

November 1, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Regular Monthly Meeting
Ripley City Courtroom

Mayor Fitzhugh called the meeting to order and requested Recorder Buckner to issue roll call.

Board members present: Alston, Chipman, Davis, Hankins, Thompson, Treadway and Fitzhugh

Board members absent: none

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Jackson, Chief Mitchell Turner, Superintendent Scott Nelson, Superintendent Johnie Ford and Director Randy Danley

Visitors: Mike Hutcherson, Rita Edwards, Dean Barlow, Donna Sanders, Tommy Sanders, Reverend Willie L. Pounds, Linda Love, Mickey Hamlin, Carson Hamlin, and Anna Beth Massey

Invocation: Mike Hutcherson

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Chipman to approve October 4, 2021 special called meeting minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye
2. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Treadway to approve October 4, 2021 minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye
3. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Thompson to approve October 2021 financial statement as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye

Correspondence: Tennessee Historical Commission–City of Ripley designation Hands Across America Mid-Point marker \$1600

4. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Alston to approve purchase of Tennessee Historical Commission-City of Ripley designation Hands Across America marker in the amount of \$1600. Roll call. All aye

Roll call – all present

Mayor's comments:

- Public hearing November 2nd to discuss Ford Blue Oval City project – Mark Herbison
- County-wide Clean Up Day November 6th
- Veteran's Day parade November 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Department Reports

5. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Hankins to approve department reports as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye
6. Rita Edwards addressed the Board regarding changes that have taken place over the years at our Ripley City Park. She requested that basketball courts be placed in the park for all citizens to enjoy. She asked the aldermen for their comments.

Alderman Alston stated we have tried in the past to put basketball courts in the park before without success. We have everything else to enjoy at the park except basketball courts.

Alderman Treadway stated that with the factory coming in it would be good to have basketball courts there for everyone to enjoy.

Director Danley stated that basketball courts have been discussed with surrounding communities in the past.

Alderman Hankins stated his first thoughts would be about security and after hour usage. Would they be gated like the tennis court? Several question before giving a yes or no answer.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated that many people think Cleveland Street Park is a city park but it is not. It is part of Rice Park. The trustees of Cleveland Park are amenable to leasing the park to the city for a nominal amount and rehab the basketball court and pavilion, replace playground equipment and possible be the home of the new dog park. The city would take over the maintenance of that. In doing all of that we would improve the basketball courts there. It is his understanding that some of the language on the courts can be inappropriate for children. There would certainly have to be rules and regulations in place.

Alderman Chipman stated right now we are in the mist of trying to get a grant awarded to us to finish some of the things that are in our ten (10) year master plan. He asked that we just look at it for now. Get the grant behind us and look at the basketball court request after the new year.

Ms. Edwards thanked the Board for their comments and that she appreciates that subject will be looked at maybe by the first of the year.

Alderman Thompson stated he always wondered why we didn't have a basketball court in the park. The park is an environment for families to be able to go there and enjoy whatever interests a family member may have. There's a way to do anything. He is sure we can discuss this in the future. We need more facilities for our kids, all kids, to grow up and understand chemistry of one another, in every day competition before they go into the schools and compete on another level. We need, as a community, to provide more facilities for all these kids to be able to go to and feel safe and develop their skills safely before they get to school. There are other things we will be looking at in the future. The basketball court in the park will be something inviting for everyone to participate in and attract and hopefully encourage people to relocate here.

7. Motion by Alderman Davis and second by Alderman Chipman to approve grant amendment 2 of grant contract 61757 between State of Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and City of Ripley extending contract end date to April 14, 2023. All aye
8. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Chipman to approve engagement agreement between Neil Aronov, PhD in affiliation with Megan Avery PhD and City of Ripley to provide psychological fitness-for-duty evaluation. Roll call. All aye
9. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Chipman to award Ford Construction Company bid contract for Ripley STBG Volz Road project in the amount of \$450,647.35 as recommended by TLM. Roll call. All aye
10. Motion by Alderman Davis and second by Alderman Thompson to approve grant contract between State of Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs and City of Ripley for CESF equipment in the amount of \$44,598. Roll call. All aye
11. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Treadway to approve local agency project agreement between State of Tennessee Department of Transportation and City of Ripley for resurfacing Industrial Drive, from SR-209 to SR-3, estimated local cost \$32,112, federal cost \$128,448. Roll call. All aye

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor