

Call City Meeting
Of
April 21, 2026

Mayor Shaw called the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 5:32 p.m.. Tuesday, April 21, 2026. The meeting was held at City Hall.

Invocation

Bro. Dan Russell offered invocation. Mayor Shaw led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Shaw, Alderman Senft, Alderman Gregory, Alderman Martin, Vice Mayor Gilmore, Kelly Rider, City Recorder

Absent: Attorney Russell Freeman

Citizen Comments

John Neely

Discuss and Review Budget

Kelly Rider reviewed the budget with the Board of Mayor and Alderman. The council discussed questions and concerns as the budget was being reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the board, Vice Mayor Gilmore moved for adjournment. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Shaw

Kelly Rider, City Recorder

City Meeting
Of
April 21, 2026

Mayor Shaw called the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, 2026. The meeting was held at City Hall.

Invocation

Bro. Dan Russell offered invocation. Mayor Shaw led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Shaw, Alderman Gregory, Alderman Martin, Vice Mayor Gilmore, Alderman Senft, Kelly Rider, City Recorder, Attorney Russell Freeman

Absent:

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. meeting were presented for approval or corrections.

Motion made by: Alderman Senft

Second: Alderman Gregory

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

The minutes of March 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m. meeting were presented for approval or corrections.

Motion made by: Alderman Gregory

Second: Alderman Martin

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

The minutes of March 30, 2026, meeting were presented for approval or corrections.

Motion made by: Alderman Senft

Second: Alderman Gregory

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Citizens Comments

John Neely
Brent Martin
Kristen Harrison
Dan Russell

Commissioners & Department Reports

Finance and Administration:

Mayor Shaw stated we are working on the budget process for the FY26-27 and hope to have it finalized by the end of May.

Mayor Shaw stated he would be remiss if he didn't bring this to everyone's attention. As a result of the lawsuit that was filed against the city, the city has been required to pay a \$10,000 deductible. This expense was incurred as a direct consequence of legal action and was not subject to prior approval or vote by the board.

Public Works and Streets:

Mayor Shaw stated he would like to thank Caleb Jones for the great job of brush pick up throughout the city.

Parks and Recreation:

Vice Mayor Gilmore reported the city will be having a fireworks display on July 3, 2026, at Ridgetop Station Park. The festivities will start at 5:00 p.m. with fireworks at dark. Vice Mayor Gilmore reported he has secured a civil war cannon to be there as well. He stated they will need lots of help as it seems many of the park board members will be on vacation for the weekend. Anyone that would like to volunteer for the event please reach out to him. There will be vendors and bounce houses. The event is free to the public.

Vice Mayor Gilmore reported Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. the city will be hosting a Grand Reopening of Bobby Robb Pioneer Park. The park has new fences, a new restroom, basketball court, new sidewalk to the pavilion and working to get a pickleball court. He stated he would like to give credit to Mayor Shaw and Alderman Senft as they took the reins and ran with this project.

Vice Mayor Gilmore stated the park board is looking to extend the fence at Ridgetop Station Park from the road alongside of the entry drive. Cars are driving in between the trees, and the roots of the trees have been exposed, and eventually we're going to lose some trees over time.

Vice Mayor Gilmore reported Ridgetop Station Park lost a tree in the last storm and there are a couple other dead trees to be taken down.

Alderman Senft stated there was also two horseshoe pits added at Bobby Robb Pioneer Park, thanks to the city workers.

Planning and Zoning and Codes Administration:

Alderman Senft reported a firework tent permit, several mechanical and accessory building permits were pulled this month.

Alderman Senft reported Planning and Zoning board did not meet this month.

Community and Economic Development:

Alderman Martin shared a handout with Board of Mayor and Alderman and citizens on the left side of the room. Alderman Martin stated you will see by looking at the document, Robertson County has only two large cities with community and economic development departments, in both of these cities, they are paid positions with education and experience requirements.

Alderman Martin stated she has stated repeatedly she does not have the skills for this role, that she believes it is apparent other small cities like us do not see the need for the department.

Alderman Martin stated in her opinion, adding this department is not justified for our three square miles, and was removed from her former appointment, streets, by Mayor Shaw after she opposed him in the election, and asked him twice to please reinstate her to streets where she had invested time, energy, learning and stated this is an example of retaliation.

Utilities:

Mayor Shaw reported that the gas department completed thirty-seven 811 locate tickets, 9 service orders, and meter readings and disconnects and reconnects.

Mayor Shaw reported that the sewer department completed thirty-seven 811 locate tickets, completed 9 service orders, and carried out multiple service disconnects and reconnects within the system.

Fire and Police:

Alderman Gregory reported two structure fires, 4 brush/grass fires, 1 vehicle fire, 4 mutual aid assist, 4 false calls, 1 MVA-10-45, 15 EMS assist, 5 First Responders and 2 Miscellaneous calls.

Alderman Gregory stated he met with Amy with GNRC and she invited him to a meeting they had last Tuesday, for an area plan on aging and disability services for Northern Middle Tennessee. They had a lot of information and have a lot of capabilities for aging and disability, disabled individuals, including housing remodels to accommodate wheelchairs, transportation and information for these type programs.

Alderman Gregory reported the department needs a few pieces of equipment to go with the Rescue Squad grant to complete the project. The additional cost will be \$4,400.

Business Reports:

City Recorder:

Kelly Rider reported it has been a busy month with budget, grants, ARPA, meetings and quarterly reports.

Attorney Freeman:

Attorney Freeman reported he had learned of a violation at 1777 Nelson where there are people living in an unpermitted garage. He stated we will probably need to ask Mike Bauer to look at this violation.

Attorney Freeman stated we are still in the process of trying to develop a good set of ordinances for truck weight limits to bring before the board. He is working with a lady at MTAS, trying to wade through the process versus number of axles.

Mayor Comments:

No Comment.

Old Business:

Discuss traffic safety sign installation, cross walk safety markings at Watauga School and safety striping on Cobb Street

Alderman Martin stated the traffic sign installation, cross walk safety markings at Watauga School and safety striping on Cobb Street were approved on November 19, 2024, and have not been done.

Mayor Shaw stated he spoke with Brian Dean and was informed the traffic signs had been installed.

Mayor Shaw stated regarding the cross-walk safety markings at Watauga School, he spoke with Director of Schools, Dr. Danny Weeks, and the county does not want the markings.

Mayor Shaw stated in regard to Cobb Street markings that was Alderman Martin's project and it was not followed through and did not get done. Alderman Martin asked if he would like her to put it back together and put it in writing so it can get finished. Mayor Shaw replied, yes, give me a list. Alderman Martin agreed.

New Business:

Ordinance 2026-103, An Ordinance of the City of Ridgetop, Tennessee, Adopting the Annual Budget (and Tax Rate) for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Alderman Senft made the motion Ordinance 2026-103, An Ordinance of the City of Ridgetop, Tennessee, Adopting the Annual Budget (and Tax Rate) for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Alderman Martin...no

Vice Mayor Gilmore...no

Mayor Shaw...yes

Alderman Senft...yes

Alderman Gregory...yes

Motion Carried.

Informal Training by Gary Jaekel

Gary Jaekel with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) stated he didn't want to take too much of their time but wanted to touch on the Charter.

Mr. Jaekel stated that following every municipal election of the mayor, upon receiving a majority approval from the board of Alderman, shall appoint each Alderman as a commissioner, including the mayor, subject to restricted provisions prescribed by ordinance, shall have full authority to exercise general supervision, that's a very important part, over the department head or a chief responsible for one (1) of the following municipal functions; finance and administration, public works, parks and recreation, planning. He stated you all have included zoning, but we kind of actually recommend that gets split out, code administration, community and economic development, utilities, fire, and police and other functions which may from time to time be designated by ordinance by the board of mayor and alderman.

Mr. Jaekel stated the authority that you have to exercise general supervision for a department head or a chief is only, and I've added the only, for one, of the municipal functions following municipal election. Your charter says each of you can only be responsible for one area. On page 4-6 of the municipal code, actually, you have the full authority to supervise and manage each of the following municipal functions, taxation, road and streets, zoning and police and fire. Whatever is left over that aldermen aren't being assigned to, get to go to the mayor to be responsible for. Which actually is happening, because I think he has three areas assigned to him.

Mr. Jaekel stated your charter is a private act charter, any changes that you want to make to your charter, you must first submit it to the State of Tennessee legislature.

Appoint Park Board Member

Vice Mayor Gilmore made the motion to appoint John Neely to the park board. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Letter to consider waiving park rental fee

Vice Mayor Gilmore made the motion to waive the \$500 rental fee for GreenRidge Chamber of Commerce for the Wheels, Wags, & Family Fun event on June 6, 2026. Alderman Senft seconded.

Alderman Martin...yes

Vice Mayor Gilmore...yes
Mayor Shaw...yes
Alderman Senft...yes
Alderman Gregory...yes
Motion Carried.

Bid Advertisement for Paving of Pioneer Park

Alderman Gregory made the motion to bid advertise for the paving of Pioneer Park. Vice Mayor Gilmore seconded.
Voting Aye: All
Voting No: None
Motion Carried.

Bid Advertisement Sewer Chemical Vendor

Vice Mayor Gilmore made the motion to bid advertise a sewer chemical vendor. Alderman Senft seconded.
Voting Aye: All
Voting No: None
Motion Carried.

Discuss CivicPlus Municipal Software

Alderman Martin made the motion to defer discussion of CivicPlus municipal software. Vice Mayor Gilmore seconded.
Voting Aye: All
Voting No: None
Motion Carried.

Discuss duties and responsibilities for CMFO certified city office employees

Alderman Senft asked Alderman Martin to share what this discussion was about.

Alderman Martin stated our ladies, our wonderful ladies, our amazing staff. They all have the same certification now, so they should be treated differently and be able to do more, but I want to defer it until next month.

Kelly Rider asked Alderman Martin what she thought should be done differently. Mr. Jaekel just shared the office staff all do seven jobs. What more do you think we could do. Alderman Martin stated, well, it's not more, it's kind of differently and we can discuss that next month.

Alderman Martin made the motion to defer. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Alderman Senft...no

Alderman Martin...yes

Vice Mayor Gilmore...no

Mayor Shaw...no

Alderman Gregory...no

Motion Failed.

Alderman Martin stated I have my message here, all three of our office employees have obtained the certification of CMFO, which is an amazing thing for us to have that kind of talent here in the city office. The city paid for their education and their pay has already been increased to reflect their new and equal abilities. New opportunities are at our doorstep as we march into the future. No longer will only one person be relied upon to access documents or ask our customers to make appointments to fulfill their requests. Our employees will be able to have vacations or days off without shutting down various city functions because only one person can perform a task. Full cross training hopefully would take a few months, but we should be up and running in no time flat. With the added knowledge they have acquired, the issue of separation of duties in our audit findings should also be a thing of the past.

Kelly Rider stated she spoke with the comptroller's office, which she understood Alderman Martin had reached out to about segregation of duties, and spoke with our city auditor as well. The difference between the finding Alderman Martin is concerned about on segregation of duties is access. Kelly does have access to all duties however does not access every duty. It is just availability of the access. The comptroller was not concerned with the finding in the audit.

Discuss expansion of city hall operations, days/hours, etc.

There was a brief discussion of city hall hours of operations.

Remove Item C- Appoint Joint Economic and Commissioner & D – Appoint Community Development Commissioner

Based upon the presentation by Gary Jaekel regarding the timing of the appointments to municipal functions and statement of legal counsel, Alderman Gregory made the motion to remove Item C- Appoint Joint Economic and Commissioner & D – Appoint Community Development Commissioner. Alderman Senft seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Add Resolution 26-04, A Resolution to Apply for Financial Grant Assistance as provided under the FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Mayor Shaw made the motion to add Resolution 26-04, A Resolution to Apply for Financial Grant Assistance as provided under the FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Vice Mayor Gilmore made the motion to approve Resolution 26-04, A Resolution to Apply for Financial Grant Assistance as provided under the FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Alderman Senft seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, Vice Mayor Gilmore moved for adjournment. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Tim Shaw

Kelly Rider, City Recorder