

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
MAY 16, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 16, 2023, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Back. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra and Robinson. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on May 9, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of May 5-11 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#224289-224433	General	\$411,640.67
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On behalf of Mayor Ford, John Moore (Director of Economic Development & Governmental Affairs) read a proclamation proclaiming May 19, 2023, as “Bill Avery Day” in Gadsden and presented it to him. The public was encouraged to attend Mr. Avery’s free concert on May 19 at the Amphitheater.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 235 N. 6th Street in District 3, which was tabled for 30 days on April 11th, was presented for consideration. Zelamina Johnson was present and advised the council a tarp is in place on the roof. A discussion followed regarding efforts to get the property listed on the historic register, grant opportunities, needed repairs, and safety concerns. Councilman Wilson offered advice regarding historic tax credits. Councilman Avery expressed his desire to eliminate blight and said he will monitor the progress. He moved to table the resolution indefinitely, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-286-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3514

(Awarding Bid No. 3514 - Ten 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Police Pursuit Vehicle Trucks - Donohoo Chevrolet, LLC - \$455,767.40)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-287-23

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY

(Appointing Members - Echo Byers to replace Dalton Hopper for term expiring on 8-1-23 - Mike McEleney to replace Tim Heard for term expiring on 8-1-25 - Myra Reagan to replace Caleb Campbell for term expiring on 8-1-25 - Rita Smith to replace Jazmin Winston for term expiring on 8-1-27)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-288-23

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF
TEN EVOLUTION 12FM RADAR SIGNS WITH SOLAR PANELS

(Authorizing Purchase through National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance - Ten Evolution 12FM Radar Signs with Solar Panels - Traffix Logix Corporation - \$33,110.00)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-289-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
GOODWYN MILLS CAWOOD, LLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC - \$33,000.00 - To complete Assessment and Programming of Mort Glosser Amphitheatre)

Councilman Wilson referred to a letter from a concerned citizen regarding consideration for historical buildings in the comprehensive master plan, noting this is an example of addressing long term use. President Back noted issues with the structure are being addressed and there are no plans to move or demolish it.

He then moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinance was introduced in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-33-23

AUTHORIZING TIF FUNDS FOR EXPENDITURES

(Appropriating Tax Increment Financing Funds - \$33,000.00 - Funding for agreement with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC regarding Assessment and Programming of the Mort Glosser Amphitheatre)

Councilman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance at its first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra, Robinson

NAYS: None

Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-290-23

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO FY 2024 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

(Authorizing Grant Application and Acceptance - Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program - Estimated project cost of \$1,185,244.00 - Maximum project cost of \$1,000,000.00 - For improvement of sidewalks in downtown area - Note: City's match is 20% plus any amount over \$1,000,000.00)

President Back received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Wilson explained the project area of this program, as well as last year's. He moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously adopted.

(Councilman Avery and Chief Jaggears left the meeting at this time, and Captain Keener sat in for the chief.)

(2) Councilman Wilson introduced the following ordinance in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-34-23

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

(Amending FY2023 Budget - Transferring \$455,767.40 from unassigned fund balance - For purchase of 10 Ten 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Police Pursuit Vehicle Trucks approved by Resolution No. R-286-23)

Councilman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance as an item of new business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra, Robinson

NAYS: None

Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Minatra and unanimously adopted.

(3) Councilman Robinson introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-291-23

AUTHORIZING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH
CHAD'S HEATING AND COOLING

(Authorizing Agreement - Chad's Heating and Cooling - \$500.00 per month - To perform weekly maintenance inspections on boiler and chiller at City Hall)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

On behalf of Kay Moore, Director of Downtown Gadsden, Inc., President Back announced Main Street Alabama meetings with a consultant on Thursday and Friday regarding creation of a real estate redevelopment plan, as well as a public walking and visioning tour at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

COUNCIL REMARKS

On behalf of Mayor Ford, Brett Johnson (Chief of Staff) reported on progress of S. 11th Street paving, noting a detour will be in place. President Back suggested repairing potholes on the detour streets, noting damage occurred to a citizen's tire. Mr. Johnson encouraged everyone to complete "Grow Gadsden" surveys, announced Bill Avery's free concert on May 19 and the Mayor's Memorial Day Bash on May 27.

Councilwoman Minatra announced a Public Works Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 24.

Councilman Wilson expressed hope that the radar equipment purchase will help reduce speeding and reiterated the need to submit "Grow Gadsden" surveys.

Councilman Smith announced tonight's District 2 meeting and applauded the efforts of officials to improve our city.

Councilwoman Latham thanked Valerie Taylor, Guidance Counselor, for the invitation to participate in the recent "career day" at Striplin Elementary School.

President Back noted Councilman Avery had left due to a previous appointment. He thanked the Fire Department for assistance with last Saturday's Salvation Army roadblock and announced tonight's annual banquet. President Back congratulated Mayor Ford for his election to the Alabama League of Municipalities board of directors at last week's conference.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (5-16-23)

FOURTH FLOOR LOBBY - BID OPENING
MAY 16, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

The City Clerk received bid proposals as advertised for the following bid:

Bid No. 3513 - New Building for Animal Habitat at Noccalula Falls Park

	<u>Base Bid</u>
Bob Smith Construction, Inc.	\$1,196,101.50
Hudak Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,404,773.50
Greer Building Contractors	\$1,413,829.00

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the City Engineer, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
