

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

**April 13, 2023
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 13, 2023, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Daniel Beard, Action Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Haynes, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Tyler, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Employee Milestone Awards for March 2023 – Mayor Williams announced two employees would receive the milestone awards – Randy Albright for 20 years and David Burgess for 5 years. The Mayor stated he appreciates all our employees.

Attendance: 10

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes March 23, 2023 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of January 2023 Financial Report
- C. Approval of February 2023 Financial Report
- D. Declaration of Surplus Property – Sanitation Department and Street Department

Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Cagle asked if we are going to replace the dumpsters that were surplused or are we doing away with the dumpster program. Sanitation Supervisor Parker stated the dumpsters would be replaced. Mr. Cagle also asked about the zero-turn mower. Mr. Parker stated the mower will not be replaced in the Street Department but will in Parks and Recreation. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Matt Hughes, 1108 Greenslake Road, discussed various roads in East Ridge that need repairs and/or clean up, such as the Bachman tunnels, Scruggs Road, Mack Smith Road (street cuts), John Ross Road, and Ringgold Road (paving.) City Manager Miller stated we have a grant to resurface John Ross Road but it will not be done until the Multi-modal project is completed. He stated we have our Street Department inspect street cuts and they have certain specs they go by. Mr. Miller stated we did \$1 million in resurfacing this past year, but we need \$1 million every year. He stated our emphasis is not on roads like Scruggs, but on residential roads.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Tyler stated the Optimist food drive held this past Saturday was a success. He thanked Southern Honda for allowing them to hold the drive at their business.

Councilmember Witt, Vice Mayor Haynes, and Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- Former Vice Mayor and Councilmember Tom Card passed away on Monday. The family will receive friends on Monday, April 17 from 4-8 pm at South Crest Chapel of Lane Funeral Home with the funeral on Tuesday, April 18 at 12:30 pm at Chattanooga National Cemetery. Please keep the Card family in your prayers. Mr. Card also designed the City's flag.
- Library
 - Vote for your favorite People's Choice Peep Diorama through Saturday, April 15, on Facebook or in person at the Library.
 - April 15, 11am-12pm – A Novel Idea Book Club for Adults monthly meeting
 - April 29, 11am-1pm – Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the East Ridge Library. There will be food, games, petting zoo, etc.
- Parks and Recreation
 - Community Center staff and volunteers prepared raised beds for a community garden. It will be open to the public for harvest. Contact Hannah Spear at the Center for more information.
 - April 15, 10am-12 pm – Self-defense class at the Community Center.
 - April 15 & 16 – Bug-a-Palüza VW Festival. Admission is \$5.00 with proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga.
 - April 15 & 16 – Master Gardeners of Hamilton County will hold the “Master Your Garden” Expo at Camp Jordan Arena. Admission is \$5.00, which is good for both days.
 - April 22 - Kid Quest family fun event and expo to benefit Children's Hospital at Erlanger. Activities include character meet and greet, magic show, superhero obstacle course, food, etc.
 - April 28/June 13 – Parks and Rec night for baseball and softball teams/softball night at the Lookouts.
 - April 29 – Kids & Pros Football Clinic for ages 7 – 13.
 - April 29 – Red Wolves East Ridge Parks and Rec night. A portion of the proceeds go to East Ridge Parks and Rec
 - Through May 1 – Registration is open for 13-15 year-old baseball
 - May 6 & 7 – Bacon Festival with 150 vendors, food trucks, inflatables, petting zoo, etc. Free admission.
 - May 11-21 – Thrillville

Communication from City Manager:

- **Ringgold Road Update** - The south side is nearing completion. The driveways between Tombras and McBrien are being resurfaced and the traffic loops at Moore and McBrien are being installed. Talley Construction started work on the north side of Ringgold Road today at Dover Lane heading west to Weldon Drive. They will close the outside

lane of Ringgold Road to do demolition and storm drain work. Completion could take six to seven months. Concurrently, Chattanooga Gas is doing work on the north side for the next three to four weeks.

- **Animal Shelter Update** – We are working with the engineers on a site plan and site prep. We will possibly hold a community meeting in April or May and hope to have the project completed in August 2024.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The Mayor moved Item H to this point in the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 3382 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATING TO THE TEXTILE PRINTING COMPANY PROJECT, TO DELEGATE CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford stated this is a vacant piece of property located adjacent to the Textile Printing Company (“TPC”) on Ringgold Road and owned by TPC. TPC is requesting an economic development program called Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) which is offered by the State. The property would be transferred to the Industrial Development Board (“IDB”) who would own the property and TPC would make lease payments to the IDB. TPC is investing around \$21 million into the property, which would increase the tax to approximately \$380,000 over a five-year period. After five years, the property would go back on the tax roles. Mr. Litchford stated that TPC is the oldest manufacturer in East Ridge, locating here more than 50 years ago. There would be 90 additional jobs with an average salary of \$48,000. He also stated that a good portion of their employees live in East Ridge. Mayor Williams stated he is excited about this expansion. TPC has been in business for 99 years with 54 of those in East Ridge. He thanked the Schmissrauter family for their commitment to East Ridge. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3382. Kurt Schmissrauter, Executive Vice President of TPC, came forward to discuss this matter. He stated his family bought the building which is now TPC in 1967 when it was a bowling alley. It is now a fourth-generation business with almost 650 employees. He thanked the Council for allowing them to do this program. Councilmembers thanked Mr. Schmissrauter for their business and for the expansion. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 1184 - Rezone 1505 Prater Road, tax map #169K-N-005.01 from C-2 Commercial District and R-1 Residential District to RZ-1 Zero Lot Line Residential District. City Attorney Litchford read the ordinance on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated this is a split zone and the applicant wants to rezone to RZ-1 and then subdivide into lots of approximately 8,000 square feet. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. No one came forward in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. The Mayor closed public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1184 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO

REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1505 PRATER ROAD, TAX MAP #169K-N-005.01, FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO RZ-1 ZERO LOT LINE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (1st reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Cagle made a motion to table Ordinance No. 1184 until Council could get further information regarding the right-of-way. Motion died for lack of a second. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Ordinance No. 1184 on first reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Haynes - yes; Councilmember Cagle - no; Councilmember Tyler - yes; Councilmember Witt - yes; Mayor Williams - yes. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3377 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ BY MAYOR WILLIAMS TO THE EAST RIDGE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams re-appointed Steve Leach to the Board. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the appointment of Steve Leach to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3378 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PIERCE RESCUE ENGINE FROM EVS EMERGENCY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS/G&W DIESEL SERVICE THROUGH THE HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM (“HGACBUY”) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Williams stated he and City Manager Miller have discussed the need for another engine in approximately two years. If we order now, the lead time is 25-27 months, plus we will receive a discount of approximately \$18,000 if we prepay 50% of the cost. If we order in July, the lead time will be 38-41 months, plus the cost would be higher. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3378. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3379 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HEIL SANITATION TRUCK FROM STRINGFELLOW TRUCK SALES THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL PURCHASING ALLIANCE – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Sanitation Supervisor Parker stated this would replace one of the trucks that has constant issues. If we order now and make a prepayment of 50% of the total cost, we could save approximately \$20,000. The lead time is 30 – 36 months. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3379. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3380 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TENNESSEE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 3241, WHICH APPROVED THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANUAL – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Human Resources Manager Sinigaglio stated the manual needs updating and asked if there were any questions. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3380. Councilmember Cagle had questions about the bereavement leave and what family members are included, specifically mother-in-law, father-

in-law, and stepchildren which have been taken out of the bereavement policy. He asked Ms. Sinigaglio if she considered mother-in-law and father-in-law immediate family. She stated yes but it would fall to the supervisor and the City Manager to make that decision. She stated she did not want to get too specific in the policy. Mr. Cagle also asked if stepchildren are considered immediate family. Ms. Sinigaglio stated there are too many variations as far as immediate family so it will be left up to the discretion of the City Manager. Mr. Cagle believes it should be listed in the policy in black and white. Councilmember Tyler suggested we eliminate the word “blood” when referring to relatives. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to amend the bereavement leave section in Resolution No. 3380 to add mother-in-law, father-in-law, stepchildren, and take out the word “blood” when referring to relatives. Vote on the amendment was unanimous. Motion approved. Vote on the original motion as amended was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3381 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO RENEW THE FIREWALL PROTECTION WITH LITEFOOT TECHNOLOGY, LLC FOR THE CITY’S COMPUTER NETWORK AS PART OF THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AWARDED ON JULY 14, 2022 – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Human Resources Manager Sinigaglio stated the agreement covers firewalls and gives 24/7 protection. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3381. Mayor Williams asked if we have protection if we are hacked. Ms. Sinigaglio stated we do not have this protection but we can purchase it through our risk management company to cover the cost of the ransom. Finance Director Qualls stated that we have backups. The Mayor stated we need training sessions for every employee with internet and email capability. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the April 27, 2023 Council Meeting

- **Old Business:**
 - **ORDINANCE NO. 1184 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1505 PRATER ROAD, TAX MAP #169K-N-005.01, FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO RZ-1 ZERO LOT LINE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (2nd and final reading)** – No further discussion.

- **New Business:**
 - **ORDINANCE NO. 1185 - Budget Amendment (1st reading)** – Finance Director Qualls stated this would include payments for the fire engine and sanitation truck that were approved in tonight’s meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**April 27, 2023
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 27, 2023, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Rev. Jeremy Winingham, Pentecostals of East Ridge, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Haynes, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Tyler, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Attendance: 8

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes April 13, 2023 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of March 2023 Financial Report

Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Gary Reeves, 5424 Marion Avenue, stated there is a tree service doing business in his neighborhood. They store their trucks and dump wood chips on their property. Also, he lives next to rental property with debris in the yard. He has called Codes Enforcement several times. City Manager Miller will send Codes Enforcement to check into these issues.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Tyler, Vice Mayor Haynes, and Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Witt thanked Hannah Spear with the Community Center for holding the self-defense class.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- April 29th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Local Coffee – Art and music presented by the ERHS Music and Art Department and hosted by East Ridge Creative Arts and Local Coffee.
- Library
 - April 29th, 11 am – 1:00 pm - 50th anniversary of the Library – a carnival type event with food, games, petting zoo, face painting and more. Free event.

- Parks and Recreation
 - April 28th, Parks and Rec night for baseball and softball teams
 - June 13th, Softball night at the Lookouts game
 - April 29th, 9 am-12 pm - Kids and Pros football clinic taught by professional players and coaches
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am-2:30 pm – Game Time at the Community Center for all ages, with board games, card games, puzzles, etc.
 - April 29th, 7:30 pm – East Ridge Parks and Rec night at the Red Wolves game. A portion of the ticket sales goes to East Ridge Parks and Rec.
 - Through May 1st – registration is open for 13 – 15 years old baseball players.
 - Bacon Festival, May 6th from 10 am – 5 pm and May 7th from 10 am – 4 pm, with 150 vendors, food trucks, petting zoo, entertainment, etc. Free admission.
 - May 14th, 1 pm-3 pm – Mother’s Day tea party at the Community Center. Admission is free but donation of canned goods is encouraged. Contact Hannah Spear at hspear@eastridgetn.gov or 423-486-2034. Reservations are required.
 - Thrillville Fair, May 11th-May 21st – Camp Jordan, Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 1 pm-11pm

Communication from City Manager:

City Manager Miller discussed the following three projects.

- **I-75/I-24 Phase 2**
 - Wright Construction is the general contractor.
 - \$161 million project
 - Improvements span 4.8 miles between the I-75/I-24 split and Germantown Road interchange.
 - I-24 between Germantown and Spring Creek will be widened from three to four lanes.
 - Moore Road and McBrien Road bridges will be entirely replaced. Moore Road bridge replacement will begin in June.
 - Sidewalks and bike lanes will be installed on the bridges.
 - Noise walls will be installed on both sides of I-24 in residential areas, but predominantly on the north side.
 - It will be a 24/7 operation, with a construction schedule of 994 days.
 - TDOT is currently defining the design for the bridges.
- **Ringgold Road Multi-Modal** – Mr. Miller stated the south side is complete except for minor work around some of the catch basins and the pedestrian crosswalk signals. Talley Construction needs to shut down the alley between Ridge Loan and Domino’s Pizza, just west of Marlboro for storm drain work. Talley is working now between Jack’s restaurant and Cemetery Road installing storm drainage. Chattanooga Gas is working their way from Weldon to Cemetery Road for relocation of their 8-inch line.
- **Sewer System Grant** – East Ridge received a grant for \$2.5 million, with another one-half million from Hamilton County for sanitary sewer system work. This will be a pass-through between the federal government and WWTa. Mayor Williams stated the grant is earmarked for utility work, but we do not have utilities in the city. He stated WWTa is mandated to upgrade the system which could cause rate

increases, but with this pass-through, it would limit the amount of money WWTA has to borrow, possibly preventing higher increases.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1184 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1505 PRATER ROAD, TAX MAP #169K-N-005.01, FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO RZ-1 ZERO LOT LINE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated this is a single lot which will be divided into two lots. He stated the Planning Commission approved. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Ordinance No. 1184 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3383 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER BY NAMI CHATTANOOGA FOR THEIR MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Skiles stated this group helps persons with mental illnesses. The fee to be waived is \$40 per month. Staff recommends approval. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3383. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3384 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EZ ICE AND WATER, LLC FOR INSTALLATION OF AN ICE/WATER MACHINE AT CAMP JORDAN - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Skiles stated the machine would be placed in the campground and people would have access to ice and water without leaving the park. The City will receive 22% of the gross revenues from the sale of ice and water. EZ Ice will install a concrete pad. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3384. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3385 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING BIDS FOR REPLACEMENT OF A PORTION OF THE ROOF ON THE CITY HALL COMPLEX - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated we received five bids with the low bid being from JDH Company in the amount of \$44,487. Mr. Miller stated JDH Company put the original roof on City Hall over 20 years ago. They will provide a 20-year warranty if approved for this project. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3385. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3386 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THAT HAMILTON COUNTY CONVEY THEIR INTEREST IN CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED ON WELWORTH AVENUE AND WENTWORTH AVENUE TO THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Miller stated that during a recent Hamilton County property sale, it was discovered that these properties on Welworth and Wentworth Avenues were jointly owned by Hamilton County and the City of East Ridge. The properties were acquired through a FEMA Community Development Block Grant because of continuous flooding. The properties must remain as green space, such as a pocket park or community garden, but can never be built on again. He recommends that we request Hamilton County to convey the properties to the City. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3386. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3387 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE OBLIGATION OF FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”) TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER PROJECT AND THE RINGGOLD ROAD MULTI-MODAL/NORTH MACK SMITH ROAD DRAINAGE PROJECT - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Miller stated that according to the Government Finance Official’s Association, the House leadership is trying to rescind the unobligated ARPA funds given to cities over the last few years. We received two rounds, the first one being \$3.1 million which was obligated to the Multi-modal project. The second round of \$3.1 million has not been obligated, but Mr. Miller is recommending that Council obligate the funds to the construction of the Animal Shelter, and the Multi-modal drainage project and the N. Mack Smith Road drainage project. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3387. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the **May 11, 2023** Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

- **Employee Milestone Awards for April 2023** – We will have one milestone award.
- **Old Business: None**
- **New Business:**
 - **ORDINANCE NO. _____ - Budget Amendment (1st reading)** - Finance Director Qualls stated this would include the sanitation truck, fire engine, and final year-end expenses.
 - **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Purchase of five In-car cameras for the police department** – Chief Uselton stated the City received nine new vehicles, but only had four in-car cameras in stock. The cost will include the cameras and the cloud service for five years. Cost is approximately \$51,000.
 - **Presentation of FY 2023 – 2024 Budget** – City Manager Miller stated he will present the budget at the next meeting. He stated it is a balanced budget with no tax increase and maintains the current level of services.

- Mr. Miller would like to add an item for sealing the parking lots at City Hall and the Community Center. This was last done in 2017. The bid could be approximately \$10,000. The areas around McBrien school and the water park are not included. In the upcoming budget, he has allocated funds for resurfacing or sealing some of the City's parking lots.

Other:

Councilmember Cagle requested that water fountains be installed at the Pioneer Park. Director Skiles will check into this.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.