

August 4, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Ripley Power Board Meeting
Ripley City Courtroom

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

Board members present: Alston, Chipman, Keeley, Long and Fitzhugh

Board members absent: Frazier

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Rachel Jackson, Fire Chief Tracey Worlds, Segreant Herbert Gwynn and Superintendent Mike Allmand

Visitors: Ron Goforth, Linda Love and Marcus Keeley

1. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Keeley to approve July 7, 2025 minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye

Public comments: none

Mayor's comments: none

Superintendent Allmand reported with the excessive heat in June, on June 25th an engine caught fire. Estimated cost of repair is \$993,000. It is an insurance issue. Hope to have it back up and running in a couple of months.

Mayor Fitzhugh adjourned meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor

August 4, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Ripley Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Ripley City Courtroom

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

Board members present: Alston, Chipman, Fraizer, Keeley, Long, Thompson and Fitzhugh

Board members absent: none

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Rachel Jackson, Fire Chief Tracey Worlds, Police Chief Mitchell Turner, Superintendent Johnie Ford, Sergeant Herbert Gwynn and Superintendent Scott Nelson

Visitors: Ron Goforth, Linda Love, Jennifer Maclin, Jeff Maclin, Zina Stuckey, James Bonds, Sr., Blake Broyles, Deborah Broyles, Kaye Jordan, Jay Heath, Dwight Beard, Angie Allmand and Tommy Sanders

Invocation: Superintendent Scott Nelson

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Long to approve July 7, 2025 Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye
2. Motion by Alderman Frazier and second by Alderman Thompson to approve July 2025 financial statement as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye

Correspondence: none

Mayor Fitzhugh: Rice Park financials received and can move forward.

Department reports:

3. Motion by Alderman Frazier and second by Alderman Chipman to approve department reports as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye

No public comments

4. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Thompson to approve reappointment of Dr. Claudia Joplin to the Ripley Housing Board (5-year term). All aye
5. Motion by Alderman Frazier and second by Alderman Keeley to approve resolution to authorize application for the supplemental disaster recovery funding program to replace two flood-prone lift stations with submersible pump systems. All aye

6. Motion by Alderman Keeley and second by Alderman Long to approve changing September monthly board meeting to September 8th due to Labor Day holiday. All aye
7. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Alston to approve contract between the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation and the City of Ripley for the provision of the routine maintenance of state routes – 24-month contract beginning July 1, 2025. All aye
8. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Thompson to approve advertising for Ripley Parks and Recreation Director, to provide for three-person committee of Chipman, Keeley and Frazier to serve on interview/hiring committee, and consider asking for MTAS study. All aye
9. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Thompson to amend Section 6 of the Ripley Charter: (a). The City shall be organized into the departments of general government, police, fire, gas and water, electricity, parks and recreation, and public works. However, the Mayor and Aldermen may abolish any of those departments, may create new departments, and may combine, or consolidate or merge any present or future departments. The Mayor and Aldermen shall appoint the heads of departments, and those heads of departments shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Board. The Mayor and Aldermen may authorize the appointment of such employees to staff the department as it deems necessary and may prescribe their duties or delegate that function to department heads. The employees of the various departments shall be appointed by, and serve at the will and pleasure of, the department heads and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. In addition to those officers and agents the Mayor and Aldermen are authorized elsewhere in the charter to appoint, the Mayor and Aldermen may also appoint such officers and agents as it deems necessary, and those additional officers and agents shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Aldermen shall fix the salary and wages of all officers and employees of the City. (b). The City shall have a separate department for its electric system which shall continue to be operated as a board of public utilities under the Municipal Electric Plant Law of 1935, and the board of public utilities shall consist of five (5) members and have all supervisory powers and authorities over the electric system as set forth in the Municipal Electric Plant Law of 1935.

Attorney Jackson stated her legal opinion is the motion can't go forward in its current form with the inclusion of those provisions of an independent board or five (5) member board membership.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated it is not a proper motion and under the ruling of legal counsel we will move on to the next item.

10. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Thompson to establish a five (5) member independent utility board to supervise and oversee Ripley Power & Light pursuant to Tennessee Municipal Electric Plant Law of 1935 and for the mayor to appoint four qualified individuals and one member of this board of Mayor and Aldermen under the provision of the Tennessee Municipal Electric Plant Law subject to the consent of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to serve on the independent utility board for Ripley Power & Light. The independent utility board shall have all supervisory authorities and responsibilities concerning

Ripley Power & Light as set forth in the Tennessee Municipal Plant Law.

Attorney Jackson stated it would be subject to its interaction with Section 6 of the Charter.

After discussion Alderman Thompson withdrew his second to the motion.

Motion failed for lack of second.

11. Alderman Alston made motion to appoint five board members to the Ripley Power & Light Company board. We have received applications. It was put in the newspaper for anyone that wanted to be on the Ripley Power & Light board that they could fill out an application. We did receive some applications.

Attorney Jackson stated that without the success of the prior action, this would not legally follow. We can't appoint members to a board that doesn't exist.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated an independent board doesn't exist at this stage of the game so that motion cannot move forward.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Mayor Fitzhugh thanked everyone for serving.

To view video of meeting in its entirety, please visit www.cityofripleytn.com.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor