

MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION

July 23, 2015, 2015 – 6:00 pm

**To Set the Agenda For The
August 13, 2015 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on July 23, 2015 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the August 13, 2015 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order. The Mayor stated the first meeting in July was postponed to July 16th, but because of the tragic shootings in Chattanooga, he decided to cancel the July 16th meeting.

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager Williams, Alex McVeagh with Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel for City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

New Business Discussion:

RESOLUTION NO. 2496 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE, AND PAYMENT OF CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY BANK CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTES NOT TO EXCEED \$775,000 PURSUANT TO THE INFORMAL BID PROCESS – City Treasurer Jablonski explained that this was a capital outlay note for the purchase of sanitation trucks in 2009-10. The State Comptroller contacted Mr. Jablonski and told him that the loan had not been pre-approved. Approval of this resolution retroactively approves the note with the state and brings us into compliance. This was on the agenda to be moved over to the regular council meeting, but Mr. Jablonski stated he is waiting on further information regarding this matter, so it was not moved to the regular agenda. It will be considered at the August 13th regular meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH AN ENGINEER FOR LPRF GRANT – Mr. Jablonski stated that staff worked with the Southeast Tennessee Development District to send out a Request for Proposals for engineering services. We received eight proposals with two that stood out, one being Reagan Smith. Terry Reynolds from Reagan Smith was present to answer any questions, but Council had none.

RESOLUTION NO _____ - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY 2016 TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT – Mr. Jablonski recommended that the City apply for this grant as possibly a Phase 2 to the Multimodal Grant. This is a \$650,000 grant with the City providing a 20% match.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - TO APPROVE PAVING BIDS – Mr. Jablonski gave out a list of streets for consider to consider for paving. Council is welcome to make any changes they wish. Mr. Jablonski would like to bid all the streets out at one time in order to get a cheaper price. Vice Mayor Gravitt asked how much is in the State Street Aid account. Mr. Jablonski stated there is \$1,256,000, with the paving projects costing just fewer than one-half million. Mr.

Gravitt stated he does not want to deplete the fund since there is a project we must do at Camp Jordan.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF ANNUAL BIDS FOR STREET DEPARTMENT MATERIALS – Chief Williams stated we bid these materials out every year and they are budgeted.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR PAINT MACHINE FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEPARTMENT – Chief Williams stated this item was removed from the budget last year but was added back this year as a capital improvement. This equipment would be much safer for employees.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - CONTRACT WITH SETDD TO ADMINISTER THE 2015 TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION GRANT – Mr. Jablonski stated that Sam Saieed with SETDD coordinates grants with Amanda Miller who handles the City's grants. He stated that given the number of projects that SETDD does, it would be better if they administer this grant.

Discussion of Purchasing 15 Laptops for Police Department – Chief Reed stated he is trying to update technology in the Police Department. He stated we can order 15 laptops at this point and then work with the City of Chattanooga for the software. It will cost \$21,708.00 to get the licensing, but that amount could come down to approximately \$17,000 if we work with Chattanooga. We are already buying licensing software that we can use, but we would still have to purchase 911 software.

Discussion of Exit 1 Road Project – John Healy, with Exit 1 LLC, stated that in January, they hired Arcadis Engineering to do a traffic study for Bass Pro, in order to prove the ability of the road to accommodate the development. The study found that minor changes needed to be made, so Arcadis came up with a plan to accommodate the entire development. They have met with TDOT and with State Representative/Vice Mayor Marc Gravitt regarding the changes. The changes would involve reworking the northbound off ramp and removal of the northbound on ramp and cloverleaf. The exit would go straight into Camp Jordan Parkway. The Parkway will be four lanes to the bridge and then it would be two lanes. This will cost approximately \$2.8 - \$3 million. Mr. Healy met with County Mayor Coppinger and asked them to contribute \$1 million. They are also asking the City to contribute \$1 million. Exit 1, LLC has already spent \$100,000 to do the study. Mayor Lambert stated this is a two-phase project. The first phase is to re-do Camp Jordan Parkway to get Bass Pro open. The second phase would be the reworking of the exit and entrance ramps on I-75. Mr. Healy stated he has a letter of intent from a major restaurant, but it is contingent on re-doing Camp Jordan Parkway. Mayor Lambert suggested having a called meeting to take action on this issue. A meeting was scheduled for July 30, 2015 at 6 pm for this one issue only.

Council had nothing further at this time.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**July 23, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on July 23, 2015, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Rev. Richard Jones gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, Interim City Manager Williams, Alex McVeagh with Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel for City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

Mayor Lambert welcomed Chief Williams as Interim City Manager.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes June 30, 2015 Called Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes June 30, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- C. Approval of Minutes June 30, 2015 Council Meeting

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

Communication from Citizens:

James Harry Shoal, 2016 Tombras Avenue, stated he likes the proposed changes to the Exit 1 interchange. He also stated that on June 8th, his and some of his neighbors mailboxes were damaged, and would like the status of the investigation. Chief Reed stated that this went to Juvenile Court at Hamilton County, but he will follow up.

Jim Bethune, 710 Haven Hill Drive, discussed exit 1 road project.

Roy Keown, 6616 Graston Avenue, a retired employee, stated he works for Erlanger/Children's Hospital. He is requesting the City waive the fees for use of the amphitheater for a fundraiser on September 19, 2015 for Children's Hospital. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to waive the fees for the event. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, asked the status of the fire hall construction. Chief Williams stated we are having to remove trees from the site and will have to take up the underground sewer lines and move the water lines. We will then search for an architect. The

Mayor stated we will have the money for this project from the \$3.5 million the City borrowed. The Chief also stated we will be using some of the materials from the old Station 2.

Ms. Lowrey also asked if we are going to sell the old police cars that are at McBrien School. Mayor Lambert stated we have sold eight of the vehicles.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Gravitt commended the Fire and Police Departments for their quick response time to the recent train collision in East Ridge. Mayor Lambert stated they do a great job.

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Manning stated that comments have been made about his wife attending meetings with him and that the City was paying for her to attend. Mr. Manning stated the City is not paying; he always pays her way.

At this time, Mayor Lambert administered the police officer's oath to Officer Patrick Harding.

Mayor Lambert stated he received a request from Belvoir Christian Academy for help to repair their flag pole, which was damaged in a storm. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, for city crews to help repair the flag pole. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert stated that the largest Vietnam Veteran's group in the Country is coming to East Ridge from August 18 – 23, 2015 and asked Councilmembers if they would like to do anything to honor them, such as a proclamation. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to present the group with a plaque. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert stated that the Motel 6 marquee by Camp Jordan says it is Camp Jordan's event hotel. As far as he remembers, the City has not endorsed any hotel as the official event hotel. He would like for that information to come off their sign. Mr. McVeagh stated he would contact the hotel management to have the information removed from the sign.

Mayor Lambert stated that during the recent severe storms, Mayor Coppinger sent crews from Hamilton County to help with the storm cleanup. The Mayor would like to send a thank you letter and have all Councilmembers sign it. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to present the County Mayor with an appreciation plaque. The Mayor suggested sending a letter to the Mayor and possibly providing a plaque to the crews that helped out. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert announced that Camp Jordan Jams would be this Saturday, August 1st at Camp Jordan beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Mayor also announced that there would be a theater group performing “The Tempest” at Camp Jordan Amphitheater on July 24th and 25th at 7:30 pm.

Communication from City Manager:

Chief Williams thanked the Mayor and Council for giving him the opportunity to serve as Interim City Manager. He stated he is addressing some concerns and wants to give 100% to the job.

Old Business:

Baseball Field Project for East Ridge High School – (tabled 6/30/15) - Councilmember Sewell stated he has a problem giving the school \$10,000 for field upkeep when nobody is taking care of the field. He stated the school uses Camp Jordan for games so why not put that \$10,000 into the Camp Jordan fields. Director Martin stated he would like to have a fundraiser at the Arena and possibly have Coach Bobby Cox as the speaker. Mr. McVeagh stated that Hamilton County is waiting on an opinion from the Attorney General’s office as to whether schools can use discretionary funds from the County. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to remove this item from the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to allow Director Martin to handle this item and get with the City Attorney to make sure there are no problems. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2494 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL “SAFETY PARTNERS” LOSS CONTROL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM – Mr. McVeagh read on caption. City Treasurer Jablonski stated this is a 50/50 matching grant, with up to \$2,000 paid by the City for a \$4,000 grant. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to approve Resolution No. 2494. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2495 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE OPEN ROADS POLICY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT) AND TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY (TDOSHS) – Mr. McVeagh read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2495. Councilmember Cagle stated this relates to closing interstate lanes after an accident. Chief Williams stated this would not supersede state law as far as getting interstate lanes open as soon as possible after an accident. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Report on 2015 GO Debt Obligation, State Form No. CT-0253 – Mr. Jablonski stated this form is used for the Comptroller to approve debt in advance. This information also must be reported to the Council. He stated the interest cost went down from 2.8% to around 2.6%.

Discussion of Disposal of Contraband Weapons – Chief Reed stated that a law went into effect in 2011 stating that cities must dispose of contraband weapons. We can either sell or exchange the weapons. He would like to exchange some contraband weapons with GT Distributors for four rifles, ammunition and training. The exchange is worth \$3,605. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the exchange of weapons. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Engineering Projects, i.e., Infrastructure - Vice Mayor Gravitt asked that this item be placed on the agenda. He will discuss this in conjunction with the discussion of the City Manager Position.

Discussion of Andrew Hyatt – Mr. McVeagh stated that Mr. North met with Mr. Hyatt’s attorney. Mr. Hyatt has now been paid for his regular pay and vacation time and there are no pending claims.

Discussion of City Manager Position – Vice Mayor Gravitt recommended that Council start making preparations to advertise for a new city manager because it could take up to three months or longer to find someone. He stated that the Exit 1 project is our top priority, so we need to look for a city manager with engineering and public works/infrastructure experience. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, not to take any action at this time in starting the search for a City Manager. Mayor Lambert stated he sees no problem working up a desired list of qualifications for a full-time City Manager with the Charter as the baseline. He also discussed the possibility of hiring an engineering firm to help with infrastructure issues. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt – no; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – no. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

July 30, 2015 –6:00 pm

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on July 30, 2015, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall for the purpose of:

- Discuss/Take Action on the Exit 1 Road Project

Mayor Lambert called the meeting and all Councilmembers were given notice of the call.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order. Rev. Richard Jones gave the invocation and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

Communication from Citizens:

Matthew DeGlopper, 706 Pyron Lane, stated this road project needs to be done in order to encourage further development in the City.

RESOLUTION NO. 2497 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE SUBSTANTIVE TERMS OF A DRAFT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AND HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION AND RECONFIGURATION OF EXIT ONE AT INTERSTATE 75 AND CAMP JORDAN PARKWAY – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2497. Mayor Lambert stated the interlocal agreement calls for the City to invest \$500,000 in 2016 and another \$500,000 in 2017. The agreement calls for the County to do the same. The Mayor has spoken to County Mayor Jim Coppinger and he is supportive. He stated he has also spoken to Commissioner Boyd and Mr. Boyd would like for the City to pay the first million with the County paying the second million in 2017. The amount the city pays is reimbursable under the Border Region Act. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to amend the original motion to state the funds would come solely out of the State Street Aid fund for both 2016 and 2017. City Attorney North will modify the resolution to reflect the amendment if approved. Ethan Wood, Exit 1, LLC, stated they have already paid for the design and it should be completed sometime next week. Mr. Jablonski stated we would need to amend the budget before the expenditure is made. Mr. Wood stated he would like to bid this project in August. Mr. Manning asked if we have the funds to do this project. Mr. Jablonski stated that we do. Roll call vote on the amendment was unanimous. Motion approved. Roll call vote on Resolution No. 2497 as amended was unanimous. Motion approved.

Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to start the bid process on this project as soon as possible. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

John Healy, Exit 1, LLC, stated that without this road project, they would not be able to complete the full gamut of this development. He stated that Exit 1, LLC has signed a deal with Zaxby's, but it is contingent on the road project being completed. He stated there are other businesses they are working with and they are close to making another announcement. They appreciate the support of the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Manning asked about the progress of restroom/bathhouse at Camp Jordan. Mr. Healy stated they have submitted the plans in order to get the permits.

The meeting was adjourned.