

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
MARCH 17, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on March 17, 2020, 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 was absent and Lee Roberts was also present.

The invocation was given by Kent Back.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on March 3, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the weeks of February 28-March 5 and March 6-12, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#198277-198485	General	\$1,084,120.70
#198486-198691	General	\$1,097,385.26

PUBLIC HEARING

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct a public hearing allowing anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Vendetta Italian Ristorante at 208 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-95-20

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(Vendetta, LLC - Vendetta Italian Ristorante - 208 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street - District 4 - Restaurant Retail Liquor License)

Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Williams; Worthy; Back; Wilson; Reed

NAYS: Toles; Cannon

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-96-20

APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS  
TO GADSDEN CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION, INC.

(Appointing Helene Haller for term ending January 1, 2022 - Appointing Teresa Rhea and Spencer Williams for terms ending January 1, 2023 - Reappointing Michael Causey and Kay Moore for terms ending January 1, 2022 - Reappointing Lisa Thacker for term ending January 1, 2023)

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

### NEW BUSINESS

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

#### RESOLUTION NO. R-97-20

##### APPROVING ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSE

(Approving Issuance of Business License - Lavada Jones - East Coast Barbeque - 1440 East Broad Street - District 1 - Note: Finance Director denied license pursuant to City Code Section 74-84 because owners are currently indebted to City for past due sales tax - Applicant appealed to City Council pursuant to City Code Section 74-85)

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

(2) Councilman Reed introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

#### RESOLUTION NO. R-98-20

##### AUTHORIZING PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

(Proclaiming local public health emergency - Approving proclamation adopted by Etowah County Commission - Regarding Alabama Department of Public Health declaration for COVID-19, Hepatitis A, and Influenza)

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

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Jen Weathington, Parks & Recreation Director, announced closure of buildings, parks, and playgrounds due to the COVID-19 (Corona virus) pandemic, noting some passive park facilities are open for casual use only. She also announced a number of events that have been canceled and postponed.

Mike Hilton, Public Works Director, announced the recycling center, inert landfill, and transfer station will be closed to the general public tomorrow, until further notice, noted that haulers will continue to use the tipping floor. He added departmental operations will be prioritized.

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, gave a reminder concerning today's audit review at 1:30 p.m.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council members announced cancellation of the following meetings: (1) District 1 meeting scheduled for March 23; (2) District 6 meetings at Banks Park until further notice; (3) District 5 meeting at the Library

Councilman Worthy reiterated that senior nutrition sites at Carver and Elliott Community Centers will continue via drive-through access and delivery.

Several Council members encouraged residents to follow guidelines concerning the health emergency and to seek reliable information.

Councilman Williams stated his desire to designate the remainder of District 2 discretionary funds to city departments that are in need due to reducing revenues, or for assistance to the board of education for students dependent upon the school system for meals.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (3-17-2020)

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