

MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
April 11, 2019– 6:00 pm

To Set the Agenda for The
April 25, 2019 Council Meeting

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 11, 6:00 pm, at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the April 25, 2019 Council Meeting and other items.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey, Councilmember Witt, Assistant City Manager Custer, City Attorney Litchford and City Recorder Middleton.

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Rezoning of Property located at 3919 Weldon Drive from C-2 to R-1 – Building Official Howell stated this has always been a single-family home. It was rezoned commercial back in the 1980’s during a blanket rezoning for properties within 300 feet of Ringgold Road. Assistant City Manager Custer stated we have had a number of these requests over the last few years because of the blanket rezoning.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Rezone Property located at 3919 Weldon Drive from C-2 to R-1 – No further questions at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 2927 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO UNDERTAKE CONVERSION OF FIVE (5) ACRES OF LWCF ASSISTED PROPERTY LOCATED IN CAMP JORDAN PURSUANT TO 36 C.F.R. 59 FOR NEW IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATIONS, AND ENHANCEMENTS OF CERTAIN RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM FACILITIES WITHIN CAMP JORDAN COMPLEX FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRST-CLASS SOCCER TRAINING FACILITY – Assistant City Manager Custer stated Council approved Resolution No. 2896 which allowed the Mayor and him to enter into discussion to seek a conversion of property at Camp Jordan Park. He stated that this week they have received tremendous support from TDEC regarding the conversion. Mr. Custer stated that the conversion process is in place because times change. He is asking Council to consider allowing the City Attorney and him to move forward to do the conversion. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to move this item forward to tonight’s regular council meeting. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2928 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ATHLETIC SURFACES, INC. TO RESURFACE TWO (2) TENNIS COURTS AT EAST RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL –

Director Wilson stated he met with Competition Athletic Surfaces, Inc. about resurfacing two of the tennis courts at East Ridge High School. We would install new netting, crank poles, and restripe for tennis and pickle ball. Councilmember Cagle would like to put extra money with this and resurface all four of the tennis courts. Councilmember Chauncey stated if the City builds a field house, it would be on two of the tennis courts. Mr. Wilson stated this project would not have to be bid out because we would go through the purchasing cooperative Sourcewell, formerly NJPA. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to move this item forward to tonight's regular council meeting for consideration. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO PROVIDE MOWING SERVICES AT THE I-75, EXIT 1 INTERCHANGE, FOR FY 2019 – 2020 ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS –

Assistant City Manager Custer stated City staff has been mowing the interchange for a number of years and being reimbursed by TDOT for the mowings. TDOT will pay the City \$8,820 this year. Councilmember Cagle stated before the next contract, he wants to see a breakdown of the City's cost of mowing per year.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH USA SHADE AND FABRIC STRUCTURES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SHADE STRUCTURES TO COVER THIRTEEN (13) BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS AT CAMP JORDAN PARK AS PART OF THE CAMP JORDAN RENOVATION PROJECT –

Director Wilson stated he has been working with USA Shade, a member of Sourcewell, to install shade structures over the aluminum bleachers. Turnkey installation will be \$135,996.98. Mr. Wilson stated that he will go with navy blue which has a high UVA rating and less likely to fade, plus the structures will withstand high winds. Mr. Custer stated the structures have a 10-year limited warranty for fading and discoloration. He also stated that Director Wilson and staff have been working with contractors in the park and have done a phenomenal job.

Discussion of April 25, 2019 Council Meeting – Mayor Williams stated he will not be here, and there is a possibility that Vice Mayor Helton will not either. City Attorney Litchford stated the meeting could take place with a three-member quorum, but Council would have to appoint a Chair Pro Temp, which is a Temporary Chairperson, at that meeting. Councilmember Cagle stated there is a rezoning that has been advertised, but Assistant City Manager Custer stated that could be rescheduled. Councilmember Chauncey stated if nothing is time sensitive, he

would like to cancel the meeting. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to move this item to tonight's regular council meeting for consideration. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Other:

Councilmember Cagle stated he had calls about box springs and trash not being picked up and talked to Sanitation Supervisor Petty about it. Mr. Petty told him the department is two drivers short. Assistant City Manager Custer stated we are working diligently to fill these positions.

The Mayor and Councilmembers had nothing further at this time.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

**April 11, 2019
6:30 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 11, 2019, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Danny Lance gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey, Councilmember Witt, Assistant City Manager Custer, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes March 28, 2019 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes March 28, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - abstain; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens: None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Chauncey asked how long it would take to get the church property on Rebecca Drive back on the tax roles. Building Official Howell stated the church is slated for demolition. Assistant City Manager Custer stated we would expedite the matter.

Mayor Williams asked if the church property would have to be zoned differently to get it back on the tax roles. Assistant City Manager Custer stated it is when the church ceases to exist, and the building removed.

Earl Wilson, East Ridge Housing Commission, stated that according to Mr. Hunter they are closing today on the church property at 1520 and 1524 Rebecca Drive today and will start demolition. City Attorney Litchford will contact the County attorney for the Tax Assessor's office regarding this.

Councilmember Chauncey stated that the crosswalks at the Camp Jordan walking track are gone. Assistant City Manager Custer stated there is a “yield to pedestrian” crossing sign there now, which complies with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standard used to install and maintain traffic control devices. Mr. Custer stated that stop signs at the walking track do not comply with the code and should never have been put there.

Councilmember Chauncey asked about the drainage issue on Marlboro addressed by Jesse Fowler in a previous meeting. Assistant City Manager Custer stated he has met with Mr. Fowler regarding this issue. Mr. Custer stated we have a copy of the plat which states the City does not maintain the drainage ditch. He stated the drainage program we are working on will pull water off Ringgold Road and put it in the basin where it should go.

Councilmember Chauncey reminded everyone about the Jones Memorial Easter Egg Hunt on April 20, 2019 at the East Ridge High School football field.

Vice Mayor Helton had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Cagle discussed the stop sign at the crosswalk at the Camp Jordan walking track. He stated that drivers cannot see pedestrians coming up the hill from the track.

Mr. Cagle stated he has been approached by a citizen about a problem at Mack Smith Road and Marietta Street. Building Official Howell stated he has talked to the owner of the property and he stated there is no home occupation and there are only five people living in the house. They will also take care of the light pollution. Mr. Cagle also asked about the number of cars on the property.

Mayor Williams commended Assistant City Manager Custer and staff for another great monthly report. Mr. Custer commended staff who work hard to produce these reports.

The Mayor stated he will have a “Meet the Mayor” this Saturday at 10 am at the Lifecare facility, with Chief Williams as a speaker.

Mayor Williams stated the “cruise in” event at Camp Jordan was an overwhelming success. He stated there were around 25,000 people attending, plus thousands of vehicles. Director Wilson stated it was a great event with few problems and it will be back next year.

Communication from City Manager:

Assistant City Manager Custer thanked Danny and Debby Lance with Local Coffee, for embarking on arts for the City, especially culinary arts. He stated this is big in Chattanooga and wants to work on expanding it to East Ridge.

Mr. Custer stated if the April 25th meeting is cancelled, this will be his last meeting on the dais. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to do this job. He stated he could not have done it without his tremendous staff. He believes there are great things to come for East Ridge. Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Custer for the great job he has done in this position.

Old Business: None

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2923 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AUTHORIZING THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENNESSEE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant City Manager Custer stated the Police Department is in the strategic planning process and Lt. Stephenson will be heading up the accreditation process. Mr. Custer stated the Department is moving positively. Vice Mayor Helton, made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt to approve Resolution No. 2923. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Grant Consent Agenda:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2924 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT THE HAMILTON COUNTY 2018 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE EAST RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 2925 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT THE HAMILTON COUNTY 2018 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Assistant City Manager Custer stated the Fire Department was awarded \$17,750 to purchase an all-terrain vehicle and the Police Department was awarded funds for a radio. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the Grant Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2926 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2922 TO REFLECT THE NAME OF BASS PRO AS THE DONOR OF AMMUNITION TO THE CITY RATHER THAN CABELA’S - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Custer stated this was previously approved mistakenly as Cabela’s. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 2926. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2927 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO UNDERTAKE CONVERSION OF FIVE (5) ACRES OF LWCF ASSISTED PROPERTY LOCATED IN CAMP JORDAN PURSUANT TO 36 C.F.R. 59 FOR NEW IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATIONS, AND ENHANCEMENTS OF

CERTAIN RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM FACILITIES WITHIN CAMP JORDAN COMPLEX FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRST-CLASS SOCCER TRAINING FACILITY – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant City Manager Custer provided Council with Exhibit A, showing the stadium area and future field space. The conversion area is limited to the five acres where the stadium field is located. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 2927.

Councilmember Cagle stated he would like to see more particulars on what the Red Wolves want as far as utilities, maintenance, etc. Mr. Custer stated the conversion will allow the city to enter into a lease agreement for the Council to consider, which will spell out those particulars. City Attorney Litchford stated the conversion only lifts the current restrictions under the Land and Water Conservation Act. Mr. Litchford stated with a conversion the city would have to find replacement property, and staff has made efforts to identify replacement property. TDEC understands this and supports it. Mr. Litchford also stated the Chattanooga Red Wolves will pay the \$10,000 conversion fee, with no cost to the City.

Mr. Cagle discussed parking issues at Camp Jordan. Mr. Custer stated we are currently working on a plan to address the issue.

Mr. Custer stated the Red Wolves would pay an annual fee for use of the practice field. They would also make the field available for use by East Ridge High School.

Mr. Cagle stated the Chattanooga Futbol Club contract states that we cannot enter into another contract with a soccer league. Mr. Litchford stated the contract deals with an academy, not a professional club. TDEC will not allow for an exclusive use.

At this point, the Mayor asked for roll call. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2928 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ATHLETIC SURFACES, INC. TO RESURFACE TWO (2) TENNIS COURTS AT EAST RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Wilson would like to have the two courts closest to Bennett Road resurfaced at a cost of \$15,500. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey (for discussion purposes,) to approve Resolution No. 2928. Councilmember Chauncey stated he would like to have all four courts resurfaced if we have to wait two to three years to build a field house on the property. Mr. Wilson suggested resurfacing two courts now and two in the new budget. We could also add a basketball court for an additional \$4,500 if we only have two tennis courts. Mayor Williams stated it may not be two years before we are able to construct the field house. We have requested funds from Hamilton County, \$150,000 for the field house and \$300,000 for a new track. Councilmember Chauncey withdrew his second to the motion and Councilmember Witt withdrew her motion. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to give Director Wilson the authority to negotiate a contract to resurface all four courts for an amount up to

\$25,000 or resurface two for \$15,500. City Attorney Litchford stated this resolution will have to be modified. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of April 25, 2019 Council Meeting – Mayor Williams stated he will not be at the next meeting and there is a possibility that Vice Mayor Helton will not be here either. He stated we could have the meeting or cancel it. City Attorney Litchford stated the charter provides that the Mayor will preside at meetings and the Vice Mayor will preside in the absence of the Mayor. A quorum is three, but the Charter does not address who presides in the absence of both the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Mr. Litchford stated Council would have to elect a temporary Chairperson at that particular meeting. Mayor Williams stated he is confident the three Councilmembers could conduct a meeting, but in the case of a rezoning, two members could be making the decision. A public hearing for a rezoning has been advertised for the April 25th meeting, but that can be rescheduled. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve cancelling the April 25, 2019 meeting. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Mayor Williams wished everyone a happy Easter.

The meeting was adjourned.