

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

**August 13, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on August 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Brian Williams called the meeting to order.

Terry Arnold of Pentecostals of East Ridge gave the invocation. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Brian Williams, Vice Mayor David Tyler, Councilmember Jacky Cagle, Councilmember Jeff Ezell, Councilmember Andrea Witt, City Manager Brian Koral, City Attorney Litchford, Finance Director Diane Qualls

Public Attendance: Approximately 40 members of the public were present.

Mayor Williams recognized State Representative Esther Helton-Haynes, newly elected County Commissioner Josh Wichman, and newly elected School Board member Katie Perkins.

Milestone Award

Mayor Williams corrected the Milestone Service Award and recognized Travis Ezell for five years of service.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Witt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from Citizens

Don Coulter, 4429 Vector Lane, expressed opposition to charging a fee at the Community Center.

Tim Blaes, 1801 McBrien Road, asked whether fees would extend to the splashpad, park, and dog park.

Communication from Councilmembers

Councilmember Cagle and Councilmember Ezell reported no comments.

Vice Mayor Tyler and Councilmember Witt congratulated Katie Perkins and Josh Wichman on their election wins.

Mayor Williams invited Parks and Recreation Director Skiles to provide information on upcoming programs and events. He also highlighted Library programs and volunteer opportunities available through the Animal Services Department. Mayor Williams reported that he and City Manager Koral recently spoke at a Chamber of Commerce event and reminded residents to be mindful of school zones as students return to school. He concluded by asking that the community keep the family of Beau Hollis in their thoughts and prayers.

Communication from City Manager

City Manager Koral provided an update on the HVAC at Station 2, the outdoor Library space, Venue 1921, traffic calming efforts, and the August 2025 flood retrospective. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with State Representative Helton-Haynes, Senator Gardnehire, and Commissioner-Elect Wichman. He reported that a mower will be presented for consideration to be declared surplus property and stated that the East Ridge High School football program has expressed interest in the mower. Council raised no objection to a representative of the football program inspecting the mower before it is presented for Council approval to surplus. City Manager Koral then shared a letter from Aline Defiglia praising the Façade Grant program.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING - ORDINANCE NO. 1252 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9, BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC., BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 12, NAMED SPECIALTY SHOPS AND TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 481 RELATIVE TO ZONING REGULATIONS CONCERNING SPECIALTY SHOP ESTABLISHMENTS

City Attorney Litchford read the ordinance caption. Chief Building Official Howell reviewed the proposed ordinance and reported that the Planning Commission recommended approval with modifications to the distance requirements.

Mayor Williams opened the floor for public comment. One citizen addressed the Council on matters unrelated to the public hearing. There being no comments regarding the proposed ordinance, Mayor Williams closed the public hearing and proceeded to the first reading of the ordinance.

Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Ordinance No. 1252. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded.

Councilmember Cagle moved to amend Ordinance No. 1252 to require a minimum distance of 1,000 feet between a specialty shop and any public or private school, daycare facility, church or other place of worship, public park, or playground. The motion failed for lack of a second.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve Ordinance No. 1252. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3840 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION AND APPOINTING THE DIRECTORS OF THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON AND THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Mayor Williams presented information regarding the creation of a joint Sports Authority between the City of East Ridge and Hamilton County to facilitate planning and evaluation of a proposed indoor sports facility at Camp Jordan. The authority would consist of nine members, including four appointments by East Ridge, four appointments by Hamilton County, and one joint appointment. City Attorney Litchford reviewed the statutory process for establishing the authority and noted that the application had previously been approved unanimously by the Hamilton County Commission.

Vice Mayor Tyler moved to approve Resolution No. 3840. Councilmember Ezell seconded. Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3841 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MOBILE FOOD VENDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5521 RINGGOLD ROAD PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-1105(b) OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Building Official Howell stated the proposed overlay encompasses approximately 9,000 square feet and is zoned C-2. The application proposed one food truck with hours of operation identified as 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and no alcohol sales.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. Applicant Mo Barr was present and addressed the Council, stating that the proposed overlay district would provide opportunities for food truck vendors and activate a vacant

commercial property. Mark Rollins, 1318 West End Ave, and Zach Hutcherson, 817 Harris Drive, spoke in support of the resolution. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3841. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. Following discussion, both the motion and second were withdrawn.

Vice Mayor Tyler moved to table the item. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Witt moved to deny Resolution No. 3841. Councilmember Ezell seconded. Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – no; Councilmember Cagle – no; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3842 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MOBILE FOOD VENDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT STADIUM WAY PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-1105(b) OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Building Official Howell stated the proposed overlay encompasses approximately 13.4 acres, including the stadium property, and is zoned C-4. The application identified hours of operations as Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and included alcohol sales.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. Applicant Kenny Custer was present and addressed the Council. He noted that the application incorrectly listed operating hours as 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and requested that the hours be amended to approximately 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week, with most activity occurring on Saturdays and during events.

Councilmember Cagle raised questions regarding security requirements for large events. Police Chief Uselton explained that event security is governed by league requirements, including off-duty police officer presence and supplemental private security.

No additional speakers came forward to address the Council. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing.

Mr. Custer was asked to clarify the actual hours and days of operation. Prior to consideration of the resolution, Mr. Custer updated the application to reflect the corrected operating hours.

Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3842. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3843 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 F-150 TRUCK FOR USE BY THE BUILDING AND CODES DEPARTMENT

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Building Official Howell reviewed the purchase request.

Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3843. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3844 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A BRUSH CHIPPING AND GRINDING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LUMBERJACK'S TREE SERVICE, LLC

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Sanitation Supervisor Parker reviewed the contract.

Vice Mayor Tyler moved to approve Resolution No. 3844. Councilmember Ezell seconded. Following discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3845 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SIX FORD INTERCEPTOR SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Police Chief Uselton reviewed the purchase request.

Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3845. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. [There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3846 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RETURN OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER GRANT TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Development Administrator Hobbs-McAllister requested approval to return unexpended funds in the amount of \$9,032.53 from the FY2026 School Resource Officer Grant awarded by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3846. Councilmember Witt seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3847 - A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING AN APPOINTMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER EZELL TO THE EAST RIDGE HOUSING COMMISSION

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Councilmember Ezell moved to reappoint Grant Sowder to the East Ridge Housing Commission. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3848 - A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING AN APPOINTMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER WITT TO THE EAST RIDGE HOUSING COMMISSION

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Councilmember Witt moved to reappoint James Meyers to the East Ridge Housing Commission. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3849 - A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING AN APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR WILLIAMS TO THE EAST RIDGE PLANNING COMMISSION

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Mayor Williams moved to reappoint Scott Cornelius to the East Ridge Planning Commission. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3850 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A TEMPORARY ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH TFSC LAND, INC. FOR ACCESS TO SPRING CREEK AND RELATED STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND DEBRIS REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption and explained that the Temporary Access Agreement would allow City staff access to the litter boom installed in Chickamauga Creek for inspection, maintenance, and debris removal activities. He noted that significant debris had recently accumulated at the boom and that access through the private property was necessary to facilitate cleanup efforts.

Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3850. Councilmember Ezell seconded. Following brief discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda for the August 27, 2026 City Council Meeting (See Attachment A)

**ATTACHMENT A
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

August 27, 2026

Old Business

ORDINANCE NO. 1252 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9, BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC., BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 12, NAMED SPECIALTY SHOPS AND TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 481 RELATIVE TO ZONING REGULATIONS CONCERNING SPECIALTY SHOP ESTABLISHMENTS (2nd READING)

No discussion.

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Approval of a bid for professional sports photography services for youth and adult sports programs

Parks and Recreation Director Skiles stated that bids will be opened on August 19, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 13, 2026 Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of East Ridge was adjourned.

APPROVED:



MAYOR



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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

**August 27, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on August 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Vice Mayor David Tyler called the meeting to order.

City Attorney Litchford gave the invocation. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Vice Mayor David Tyler, Councilmember Jacky Cagle, Councilmember Jeff Ezell, Councilmember Andrea Witt, City Manager Brian Koral, City Attorney Mark Litchford, Finance Director Diane Qualls, City Clerk Jennifer Deitrick

Absent: Mayor Brian Williams

Public Attendance: Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes August 13, 2026

City Clerk Deitrick noted a correction to the August 13, 2026 meeting minutes, stating that City Attorney Litchford was present but the minutes incorrectly reflected Attorney Ritchey as being present. Councilmember Witt moved to approve the August 13, 2026 minutes as corrected. Councilmember Ezell seconded. There being no discussion, Vice Mayor Tyler called for a roll call vote. Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Vice Mayor Tyler – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from Citizens

Gail Phillips and Larry Phillips shared information regarding the Jones Memorial Baptist Church 48th Annual Barbecue, scheduled for September 12, 2026.

Communication from Councilmembers

Councilmembers Cagle, Ezell and Witt reported no comments.

Vice Mayor Tyler announced the upcoming 2026 East Ridge Fall Festival and highlighted several upcoming programs and activities offered through the East Ridge Library.

Communication from City Manager

City Manager Koral reported on the reopening of the Community Center, meetings with newly elected County Commissioner Josh Wichman and School Board Member Katie Perkins, recent Housing Commission action, upcoming Labor Day office closure, and announced the Optimist Club's September 11 Lunch of Honor. He also shared a citizen commendation recognizing Officer Jones and noted ongoing traffic safety efforts.

Vice Mayor Tyler reported on the East Ridge Community Food Forest kickoff meeting and highlighted volunteer opportunities associated with the Community Center's community garden.

Old Business

ORDINANCE NO. 1252 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9, BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC., BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 12, NAMED SPECIALTY SHOPS AND TO AMEND THE EAST RIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 481 RELATIVE TO ZONING REGULATIONS CONCERNING SPECIALTY SHOP ESTABLISHMENTS (2nd READING)

City Attorney Litchford read the ordinance caption. Chief Building Official Howell explained that the ordinance establishes regulations for specialty shops operating within the C-2 General Commercial District.

Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Ordinance No. 1252. Councilmember Witt seconded. There being no discussion, Vice Mayor Tyler called for a roll call vote. Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Vice Mayor Tyler – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. 3851 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO BROWN BROTHERS, INC. FOR THE MANA LANE EMERGENCY CULVERT REPLACEMENT

City Manager Koral explained that a sewer main was identified beneath the culvert and clearance issues were discovered. He stated that final adjustments were still being made and requested that consideration of the resolution be deferred.

RESOLUTION NO. 3852 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING PHOTOGRAPHY BIDS FOR THE 2026-2027 SPORTS SEASON

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Parks and Recreation Director Skiles reported that one responsive bid was received from School Days Photography and recommended award to the respondent.

Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3852. Councilmember Ezell seconded. Following brief discussion, Vice Mayor Tyler called for a roll call vote. Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Vice Mayor Tyler – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda for the September 10, 2026 City Council Meeting (See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A TENTATIVE AGENDA

September 10, 2026

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Development agreement for Ace Hardware of East Ridge, Inc.

City Attorney Litchford provided an overview of a proposed development agreement for Ace Hardware of East Ridge, Inc. He explained that the proposed agreement would provide the developer with 80% of eligible Border Region revenue until the agreed-upon incentive amount is reached.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Purchase of thirteen (13) patrol rifle packages for the East Ridge Police Department

Chief Uselton reviewed a request to purchase thirteen (13) patrol rifle packages for frontline officers to replace aging equipment. He noted that the purchase price of \$25,064 was included in the approved budget.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Approval of a temporary special event permit for the Guns and Hoses Event at Camp Jordan Arena

City Clerk Deitrick reported that a Temporary Special Event Permit request was submitted for the sale of alcohol during the Guns and Hoses event at Camp Jordan Arena on October 30, 2026. She explained that the permit would be issued to the event organizer, with alcohol sales to be conducted by the Camp Jordan concessionaire. She noted that City Council approval is required under Section 8-220 of the Municipal Code.

City Manager Koral requested that the resolution awarding a contract for the Mana Lane Emergency Culvert Replacement Project be added to the September 10, 2026 agenda. He reviewed the deteriorated culvert conditions, roadway undermining, potential impacts to nearby residential access, and coordination efforts with utility agencies regarding the repairs.

Vice Mayor Tyler relayed a resident's appreciation to the Streets Department for recently completing curb repairs on Chip Lane.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the August 27, 2026 Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of East Ridge was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

APPROVED:



MAYOR


CITY CLERK