

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

**April 9, 2020
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 9, 2020, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall.

Mayor Williams stated we are still conducting meetings via electronic means due to Governor Lee's Executive Order #16.

City Attorney Litchford stated the Governor issued Executive Order #16 and Mayor Williams and City Manager Dorsey issued a state of emergency. As a result, a determination has been made in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens, we are conducting this meeting by electronic means.

Danny Lance, with Trulife Church gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton (remotely), Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey (remotely), Councilmember Witt (remotely), City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton

Special Presentation – Chief Allen – Proceeds of “No Shave April” to the East Ridge Food Pantry – Chief Allen stated that some of the East Ridge officers participate in No Shave April and No Shave November and then make donations to charity. The officers donate \$25 each and are donating \$600 to the East Ridge Food Pantry.

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes March 26, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

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

Communication from Citizens: Mayor Williams stated citizens could submit their comments or questions to him via email from 12:30 - 1:30 today. No one submitted comments or questions.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Chauncey had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Witt reminded everyone to fill out their 2020 Census and discussed the Census articles in the Hometown News. She also thanked the Police officers for the donation to the Food Pantry.

Vice Mayor Helton wished everyone a Happy Easter and is praying for everyone.

Councilmember Cagle wished everyone a Happy Easter and encouraged everyone to abide by the rules and stay home.

Mayor Williams announced the Library will host a pajama storytime online on April 14th at 7:00 pm.

The Mayor stated that TDOT will be doing bridge construction on the Belvoir Avenue bridge which will be closed from April 20 – late December. They will also be doing work around the Germantown Bridge which will be closed for over a year.

City Manager Dorsey stated he talked to TDOT about making sure we stay in the loop about upcoming projects and closures. TDOT is doing Phase 1 now and Phase 2 will start near the completion of Phase 1. Phase 2 will go west toward the ridge cut. These two bridges are not part of Phase 2; this work is being done in preparation for Phase 2.

Mayor Williams announced there was a COVID 19 hotline at 423-209-8383. He also stated there have been 98 positive test results out of 1,417 that have been tested in Hamilton County with 10 deaths. The heat map on the website showing areas where cases have been identified shows East Ridge as being a sparse area. He stated that Governor Lee is still encouraging everyone to stay home. We are expecting a peak but have not reached it yet.

The Mayor wished everyone a blessed and Happy Easter.

Communication from City Manager:

Mr. Dorsey stated the City has been doing its part to stay prepared during the COVID 19 outbreak. He stated employees are rotating, working at home and at City Hall. He stated that we are keeping people separated and none are in quarantine.

Mr. Dorsey asked Assistant City Manager Custer to address the junk and brush pickup. Mr. Custer stated with a lot more people staying at home there is more junk and brush to pick up. He stated the city had to take one of its knuckleboom trucks to a shop for repairs. It was parked next to a truck that was being worked on which caught fire and burned up our truck. We will be receiving a check for this truck next week. Mr. Custer stated he is moving employees around in the departments to handle issues that come up, but we are having problems finding CDL drivers. He asked the citizens to bear with us during these difficult times. Mayor Williams asked if their insurance company would cover a rental until we can get another truck. Mr. Dorsey stated this is a possibility. He has talked to Peterbilt about a demo, but they do not have one at this time. We are working through a purchasing coop to purchase another truck.

Mr. Dorsey discussed a letter he sent to Dr. Jim Corbin, the Student Security Coordinator with Hamilton Schools. He stated we have had problems with kids fighting after school and vandalizing things around City Hall. Mr. Dorsey read the letter which addressed these problems, and also that he is removing the School Resource Officer (SRO) provided by the city from the school. He is asking the county to provide an SRO for the Middle and High School since they provide them for other county schools.

Old Business: None

New Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1126 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE REGULATING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO MINIMIZE DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO FLOODING, AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (1st reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant City Manager Custer stated that updating this ordinance could lower homeowner’s insurance rates and could help the City with grants. It was last updated in 1992. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1126 on first reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Chauncey – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 1127 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE, TITLE 14, CITY OF EAST RIDGE ZONING, ARTICLE VII REGULATIONS FOR USES PERMITTED ON REVIEW, SECTION 113, RADIO, TELEVISION, SATELLITE, CELLULAR, PCS AND MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION TOWERS (1st reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Assistant City Manager Custer stated this ordinance was last updated in 1997, and due to rapid changes in technology, it currently needs to be updated. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1127 on first reading. Mayor Williams stated Under Section G, Item 6D, Abandoned Towers, he believes 12 months is too long to leave an abandoned tower. Mr. Custer stated that House Bill 2279 laid the groundwork for this ordinance and it states 12 months, so that is what we have to go by; we cannot be more stringent. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Chauncey – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3042 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, FOR THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY (TWRA) COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated that TWRA is developing this program with the help of a grant from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. Jack Dickert Pond at Camp Jordan has been chosen as one of two sites in Tennessee for this program. Staff recommends partnering with TWRA in this program. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No.

3042. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Chauncey – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the April 23, 2020 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1126 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE REGULATING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO MINIMIZE DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO FLOODING, AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (2nd and final reading) - Passed on first reading tonight. No discussion.

ORDINANCE NO. 1127 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE, TITLE 14, CITY OF EAST RIDGE ZONING, ARTICLE VII REGULATIONS FOR USES PERMITTED ON REVIEW, SECTION 113, RADIO, TELEVISION, SATELLITE, CELLULAR, PCS AND MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION TOWERS (2nd and final reading) - Passed on first reading tonight. No discussion.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Bids for Fire Hose - City Manager Dorsey stated the bids were opened on April 8th. We will evaluate the bids and present them at the next meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**April 23, 2020
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 23, 2020, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall.

Mayor Williams stated we are still conducting meetings via electronic means due to Governor Lee's Executive Order #16.

City Attorney Litchford stated the Governor issued Executive Order #16 and Mayor Williams and City Manager Dorsey issued a state of emergency. As a result, a determination has been made in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, we are conducting this meeting by electronic means.

Daniel Wright, with Jones Memorial Methodist Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton (remotely), Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey (remotely), Councilmember Witt (remotely), City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton

Consent Agenda:

- A. **Approval of Minutes April 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting** – Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens: Mayor Williams stated citizens could submit questions today between 12:30 and 1:30, but he received none.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle thanked all the employees for the hard work they did during the tornado relief.

Councilmember Chauncey had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Helton thanked the city employees for their hard work during the tornado clean up and asked everyone to pray for their neighbors who lost so much.

Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- He stated the Belvoir bridge will be closed from the following Monday through the rest of the year.
- TDOT will be starting roadwork on Germantown Road.
- He thanked the first responders for their work during the pandemic and the tornado.
- Governor Bill Lee announced that most of the counties in Tennessee will not be under shutdown effective May 1st, which will include Hamilton County. Hamilton County Mayor Coppinger said the county will reopen on May 1st but everyone must follow guidelines from the State. We will have those guidelines tomorrow. The Mayor stated that cities in the Small Cities Coalition will follow Hamilton County for reopening. The Mayor stated that at 4 pm today, Governor Lee had a press conference and shared some of the guidelines. Restaurants and retail locations will be open Monday at 50% capacity.

Communication from City Manager:

- Mr. Dorsey stated the City has excellent employees and thanked them for their hard work during the tornado and flash flooding that occurred.
- Meeting with TEMA – They encouraged the City to pick up our own debris. We are looking at hiring part time employees for the clean-up. We also added approval of the disaster debris plan to this agenda for approval.
- Budget Issues:
 - Revenues – We have started working on budget and have received a lot of information from the various departments. Revenues will be flat for this upcoming year. The budget will be presented at the last meeting in May.
 - Comp Time – The employees have always had the choice when working overtime to either be paid or to accumulate comp time to be used later. The problem with comp time is that it has created a debt on our books of over \$51,000 for Police employees and over \$67,000 for Fire employees. Mr. Dorsey believes this is financially unsustainable for the City and the auditors also discussed this issue when they presented the audit last December. He stated we will pay out the comp time and employees who work overtime will be paid for it each pay period. Mr. Dorsey reiterated this will not take “a dime out of anyone’s pocket.” He stated we will have to use fund balance to get this debt off the books.
 - Paid Leave – Employees are paid for any hours over 320 of their accumulated leave time on their anniversary date of their employment. In 2012, Council voted to do away with this leave buyback for anyone hired on or after July 1, 2012. Mr. Dorsey believes according to Title 4, Section 4-219 of the Municipal Code, the cap of 320 hours still exists. He also stated that Ordinance No. 918 which did away with leave buyback states in error, Ordinance No. 760, which is the Sanitation ordinance, rather than No. 761. This must be corrected. He stated it would cost the city over \$32,000 to get the cap back down to 320 hours. This would get rid of the City’s liability on leave buyback. He also stated it would take between \$150,000 and \$170,000 to fix both leave buyback and comp time issues.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1126 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE REGULATING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO MINIMIZE DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO FLOODING, AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Ordinance No. 1126 on second and final reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 1127 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE, TITLE 14, CITY OF EAST RIDGE ZONING, ARTICLE VII REGULATIONS FOR USES PERMITTED ON REVIEW, SECTION 113, RADIO, TELEVISION, SATELLITE, CELLULAR, PCS AND MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION TOWERS (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1127 on second and final reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3043 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AWARDED BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIRE HOSE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3043. City Manager Dorsey stated that Emergency Vehicle Specialists was the low bidder at \$11,979.00. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3044 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AWARDED A BID FOR THE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF ONE HEAVY-DUTY TRASH/BRUSH LOADER, BULK TRASH/JUNK BODY, MOUNTED ON A NEW CAB AND CHASSIS (KNUCKLEBOOM) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated the City put out an emergency bid for a knuckleboom truck to help with the clean up after the tornado that came through. He is recommending the bid of \$154,325 from The Pete Store for a 2020 Peterbilt truck. Worldwide who was the low bidder did not provide verification of all the specifications and listed no exceptions. Lee-Smith could not provide a truck for 120 days and we need one as quickly as possible. For these reasons, he is recommending the bid from The Pete Store. The Mayor stated this truck is replacing one that was destroyed by fire, so the City will receive an insurance check for approximately \$78,000 to go toward the purchase of the new truck. Finance Director Qualls stated the remainder will be paid from the Solid Waste fund balance. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by

Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3044, with the bid in the amount of \$154,325 being awarded to The Pete Store. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved. City Manager Dorsey asked if, in the future, the Council had a problem with having the name of the vendor and the bid amount listed in the resolution. Councilmembers had no problem with this.

RESOLUTION NO. 3045 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated that in 2018 Homeland Security prepared a disaster debris management plan for cities to approve in order to have sites to take debris and to help in the planning process with TEMA. As far as he knows, it was never approved by Council. He stated in this plan that Camp Jordan could be used as a possible debris holding site. He met with officials from TEMA today and they recommended we approve the plan. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3045. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Helton - yes; Councilmember Cagle - yes; Councilmember Chauncey - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the May 14, 2020 Council Meeting (see Attachment A) – Mayor Williams stated at this time, there is nothing on the next agenda for May 14, 2020. Councilmembers had nothing to add to the agenda.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.