

**CITY OF EAST ELLIJAY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2025**

THE EAST ELLIJAY CITY COUNCIL CONVENED A COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 15, 2025 AT EAST ELLIJAY CITY HALL.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

DON CALLIHAN, MAYOR
CHRIS CALLIHAN, MAYOR PRO-TEM
ED FORRESTER
LINDA SMITH
JAMES WATERS

CITY OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

PETRINA PRITCHETT- CITY CLERK
LARRY CALLAHAN – PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR
JAXON WEST – CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
KENNY BARNEYCASTLE – STREET DEPARTMENT MANAGER

CALL TO ORDER:

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M. BY MAYOR DON CALLIHAN.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING UPON A MOTION BY LINDA SMITH AND A SECOND BY ED FORRESTER.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCIL REVIEWED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FOR THE LAST MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2024 AND THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON DECEMBER 23, 2024.

MOTION: ED FORRESTER

SECOND: CHRIS CALLIHAN

3. NEW BUSINESS

A- PUBLIC HEARING – TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

MAYOR CALLIHAN CALLED THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER REGARDING THE CITY'S INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HB581. THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS. MAYOR CALLIHAN CALLED TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 3:03 P.M.

MOTION: JAMES WATERS

SECOND: LINDA SMITH

B- PUBLIC HEARING – SHORT-TERM RENTAL

MAYOR CALLIHAN CALLED THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER REGARDING THE REPEAL & REPLACEMENT OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE 22-01. THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS. MAYOR CALLIHAN CALLED TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 3:04 P.M.

MOTION: CHRIS CALLIHAN

SECOND: JAMES WATERS

C- REVIEW/ACTION – ORDINANCE 2025-01 SHORT TERM RENTAL – 2ND READING

COUNCIL REVIEWED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 2025-01 FOR THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL.

MOTION: LINDA SMITH

SECOND: CHRIS CALLIHAN

D- REVIEW/ACTION – ORDINANCE 2025-02 NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE – 1ST READING

THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS PRESENTED FOR COUNCIL REVIEW. IT WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

MOTION:

SECOND:

E- REVIEW/ACTION – FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024

COUNCIL REVIEWED, DISCUSSED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024.

MOTION: JAMES WATERS

SECOND: CHRIS CALLIHAN

F- REVIEW/ACTION – NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

COUNCIL REVIEWED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BUSINESS LICENSES AS PER THE ATTACHED MEMO FROM STAFF MEMBER JACQUE HEFNER.

MOTION: LINDA SMITH

SECOND: ED FORRESTER

G. REVIEW/ACTION – NEW ALCOHOL LICENSES – NONE

NO MOTION WAS MADE ON THIS NEW BUSINESS ITEM BECAUSE THERE WERE NO NEW ALCOHOL LICENSES REQUESTED AT THIS TIME.

H. REVIEW/ACTION – DISCUSSION ON COUNTY’S REQUEST FOR ANNUAL PAYMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION

SINCE THE CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE COUNTY’S REQUEST TO ASSIST WITH THE PURCHASE OF A NEW LADDER TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000, \$100,000 IN THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AND \$100,000 IN THE 2025-2026 BUDGET ON THE CONDITION THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE 2025-2026 BUDGET AND THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN THE COUNTY’S PLANS OR CONDITIONS OF PURCHASED DETAILS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL. THE MAYOR SUGGESTED THAT THE CITY NOT COMMIT TO PROVIDING ANY YEARLY ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTY FIRE DEPT. AT THIS TIME. IF THE COUNTY REQUESTS, THE CITY WILL CONSIDER REVISTING THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS IN THE 2026-2027 BUDGET. THE COUNCIL AGREED WITH THE MAYOR.

MOTION: ED FORRESTER

SECOND: LINDA SMITH

I. REVIEW/ACTION – MANDATED PTSD INSURANCE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, LARRY CALLAHAN, DISCUSSED WITH COUNCIL ABOUT A NEW LAW THAT WENT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2025, REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC ENTITIES THAT HAVE EMPLOYED OR VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN BENEFITS RELATED TO POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER. THE COST TO THE CITY FOR THE PTSD PROGRAM INSURANCE WILL BE \$908.00 YEARLY. MOTION TO APPROVE SEMIANNUAL PAYMENTS OF \$454.00

MOTION: CHRIS CALLIHAN

SECOND: JAMES WATERS

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

5. **MAYORS REPORT**

A. APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY AS THE HEAD ZONING OFFICIAL FOR THE CITY OF EAST ELLIJAY

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS**

A. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT – LARRY CALLAHAN

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

7. **CITIZEN INPUT**

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 3:18 P.M.

MOTION: ED FORRESTER

SECOND: CHRIS CALLIHAN



DON CALLIHAN, MAYOR



PETRINA PRITCHETT, CITY CLERK