated a city staff committee could be established to make the decisions. He also stated that if a current business applies for the grant and was not in code compliance, they would not be grandfathered; they would have to be in compliance by the end of the project. Mr. Hyatt stated the grant is not to bring businesses up to code, but to beautify the outside of the buildings. Mayor Lambert stated council would possibly have to tweak this policy before it is finalized.

Schedule Workshop for Discussion of Sign Ordinance – Mayor Lambert suggested having the workshop on March 19, 2015 at 5:30 pm. There were no objections. Mr. Hyatt stated he will have John Bridger with the Regional Planning Agency at the meeting to make suggestions or answer questions. Mr. Lambert stated Council needs to have a workshop later for transportation issues.

Approval to Waive/Reduce Fee for District 12-0 Lions of Tennessee/GMT to Use the Community Center on June 9 – 11, 2015 for a Planning Session on rebuilding a Lion's Club – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve waiving the fee. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of an Ordinance Limiting Clusters of Payday Loan, Title Pawn and Cash Advance Businesses – Mr. Hyatt stated this is a good time to address this issue, in light of what Chattanooga is doing to limit these businesses in their City. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve staff drafting a policy and bringing it back before Council. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion and Approval of a Community Service Program – Mr. Hyatt stated he has discussed this matter with Judge Helton. Mr. Hyatt stated that currently, the prisoners are going to Hamilton County to do their Community Service. He believes we could benefit here, if they were allowed to work in the park, pick up trash on streets, etc. He stated he has talked to TML, our insurance carrier, and they see no problem with this program. Judge Helton came forward to discuss the program. He stated, for example, if someone is convicted in East Ridge of a first offense for DUI, they go to Hamilton County to do their community services. They also pay the county \$160.00. If the program is approved, the offender would pay the City \$160.00 and do their community service in East Ridge. The City Manager will designate a person, if approved, to oversee the program and possibly a reserve officer or the park officer can monitor the prisoners while they are working. The Judge stated the prisoners do not have to be watched all the time, but could be monitored. They are non-violent offenders and if they leave their work site, they will not get credit for the program. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve implementing a Community Service Program in East Ridge. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2461 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, REQUESTING THAT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DELEGATION OF THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE BORDER REGION RETAIL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ACT – Mayor Lambert read on caption. City Treasurer Jablonski stated this resolution would memorialize the vote taken in the February 12, 2015 council meeting. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2461. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated Council needed to revote on Resolution No. 2461, since he is a member of the General Assembly and will be voting on this issue at the State level. Councilmember Cagle and Councilmember Sewell withdrew their previous motion and second to approve Resolution No. 2461. Councilmember Cagle then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2461. Mr. Cagle asked if Mr. Gravitt would have to abstain in the General Assembly. The City Attorney does not think so, but will get a ruling on the matter. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt – pass; Councilmember Cagle – yes, Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.