

September 3, 2024
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: Fitzhugh, Alston, Chipman, Davis and Thompson

Board members absent: Hankins and Treadway

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Rachel Jackson, Chief Mitchell Turner, Chief Tracey Worlds, Randy Danley, Superintendent Johnie Ford and Superintendent Mike Allmand

Visitors: Dadani Azeem, Courtney Kelley, Kimberly Taylor, Kavanna Lee, Joyce Cotton, Angie Mullins, Quenton Reed, Angela Allmand, Scott Lovelace, Jeb Lovelace, Dana Rose, Meagan Keeley, Sajal Patel, Juantia Campbell Norfolk, Corey Worlds, Sean Driver, Delphine Tyus, Pastor Rev. Terri D. Barlow, Sr., Ronald Barlow, Diane Beard, Robert Henning, Bridget Worlds, Masod Rana, Nelal Chirug, Arifun Nahar, Ron Goforth, Kami Wright, Debby Jenkins, Eunice Jenkins, Kenny Parham, Linda E. Love, Micah E. Middlebrook, Sr., Myles Brazier, Phillip Jackson, Shayla Olden, Cordera Olden, Donna Sanders, Tommy Sanders, James Bonds, Tracey Brewer-Walker, Paula Y. Lee, Aniq Amin, Steve Vickery, Kenneth Long, Candice Williams, Julie Bryant, Terry Williams, Chakita Keeley, Mike Hutcherson, Shannette Brown, Takyia Moore, Tayhler Moore, Tiffany Murphy, Brian Murphy, Marcus Keeley, Michael Kiestler, Larry & Teresa Trosper, Mike Worlds, Kaitlyn Murphy, Cindy Parham, Loretta Barnes and Corliss Anderson

Invocation: Mike Hutcherson

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Davis to approve August 5, 2024 Ripley Power & Light Board meeting minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye.
2. Motion by Alderman Davis and second by Alderman Alston to approve August 5, 2024 Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye.
3. Motion by Alderman Thompson and second by Alderman Alston to approve August 2024 financial statement as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye.

Scott Lovelace, General Sessions Judge, administered the Oath of Office of Mayor to Mayor Craig Fitzhugh.

Scott Lovelace, General Sessions Judge, administered the Oath of Office of Alderman presenting certificates to Nyrita Alston, Billy Chipman, Tyler Frazier, Chakita Keeley, Kenneth Long and Austin Thompson, Jr.

Meeting adjourned and resumed September 3, 2024 regular board meeting.

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

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

Board members absent: none

Correspondence: none

Public comments: Linda Love

Ms. Love stated she stood before the old board four (4) years ago stating there was a conflict of interest that Mayor Fitzhugh had all of the city's money in his bank. That happen when Ripley Power & Light took over a million dollars out of his bank and put it into an interest-bearing account. She's here tonight stating there is a conflict and that the other board didn't do anything. The city attorney stated there was conflict but it was up to the board to do something about it but the board didn't. She's here tonight to ask you (new board) to do something about this conflict and what she wants the board to do, if they will, is to remove all of the city's money out of the Bank of Ripley or Mr. Fitzhugh can resign as mayor and someone else can take over and we can still keep the money in his bank. Otherwise, we as taxpayers need to have our money in interest-bearing accounts that's working for us the citizens of Ripley.

Mayor's comments:

Pursuit to TCA 45-2-405 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary any officer, director, employee of any bank may serve in any capacity in state or local government except in any capacity with the department or any board commissioned or other agency of government unit provided that the officer, director, employee has disclosed to the chief executive officer to the bank and board of directors of the bank the capacity in which the officer, director or employee is serving the governmental unit and disclosed to the chief executive officer of the governmental unit and to the appropriate board, commission or other agency the relationship to the bank. Where there has been compliance with this section the existence of a dual regulationship shall not validate or adversely affect any sale, contract or other business transaction between the bank and the governmental unit. As used in this section, the bank is any state or national bank or state or federal savings and loan association or credit union

established to pursuant to Chapter 4 of this title.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated just as he did when he was elected to the first term, he made those disclosures to the chief executive officer of the bank and the board of directors. He stated he will make those same disclosures again now that he has been sworn into office this Friday at the regular monthly meeting at the bank. He stated he is disclosing to himself and to this board, as required by the statute, that he is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Ripley. He stated there had been some questions last time that if a certain person had control over the majority of the shares of the bank that that could be a general conflict of interest. However, that is not him. He has an interest in Fitzhugh Holdings which is a partnership composed of his family and him and there is only one general partner that has the authority to any of these transactions and that is not him. He will report back to this board as soon as he had the opportunity to make the other disclosure.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated he would consider making department liaison appointments at a later date.

Mayor's Department Head appointments:

City Recorder-Treasurer – Donna Buckner
City Judge – Tracey A. Brewer-Walker
City Court Clerk – Angie Mullins
City Attorney – Rachel Jackson
Police Chief – Mitchell Turner
Fire Chief – Tracey Worlds
Public Works – Johnie Ford
Parks and Recreation – Mike Worlds
Ripley Planning Commission – Alderman Tyler Frazier
Ripley Board of Zoning Appeals – Alderman Kenneth Long
Ripley, Gas, Water & Wastewater Board – Alderman Chakita Keeley
Ripley Housing Authority Board – Alderman Nyrita Alston

4. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Thompson to approve Department Head appointments. Aye – Alston, Chipman, Frazier, Keeley and Thompson, Nay – Long

Scott Lovelace, General Session Judge, administered the Oath of Office of city judge to Tracey A. Brewer-Walker.

Scott Lovelace, General Sessions Judge, administered the Oath of Office of city attorney to Rachel Jackson.

Chief Turner informed the board that Labor Day festivities went very well. He also introduced newly hired police officers: William Bolds, Joshua Williams, Zachary Murphy, Jace Jones, Christopher Michaels, Kevin Cates, Duston Garrett and Tim Coss.

Randy Danley thanked the board for all of their support over the years for himself and the park.

5. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Thompson to approve memorial resolution for Samuel Lee. All aye
6. Motion by Alderman Frazier and second by Alderman Keeley to approve off premises beer permit application for Murphy Oil USA, Inc. dba Murphy USA #7876 located at 630 Hwy 51 N. Ripley, Tennessee 38063. All aye
7. Motion by Alderman Alston and second by Alderman Thompson to approve application for license to engage in the business of package retail sales of intoxicating liquors in Ripley, Tennessee for Southside Beverage located at 500 S. Washington Street, Ripley, Tennessee 38063, owner Mike A. Pike, Sr. All aye

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor

September 3, 2024
Public Hearing/Special Called Beer Meeting
6:45 p.m.
Ripley City Courtroom

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

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

Board members absent: none

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Rachel Jackson, Chief Mitchell Turner, Chief Tracey Worlds, Randy Danley, Superintendent Johnie Ford and Superintendent Mike Allmand

Officer Micah Middlebrook addressed the board regarding alleged beer permit holder violations.

1. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Long to issue civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500 for second offense to Arifun Nahar, Eastland Express, 310 Eastland Ave., Ripley, Tennessee 38063. All aye
2. Motion by Alderman Thompson and second by Alderman Long to issue civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 for first offense to Dadani Azeem/Aniq Amin, Ripley Food Express, 231 N. Main Street, Ripley, Tennessee 38063. All aye
3. Motion by Alderman Thompson and second by Alderman Long to issue civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500 for second offense to Sajal M. Patel, Washington Street Wine and Liquor, 282 S. Washington Street, Ripley, TN 38063. All aye

Mayor Fitzhugh discussed the new microgrid project.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor