

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

September 3, 2015 – 5:30 pm

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on September 3, 2015, 5:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall for the purpose of:

- Discuss/Take Action on Donations for Camp Jordan Park
- Discuss Employee Compensation
- Discuss Employee Handbook

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

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order. Councilmember Manning gave the invocation and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

City Attorney North thanked everyone for their prayers, cards and visits for the recent passing of his mother.

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: None

Discuss/Take Action on Donations for Camp Jordan Park – Chief Williams stated this was on the agenda in anticipation of East Ridge High School playing their home games at Camp Jordan, since their stadium has been condemned. The Chief stated that the leadership at the school still wants to play on their home field. Mayor Lambert removed this item from the agenda.

Discuss Employee Compensation – Mayor Lambert stated this was brought about from the discussion of leave buyback in a previous meeting. He stated it could be a problem if employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 were not paid their accumulated time. The Mayor believes it was not the intent of the Council at the time, to not give employees their accumulated leave time when they leave employment. Chief Williams explained the difference in accumulated leave and leave buyback. He stated that employees earn accumulated every pay period and when they reach more than 320 hours, they are paid for any hours over the 320, which is leave buyback. He stated that Ordinance No. 918 stated that anyone hired after July 1, 2012 would not be eligible for leave buyback, but there was no cap on the hours. Since there is no cap, an employee hired after that date, could work 25 years and accumulate five years of leave time. That person could retire early and use the leave time, but that position could not be filled for those five years. Chief Williams stated that the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) did a study on leave buyback showing that it saved the City \$98,000 per year in overtime and other costs, because we have to maintain minimum staffing in all departments, but especially in public safety. The Chief believes if

some employees get this benefit, then all should get it. He suggested rescinding Ordinance No. 918. Chief Williams also discussed Resolution No. 2259, which stated employees hired after July 1, 2012 were not eligible for insurance coverage after they retire.

Vice Mayor Gravitt also addressed comp time for employees. Chief Williams stated the limits on comp time are set by the Fair Labor Standards Act. He stated that public safety employees can accumulate up to 480 hours and regular employees 280 hours. Anything over those amounts, the employee is paid for.

Mr. Gravitt asked the Chief if he recommended that council put a cap on leave buyback. The Chief stated he is not recommending that; he believes it is only fair that all employees should have the opportunity to participate in the leave buyback program. Mr. North stated it would be easier from an administrative standpoint to have all the employees on the same program. He also believes the way the Ordinance is written that employees hired after July 1, 2012 do not have the right to be paid for their accumulated leave time regardless of the number of hours they have accumulated.

Mayor Lambert believes that Ron Darden with MTAS did a more recent study on leave buyback that the one Mr. Williams is discussing.

There was a discussion of former City Manager Andrew Hyatt not receiving his accumulated leave time when he left the City. Chief Williams stated that Mr. Hyatt would not have been eligible for leave buyback because he had not accumulated over 320 hours; but he had accumulated leave time of about two weeks. Mayor Lambert stated Mr. Hyatt should have been paid for his accumulated time.

Chief Williams explained again that leave buyback is anything over 320 hours of accumulated leave time. Anything under the 320 is just leave time. Vice Mayor Gravitt suggested looking at what Hamilton County, Chattanooga, Collegedale and Signal Mountain, and other cities our size do as far as their leave time and comp time.

Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to rescind Ordinance No. 918, therefore, having all employees under the leave buyback program. Mr. North stated that whatever Council does, he would like for them to make a decision that is right for everyone. He suggested giving staff more time to research the issues. Mr. Manning and Mr. Sewell withdrew their motion and second in order to give staff time to research these issues and gather information from other cities.

Chief Williams would also like for Council to consider rescinding Resolution No. 2259 regarding insurance benefits for retirees. Councilmember Sewell stated that TCRS has adopted a 25-year retirement plan for public safety employees, which the City would have to formally accept. He would like for staff to get more information on this plan. Mr. Cagle also suggested we get all the MTAS studies that have been done on leave buyback.

Discuss Employee Handbook – City Attorney North brought several employee handbooks from various cities such as Bristol, Franklin and Smyrna. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that

Ordinance No. 979 changed the dismissal section from employees being fired “at will” to “for cause,” but it still says “at will” in the draft of the employee handbook.

Mr. Gravitt also discussed the number of employee take home vehicles. Chief Williams stated there are a total of 51 take home vehicles. He stated that supervisors have to come back during the night when there are emergencies. Councilmember Manning stated that at one time, a take-home vehicle was part of the employee’s raise. Mr. Gravitt is concerned about liability for vehicles that are driven outside of East Ridge.

Mayor Lambert stated staff has a lot of research to do concerning the employee handbook and the leave buyback program. He suggested having these items on the September 24th meeting in order to give staff the needed time, plus Mr. Manning will not be here for the September 10th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
September 10, 2015, 2015 – 6:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The
September 24, 2015 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on September 10, 2015 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the September 24, 2015 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

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

New Business Discussion:

ORDINANCE NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF USE ON REVIEW FOR FIRE STATION AT 1410 ST. THOMAS STREET – Interim City Manager Williams stated this is for a use on review to construct a fire station on St.Thomas Street. A fire station is allowed in any zoning, but the use has to be approved by Council. Councilmember Cagle asked if the property was rezoned commercial, would the 10 ft. and 25 ft setbacks still be required. Chief Williams stated that these setbacks are still required in a commercial zone.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING AND DESIGN PROPONENT FOR THE MULTIMODAL GRANT PROJECT – RINGGOLD ROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS – We are still waiting on the specifications for this project.

RESOLUTION NO. _____APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR STREET PAVING PROJECT - Bids should go out the following Monday.

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Gravitt had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Cagle asked about Jones Memorial barbeque tickets. Accounts Specialist Qualls stated the City purchased tickets last year.

Mayor Lambert discussed the East Ridge zip code. He stated that years ago, the postal service made a mistake by giving East Ridge a 374 zip; it should have been a 373. He would like for the post office to recognize that 37412 is East Ridge, not Chattanooga.

Mayor Lambert also discussed exploring the idea of renaming Ringgold Road, to possibly Pioneer Parkway. He stated that at one time Ringgold Road was a stagecoach road from Chattanooga to Ringgold, which is why it was named such. He also stated it is the heart of our downtown so it does not make sense to call it Ringgold Road. He has spoken to some business owners and they do not have a problem with it. Mayor Lambert has also spoken to

TDOT and was told that they do not have to approve the change. He would like to have a workshop in order to get citizen input.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated he agrees with Mayor Lambert about renaming Ringgold Road. He suggested we draft a letter to Congressman Fleishman, signed by all Councilmembers. He stated a change ties in with the City trying to rebrand itself.

Chief Williams had nothing at this time.

At this time, Mayor Lambert moved the presentation from Crestwood Garden Club from the regular meeting agenda to the agenda work session. Maggie Burns with Crestwood and Sue Henley with the Hamilton County Master Gardeners presented a plan for the Jo Lawrence Memorial Garden at Camp Jordan.

Ms. Burns stated that a Master Gardener who is also a landscape designer has drafted a plan that can be done in phases. She is asking the City to help with the labor for the garden. She would like for council to review the plan and let them know if they can proceed. The club also has another Blue Star marker they would like to place in the garden. Crestwood will donate \$1,500 toward the garden. Ms. Henley stated that the Master Gardeners are committing \$500 toward the project. She also asked if staff could help with watering the plants and trees. Mayor Lambert added this item to the agenda for September 24, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**September 10, 2015
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on September 10, 2015, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes August 27, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes August 27, 2015 Council Meeting

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

Communication from Citizens:

John Temple, 3938 South Mission Oaks Drive, discussed the Jones Memorial Methodist Church barbeque on September 26th, 10 – 6 pm. The church was able to purchase 8,000 coats for East Ridge kids from the barbeque proceeds last year.

Tim Whitt, 1519 East Ridge Avenue, stated there is a two-foot gap between the old fence and the new fence at the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store. It was his understanding that the old fence would be torn down. Interim City Manager Williams will have the Codes Department check into this.

Laura Sennaker, 725 Germantown Circle, asked for an explanation of why more thought wasn't given to what the people at Superior Creek Lodge would do when the buildings were condemned. She stated the condemnation and evacuation of the residents were ill prepared and ill timed. She called it an attack. She stated there should have been shelters set up. Interim City Manager Williams stated the evacuation was not easy for anyone. He stated this was a life safety issue and they were held by law to act immediately. He stated he reached out to TEMA, FEMA, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. Only the Salvation Army responded; the Red Cross stated this was not considered a disaster. Chief Williams stated that several churches have stepped up to assist, but actually it was the responsibility of the property owner to assist. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that once the City found the deficiencies, they had to act. He also stated that if they did not evacuate once the deficiencies were found, and something happened the City would have been responsible.

Mayor Lambert stated the City would have been criticized either way, but believes that life safety had to come first. City Attorney North stated that from his standpoint life safety takes precedent over inconvenience. This was an emergency situation and it would have been more unfortunate if a tragedy had occurred. Mr. North stated that everything was done by the book, and commended Chief Williams for his actions.

Matthew DeGlopper, 706 Pyron Lane, stated that the City did the right thing by evacuating Superior Creek Lodge because once the decision was made, the City would have been responsible had they not done anything. He believes the City needs a rental inspection plan. He also stated the City needs to start searching for a City Manager.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated he is disappointed in School Board Chairman Rick Smith's comments about the County not providing any funding for a new stadium for East Ridge High School. He suggested that maybe the City could help.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated we have a new Chief Building Official who is addressing issues that have not been addressed for many years. Mr. Gravitt also commended Chief Williams, stating it had to be difficult to move the residents out of Superior Creek Lodge. He also stated there are comments on social media that the City plans to take over the property, which he said is absurd.

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Mayor Lambert discussed the situation with the football stadium at the high school being condemned. He believes the school system does not want to replace anything. He stated personally he would like for the City to do something to help, possibly at Camp Jordan. He did state that a maintenance plan would have to be in place to make sure the City's investment would be protected. He will reach out to the school superintendant.

Communication from City Manager:

Interim City Manager Williams stated that someone asked him if the condemnations at Superior Creek Lodge and the high school stadium were connected. He said there was no connection, plus this was very hard to do since he has a son on the high school football team. He also stated he is going to Superior Creek Lodge after the meeting to give support to the people who were displaced.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 994 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 989 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE,

TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016 APPROPRIATING THE SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT . . .” BY CHANGING THE REVENUE OF THE GENERAL FUND AND DESIGNATING A PORTION OF THE FUND BALANCE OF THE STATE STREET AID FUND AND BY CHANGING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL FUND, STATE STREET AID FUND AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (2nd and final reading – tabled 8/27/15) - City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to remove this item from the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Ordinance No. 994 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2507 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AWARDING A BID FOR A POLE TENT FOR THE NEEDY CHILD FUND - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 2507 awarding the bid to Party Time Rentals dba Cleveland Tent, in the amount of \$15,120. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2508 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SETDD) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S (TDOT) 2015 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM - City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt (for discussion purposes), to approve Resolution No. 2508. Councilmember Cagle asked what non-infrastructure is. Chief Williams stated it is for education, not for construction purposes. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that the entire amount is for both grants, East Ridge Elementary and Spring Creek Elementary. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2509 – 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 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (ASPCA): ADOPTION AMBASSADORS GRANT PROGRAM - FY 2015 - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 2509. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2510 – 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 “PETCO FOUNDATION: GRANTS FOR SHELTERING AND ADOPTION ORGANIZATIONS GRANT - FY 2015” - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by

Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2510. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2511 – 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 “5-5-5 FIREFIGHTER FITNESS, INC.: STRENGTH IS OUR FOUNDATION FITNESS EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM FY 2015” - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2511. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
September 24, 2015, 2015 – 6:00 pm**

**To Set the Agenda For The
October 8, 2015 Council Meeting**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on September 24, 2015 at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the October 8, 2015 Council Meeting and other items.

Vice Mayor Gravitt called the meeting to order. He stated that Mayor Lambert was stuck in traffic.

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

Mayor Lambert was not present for roll call, but came in later in the meeting.

Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that the Council meetings could possibly be changed due to the October 8, 2015 meeting being during fall break.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 995 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO OPERATE A FIRE STATION AT 1410 ST. THOMAS STREET IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 481, ARTICLE V, SECTION 201 (D) TITLED USES PERMITTED ON REVIEW (2nd and final reading) - This will be second reading if approved on first reading in tonight's regular meeting.

New Business Discussion:

Public Hearing for Ordinance No. _____ for Use on Review – This hearing will take place before the first reading of the following ordinance at the next regular meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ - USE ON REVIEW FOR AN OFF-PREMISE BILLBOARD SIGN AT 6800 RINGGOLD ROAD (1st reading) – Interim City Manager Williams stated this is for an off-premise billboard sign at Scruggs and Ringgold Road. He stated the owner, Jay Patel, is here if anyone has any questions. Councilmember Cagle asked if changing the meeting to October 15th would interfere with the readings of this ordinance. The ordinance must have 13 days between first and second readings to be legal. There was discussion of changing both meetings in October to October 15th and October 29th in order to have both readings in the month of October. Changing the meeting dates was added to tonight's regular Council meeting agenda. Councilmember Sewell asked where this sign would be going. Mr. Patel stated it would go at the corner of Ringgold Road and Scruggs Road. It will be 30 feet high.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR STREET PAVING PROJECT - Chief Williams stated that Mr. Jablonski is still working with Ms. Qualls on this item. We will have more information by the next meeting. The Chief also stated that since Mr. Jablonski is leaving the City, Ms. Qualls will be taking over his duties temporarily.

At this time, Mayor Lambert came into the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - LEAVE BUY BACK – Councilmember Cagle stated that the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) did a study on Leave Buy Back and recommended that we keep the program. Chief Williams stated that by keeping the program the City would save \$98,000 per year, as indicated in the MTAS study. He stated that employees hired after July 1, 2012 were not eligible for the Leave Buy Back program but they still earn leave with no cap on the amount of hours earned. They could build up a tremendous amount of hours, stay with the City for 20 years and retire with five years of accumulated time that they could use for retirement. Their slot could not be filled for that five years since they are still on the payroll. Employees hired before July 1, 2012 can only earn up to 260 hours per year and then they are paid down to any hours over 320 that they have accumulated. Councilmember Cagle would like to have another workshop on this issue.

Vice Mayor Gravitt informed Mayor Lambert about the item added to tonight's agenda about changing meeting dates.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – This item will be added to the workshop along with Leave Buy Back.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - TO OPEN CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR GRANT FUNDS – Account Specialist Qualls stated that grant funds are starting to come in and she would like to open an account for these funds to keep them separate. Council must approve all bank accounts that are opened.

Councilmember Cagle and John Tilley presented a check to the East Ridge Animal Control from the East Ridge Optimist Club for all the extra expense they had in boarding the animals from Superior Creek Lodge.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**September 24, 2015
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on September 24, 2015, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes September 3, 2015 Called Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes September 10, 2015 Agenda Work Session
- C. Approval of Minutes September 10, 2015 Council Meeting
- D. Approval of August 2015 Treasurer's Report

Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Gravitt, to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Cagle asked why half of the report is done for two months and half is done for one month. Ms. Qualls stated the actual figures are for two months. She will change the date for the one that reflects one month. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Laura Seneker, 725 Germantown Circle, discussed the Multi-modal grant and asked if there would be turn lanes. Chief Williams stated that the turn lanes would be in sections and then broken up with a grassy median with trees. Ms. Seneker also discussed the rental inspection program and limiting Section 8 housing.

Matthew DeGlopper, 706 Pyron Lane, stated there needs to be turn lane in front of the new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market. Chief Williams stated the plans are still tentative and he is not sure yet where the turn lanes will be. He also discussed the use of City equipment being used at the high school and a long-term maintenance plan for the equipment. Mayor Lambert stated there are other issues at the stadium such as the lighting.

Mayor Lambert stated there was a meeting of East Ridge alumni this past Monday and will be another meeting the following Monday at 7 pm to discuss the stadium.

Ben Stricklin, Prater Road, presented a petition to Council to keep Superior Creek Lodge closed. Mr. Stricklin is a former resident of the Lodge and stated it attracts bad elements. He

also stated it was a blessing to the residents to have it shut down. Mr. Stricklin stated he could not voice his opinion when he lived at Superior Creek. He also appreciated the local churches for helping and would like the City to do something to help keep it closed. Mayor Lambert stated there are items on the agenda that could possibly help this situation.

Pam Stone, 1557 Cora Drive, stated she has a problem with the intersection at Greenslake and Bennett, stating it needs to be restriped with reflective materials. She also stated there is a RV at a business at that intersection with a power cord going to one of the businesses in that area. Ms. Stone also stated that Ringgold Road should not be renamed, that it is our identity. Mayor Lambert stated it is a sad statement that our main thoroughfare through the City advertises a city in another state and the only thing it reflects is that it takes you to Ringgold, GA.

David Sprouse, 3335 Ringgold Road, stated he is glad he moved here from California to East Ridge and would not mind the Ringgold Road name change. He has a flag that spins in front of his business and has been told it is an illegal sign. He wants an exemption from the sign ordinance regulations. Mayor Lambert stated Council has had workshops about the sign ordinance and making it a little less strict in order to help small business owners. He would like to revisit the sign ordinance. Chief Williams will check with Codes Enforcement about exemptions.

Teresa St. Clair, requested to use Camp Jordan for a concert to help Superior Creek residents, possibly on October 10th. Chief Williams stated that the Shrine Circus is going on that weekend, plus the Christmas Nights of Lights people are setting up in the park. Director Martin stated there is also a ball tournament and a soccer tournament on that weekend. Ms. St. Clair stated the entertainment could possibly be the Charlie Daniels Band. Chief Williams, Director Martin and City Attorney North will get with Ms. St. Clair to work out details.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmembers Manning and Sewell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Cagle asked if Codes Enforcement checked with Walmart about the two fences around the property that a citizen had asked about in the last meeting. Chief Williams will find out and get back with Council.

Mr. Cagle asked if we are short in School Patrol, since he has seen patrol cars working school zones. Chief Williams stated we are short in that area, but we are in the process of hiring someone.

Vice Mayor Gravitt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Lambert discussed having a celebration on May 14 and/or 15, 2016 for the City's 95th birthday. Council would have to set a budget. The Mayor made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to have the celebration on the weekend of May 14, 2015 either Saturday or Sunday or possibly both days. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from City Manager:

Chief Williams stated he received a letter from the concrete instructor from East Ridge High School. They are asking the City to dig out the long-jump area with a backhoe and put sand back in the area. The school will furnish the sand. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the request. Mr. Manning asked the City Attorney to notify the County that we are going to be doing the work. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Old Business:

New Business:

Mayor Lambert moved the following item to this portion of the agenda.

Approval of Crestwood Garden Club Plan for “Jo’s Garden” at Camp Jordan Park – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the plan for “Jo’s Garden.” Mr. Cagle stated that Crestwood would furnish shrubs, plants and a plaque. They are asking the City to furnish soil, to repair the garden bed rock and furnish a pad for the Blue Star Marker they wish to erect. The club will also use the bricks from the old East Ridge Elementary School for a walkway up to the monument. Mr. Gravitt and Mr. Sewell withdrew their motion and second in order to come up with a budget for this project. Mr. Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to table this item until the next meeting in order to come up with a budget for the project. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 995 – Public Hearing – Mayor Lambert opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 995, approval for the City to operate a fire station. There was no one who spoke in favor of or in opposition to the approval of the ordinance. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 995 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO OPERATE A FIRE STATION AT 1410 ST. THOMAS STREET IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 481, ARTICLE V, SECTION 201 (D) TITLED USES PERMITTED ON REVIEW (1st reading) - City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Ordinance No. 995 on first reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2512 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ASA ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT)

MULTIMODAL ACCESS GRANT - City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Manning made a motion (for discussion purposes), seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2512. Mr. Manning asked how much these services would cost the City. Mr. Gravitt stated the cost comes out of the grant. Councilmember Cagle asked if the City had to purchase property in Phase 2 of this project, could that come out of grant funds. Jeff Sikes, with ASA, was present to answer any questions. He stated that when Phase 1 was written they did not know there would be a Phase 2. When the grant was awarded they looked at reversing to present any acquisition of land. Mr. Cagle also asked if utility relocation costs would come out of the grant. He has discussed this with EPB and they will relocate the utility poles at their expense. Mr. Gravitt would like to discuss underground utilities with EPB, at least starting with this project. The Mayor stated that if they would not do underground utilities, he would like them to group the lines together like they have done in other areas of the City. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt - pass; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Manning - yes; Councilmember Sewell - yes; Mayor Lambert - yes. Vice Mayor Gravitt – He would like to abstain because ASA has contributed to his State Representative campaign. Motion approved.

Discussion of Rental Property Inspection Program – Vice Mayor Gravitt stated there is a state law, the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act (66-28-107), which allows creation of a landlord registration program in cities located in counties with a population over 75,000. Mr. Gravitt stated that we already have an administrative hearing officer, who handles property code violation and we need to move forward with a rental inspection program. We need to establish what the City’s responsibilities are and who will do the inspections. Mr. North stated we cannot charge for these inspections. Councilmember Sewell stated Codes Enforcement would need more manpower for this program. Mr. Gravitt stated that an additional employee is needed in Administration and in Codes Enforcement. Mayor Lambert stated there has been discussion in the past about creating a housing and redevelopment authority in East Ridge, to help alleviate unsanitary and unsafe conditions in blighted areas and make the City safer and more livable.

Change Dates for October Council Meetings – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to move the regular council meetings in October from October 8th and 22nd to October 15th and 29th. Some of the Councilmembers will be out of town the week of October 8th for fall break. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned