

Oak Ridge City Council

May 11 Regular Meeting & May 21 Special Meeting

Among other items at its May 11 meeting the council approved another extension of a short-term lease of 10,000 square feet in the Daniel Arthur Rehabilitation Center to use as the Senior Center. The new lease from Anderson County runs through May 31, 2017, and gives the city the right to then buy the property for \$1. Until then the city will pay the county \$5,170 a month. The facility will be renamed the Anderson County/Oak Ridge Senior Center, and county residents are welcome.

On May 21 at a Special Meeting, City Council approved an agreement to allow the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), of the UT Institute for Public Service, to study Oak Ridge police turnover, morale, and administrative policies.

Payment for MTAS work should be about \$26,000, and the study will be finished in mid to late October. Interviews will be conducted with all current employees and those who have left since Police Chief James Akagi took office in July 2011. One hour is set aside for each interview, and all will be scheduled by the city Personnel Department. This agreement is the culmination of several months of contentious meetings, exchanges on social media, and inflammatory press coverage.

~Anne Adamson, Observer