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

October 8, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Brian Williams called the meeting to order.

City Manager Brian Koral gave the invocation. All present joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Attendance: Approximately 14 members of the public were present.

Milestone Awards

Mayor Williams recognized and thanked Terrie Leidholdt, Candace Brown, Tyler Ezell, Torrey Holder, Bobby Lee and Kee Adderholt for their years of service to the City.

Approval of Minutes September 24, 2026

Councilmember Witt moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2026 Regular Meeting. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from Citizens

Mayor Williams opened the floor for comments. No citizens came forward to address the Council.

Communication from Councilmembers

Councilmember Ezell reported no comments.

Councilmember Witt thanked the East Ridge Junior ROTC, the citizens, and the elected officials who participated in the Optimist Club River Rescue.

Vice Mayor Tyler announced the East Ridge Optimist Club 13th annual barbecue event on October 3, 2026. Tickets may be pre-ordered from any club member or online at eastridgeoptimistclub.org.

Mayor Williams shared upcoming Parks and Recreation events, including Community Thanksgiving and the Christmas Parade. He also announced that youth basketball registration is open at the Community Center through October 21, 2026 and that a free youth basketball clinic will be held October 24, 2026.

Communication from City Manager

City Manager Koral provided an update on the Mana Lane culvert replacement project, thanked the Optimist Club and Junior ROTC program for their work at the River Rescue, reported on his visit to East Ridge High School, provided an update on the request for proposals for the City's website, reported on the City's quarterly Safety Committee, and announced the National Night Out and Fall Market events that will be held at Venue 1921. Mr. Koral then shared a "Top of the Ridge" recognition for Ron Kitchens of the Parks team.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. 3859 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDENDUMS TO THE POLICE AND FIRE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE AND THE CITY OF RIDGESIDE TO PROVIDE FOR A FOUR PERCENT INCREASE IN THE COST OF SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027–2028

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. City Manager Koral explained that the addendum continues the City's ongoing relationship of providing police and fire services to the City of Ridgeside and includes a 4% increase in the cost of services. Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3859. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3860 - A RESOLUTION AWARDING THE BID FOR THE SPRINGVALE PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. City Manager Koral explained that the bids came in over the anticipated budget and that at the previous meeting Council gave direction to bring forward a contract for the base bid, half of the pavilion, and the additional parking. Mr. Koral stated that concern were raised regarding compliance with Section 7.1 of the bid specifications and presented two options: (1) award to the lowest responsive bidder, or (2) an expedited rebid limited to the seven firms that responded to the original bid, removing the Section 7.1 labor requirement and providing estimated quantities for line-item pricing.

Councilmember Witt moved to table Resolution No. 3860 with direction to staff to conduct an expedited rebid of the project. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously; Resolution No. 3860 was tabled.

RESOLUTION NO. 3861 - A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT GRANT FOR THE EAST RIDGE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Development Director Hobbs-McAllister explained that the funds will be used toward replacement batteries for the Fire Department. Vice Mayor Tyler moved to approve Resolution No. 3861. Councilmember Ezell seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3862 - A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2027 TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE HIGH VISIBILITY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,000

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Development Director Hobbs-McAllister explained that the grant is for the East Ridge Police Department for overtime enforcement hours only. Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3862. Councilmember Ezell seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3863 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO DONATE $500 TO SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3863. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3864 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO DONATE $500 TO EAST RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

City Attorney Litchford read the resolution caption. Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3864. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda for the October 22, 2026 City Council Meeting (See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A
TENTATIVE AGENDA
October 22, 2026

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - A resolution authorizing the purchase of a vehicle for the East Ridge Police Department to replace a vehicle declared a total loss

Police Chief Uselton reviewed the purchase request to replace a vehicle declared a total loss.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - A resolution authorizing the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the East Ridge Fire Department

Fire Chief Williams reviewed the purchase request to purchase a used 1999 International rescue truck for $10,000 to serve as the Department's rehab truck. In response to Council questions, Chief Williams explained that the truck is used for structure fires, major accidents, standbys, and extended incidents, and is not run daily.

Discussion of Traffic Calming Policy

City Manager Koral presented the draft Traffic Calming Policy and reviewed the four-step, resident-driven process established by the policy. In response to a Council question about the petition, Mr. Koral stated that the Code Enforcement Department would define the affected area from which signatures must be collected.

Mayor Williams asked if there were any additional items that should be added to the October 22, 2026 agenda.

Police Chief Uselton stated that a request would be presented to Council for approval to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Animal Shelter.

Vice Mayor Tyler noted that the Springvale Park bid award would be on the October 22 agenda.

Finance Director Qualls stated that resolutions authorizing a donation to the remaining schools would be presented at the next meeting.

City Manger Koral stated that a quarterly finance report would be presented at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of East Ridge was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

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

October 22, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to the meeting notice on October 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the East Ridge City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Brian Williams called the meeting to order.

Pastor Daniel Lance of True Life Church gave the invocation. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Brian Williams, Vice Mayor David Tyler, Councilmember Jeff Ezell, Councilmember Andrea Witt, City Manager Brian Koral, Attorney Jacob Ritchie, Finance Director Diane Qualls, City Clerk Jennifer Deitrick

Public Attendance: Approximately 25 members of the public were present.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the Quarterly Financial Report and the minutes of the October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting. City Manager Koral presented the fiscal year 2027 first-quarter financial report. 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 Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from Citizens

Mayor Williams opened the floor for comments.

Chester Perry, 3840 Altamira Drive, expressed disappointment regarding the City's removal of the native garden at his residence and requested that Council consider amending the ordinance to accommodate native and habitat landscaping. He also raised concerns about tall Johnson grass along Cline Road.

Lisa Harrison, 116 Douglas Drive, spoke in support of Mr. Perry and asked that the vegetation height regulations be revisited to allow native plant habitats.

Dan Perkins, 3829 Altamira Drive, spoke in support of Mr. Perry and asked whether the City has size or plant-type restrictions for residential gardens.

David Riall, 1314 S Seminole Drive, spoke in support of native landscaping.

Kelsey Freshour, 1112 S Seminole Drive, spoke in support of Mr. Perry, requested a resolution to amend Municipal Code Sections 13-103 and 13-104 recommended education for code enforcement staff on native plantings (including the Tennessee Smart Yards program), and recommended a sustainable land management plan. Ms. Freshour also commented on the draft Traffic Calming Policy, stating concerns regarding eligibility limits, the petition process and timeline, and the flexibility of the City's process.

Tyler Buck, 622 Marlboro Avenue, spoke in support of native lawns and the provision of options for residents to maintain them.

City Manager Koral – thanked Ms. Freshour for bringing up the TN Smart Lawn Program.

Members of Council expressed support for revisiting the vegetation height standard in the property maintenance code while balancing native landscaping with neighborhood property standards. City Manager Koral noted that the Tennessee Smart Yards program may be a useful resource. Citizens were encouraged to continue to contact Council members and staff directly.

Communication from Councilmembers

Vice Mayor Tyler reported on a ride along with Officer Miller of the East Ridge Police Department and commended the department.

Councilmember Witt thanked the Police Department for National Night Out and encouraged citizens to learn about the Citizens Police Academy.

Councilmember Ezell reported on the success of the Apple Festival and the soccer tournament at Camp Jordan Park.

Mayor Williams invited Police Chief Uselton to describe the Citizens Police Academy. Mayor Williams then shared information on the Fall Market, East Ridge Christmas Parade, East Ridge Community Thanksgiving, free basketball clinic at the Community Center, and announced upcoming Library events and programs.

Communication from City Manager

City Manager Koral provided updates on the Mana Lane culvert replacement project, Camp Jordan Park turf field enhancement project, Spring Creek and Chickamauga Creek cleanout project, and 2027 paving program. Mr. Koral then shared a "Top of the Ridge" recognition for Officer Kirby.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. 3865 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A USED RESCUE TRUCK FOR USE AS THE DEPARTMENT'S AIR AND REHABILITATION UNIT

Attorney Ritchie read the resolution caption. Fire Chief Williams reviewed the purchase request to purchase a used 1999 International rescue truck. Councilmember Ezell moved to approve Resolution No. 3865. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3866 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2027 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION UNDER STATE CONTRACT SWC 209

Attorney Ritchie read the resolution caption. Police Chief Uselton reviewed the purchase request to purchase a 2027 Chevrolet Traverse to be assigned to the Department's Criminal Investigation Division. Vice Mayor Tyler moved to approve Resolution No. 3866. Councilmember Ezell seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3867 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A USED 2025 RAM PROMASTER CARGO VAN FOR THE ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION OF THE EAST RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attorney Ritchie read the resolution caption. Police Chief Uselton reviewed the purchase request to purchase a used 2025 ProMaster Cargo Van for the Department's Animal Services Division. Councilmember Witt moved to approve Resolution No. 3867. Vice Mayor Tyler seconded. Following discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 3868 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO DONATE $500 TO EAST RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Attorney Ritchie read the resolution caption. Finance Director Qualls reported that East Ridge Elementary submitted a request for the funds to support a reading competition. Vice Mayor Tyler moved to approve Resolution No. 3868. Councilmember Ezell seconded. There being no discussion, Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote. Vice Mayor Tyler – yes; Councilmember Ezell – yes; Councilmember Witt – yes; Mayor Williams – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Traffic Calming Policy

City Manager Koral reviewed the proposed traffic calming policy and reviewed the resident-driven process established by the policy, reviewed the purpose of the policy, stated that it applies to residential streets only, and reviewed the basic criteria outlined in the policy. Council members expressed general support but cautioned against moving too quickly, citing the potential for traffic to be diverted to other streets, and asked that the policy be developed in coordination with multiple City departments. Council also asked that initial attention be given to traffic calming near Camp Jordan Park and to concerns raised by residents of Marlboro Avenue. By consensus, Council agreed not to take action on the policy at the November 12 meeting and to continue the discussion, and asked staff to seek public input through social media.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda for the November 12, 2026 City Council Meeting (See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A
TENTATIVE AGENDA
November 12, 2026

Old Business

RESOLUTION NO. 3860 - A RESOLUTION AWARDING THE BID FOR THE SPRINGVALE PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT – Take from the Table and Consider for Approval

City Manager Koral reported that the low bid of $687,000 did not meet the bid specifications requiring the contractor to perform at least 50% of the work with its own organization, and that the lowest compliant bid was $773,000 from Integrated Builds. Following a meeting with that contractor, value engineering of finishes would reduce the price to approximately $734,000. Mr. Koral noted that the project is funded by a $250,000 Hamilton County grant with the balance reimbursable from border region sales tax revenue. Council discussed the options and directed staff to move forward with the value-engineered proposal from Integrated Builds.

New Business

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Authorize the advancement of state salary supplement payments to eligible firefighters and police officers

Fire Chief Williams and Police Chief Uselton reviewed the request for the advancement of the salary supplement payments and the number of eligible firefighters and officers.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Accept a donation of $250.00 from the Chattanooga Track Club

Fire Chief Williams explained that the donation is for Fire Department EMS standby coverage at cross country events at Camp Jordan Park, and that the funds will be used to restock medical supplies.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Update the schedule of observed holidays

City Manager Koral stated that an employee survey identified a review and update of the City's holiday schedule as a high priority amongst employees. He reviewed the number of holidays currently observed by the City and the number of holidays observed by surrounding cities, counties, and the State of Tennessee.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Approve the Traffic Calming Policy

Council determined that a resolution for the Traffic Calming Policy will not be placed on the November 12, 2026 agenda for approval. The Traffic Calming Policy will be included on the agenda as a discussion item.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment to the Beer Board by Councilmember Witt

No discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment to the Beer Board by Mayor Williams

No discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Appointment of the Chairperson of the Beer Board by Mayor Williams

No discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 22, 2026 Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of East Ridge was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK