

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on February 5, 2019, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Toles. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Cannon and Reed. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on January 29, 2019, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of January 25-31, 2019 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#188614-188727	General	\$323,498.73
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 21 Sommersworth Avenue in District 6, which was tabled for 30 days on January 2, 2019, was presented for consideration. Councilman Cannon noted purchase of the property by a new owner is in progress, and moved to table the resolution an additional 14 days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and Councilman Wilson then unanimously carried.

(2) The following resolution, which was tabled for 30 days on January 2, 2019, was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-42-19

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 3501 Williams Avenue - District 7 - FNA NP, LLC)

Councilman Reed moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

(1) The following resolution was presented in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-43-19

AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF  
SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR VERIZON

(Extending Special Use Permit approved by Resolution No. R-305-18 - Verizon - To modify equipment at the existing Wireless Telecommunication Facility located at 278 Hillview Road  
Note: Location is just outside city limits, but is located within planning jurisdiction)

Councilman Cannon moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.

(2) The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-44-19

ESTABLISHING DATE FOR SPECIAL ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL BOARD

(Authorizing Special Election on April 9, 2019 - To elect school board members from each of seven City districts - Runoff Election, if necessary, will be held on May 21, 2019)

Councilman Cannon noted that qualifying will begin on February 12 when the Mayor's notice of election is published and will continue for two weeks. He said newly elected members will take office immediately when the election results are certified (April 16, 2019).

Councilman Cannon moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilman Wilson introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-19

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR  
VOICE OVER INTERNET PHONE SYSTEM

(Authorizing Agreement - TeleSystems, Inc. - For ClearVoice VOIP phone system - For Transportation Department, to be located at 1699 Chestnut Street)

President Toles received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously adopted.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton referred to today's discussion on the incarceration of City prisoners in the Etowah County Detention Center, stating other cities pay \$4 per day plus booking fee, and the county's offer to Gadsden was \$48 for up to 50 prisoners and \$58 for over 50. He cited projects and services the City contributes to that benefit the entire county and pointed out that city and county boards of education receive tax proceeds generated by industries, when the City solely funds the Industrial Development Authority. The Mayor said increases in prisoner population were beyond the City's control and requests for information regarding the cost of housing prisoners were not honored. Several Council members commented on the issue, noting the City was given a date to vacate the jail unless an agreement is reached, and communications raised doubts regarding their desire to negotiate. Hope was expressed that an agreement between the Sheriff, County Commission, and City Council will be reached because, although there are alternatives, operating a City jail may be cost prohibitive.

Councilman Williams announced an event celebrating 19 years for the Summer Enrichment Program on Saturday, February 9, at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Councilman Back announced a District 4 meeting at 6 p.m. on February 11 in the Eura Brown Elementary School lunchroom, which will include tours of the school at 5:30 p.m. He reported that last week's joint District 1 and District 4 meeting was well attended by fifty to sixty people.

Councilman Wilson apologized to a constituent he confronted after observing them making a dangerous traffic maneuver.

President Toles stated the recent vandalism at Moragne Park was shameful and noted a \$500 reward is in place. She thanked attendees who were present and encouraged the public to make a real investment in our city.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was duly adjourned.

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (2-5-2019)

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