

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
JUNE 23, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on June 23, 2020, in regular session.

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

The invocation was given by President Toles.

Josh Tanner, Emergency Management Agency Specialist, provided an update on COVID-19 and announced a drive-through testing event sponsored by Riverview Hospital on Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The minutes of the Public Safety Committee, Work Session and Council meeting held on June 16, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of June 12-18, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#200971-201063	General	\$531,472.28
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) The following ordinance, which was introduced for first reading at last week's meeting, was presented for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-17-20

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY  
LOCATED AT 107 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH

(Authorizing Conveyance of Property -107 7<sup>th</sup> Street North in District 2 - PPIN 035609 - Accepting offer of \$1,000.00 from Lolithe Ealy)

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

PUBLIC HEARING

The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak in opposition to or in favor of an ordinance approving the rezoning of property at 246 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street in District 4 from B-2, General Business District, to B-1, Neighborhood Business District. (The Planning Commission recommended approval.) No one spoke. President Toles stated the ordinance had been presented today for the first reading, and the Council will vote on it next week.

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-129-20

ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM KHAJRA  
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.

(Accepting Proposal - Khafra Engineering Consultants, Inc. - \$10,136.00 - To complete construction administrative services for construction of East Gadsden Community Center)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-130-20

APPOINTING AUDITOR

(Authorizing Auditor - Carr, Riggs, & Ingram - \$67,500.00 - To audit City accounts for FY2020)

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 Cannon and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-131-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH  
ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Authorizing Agreement - Etowah County Board of Education - To allow City to install french drain system to offset any potential adverse effects created during borrow pit excavation adjacent to Hokes Bluff High School)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-132-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH  
CAPSTAR RADIO OPERATING COMPANY

(Authorizing Translator Site Agreement - Capstar Radio Operating Company - For installation, maintenance and operation of equipment on City communications tower and building at 909 Bellevue Drive - Rent of \$600 per month for 7-1-20 through 6-30-21; \$650 per month for 7-1-21 through 6-30-22; \$700 per month for 7-1-22 through 6-30-23; \$750 per month for 7-1-23 through 6-30-25 - Term of 5 years, with option to extend additional 5 years)

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-133-20

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE  
OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS

(Authorizing Application and Acceptance of Coronavirus Relief Funds through the CARES Act - \$1,677,217.00 - For reimbursement of expenses related to Covid-19)

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 Back and Cannon then unanimously adopted.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-18-20

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

(Amending FY2020 Budget - Reflecting receipt of and appropriating Coronavirus Relief Funds from CARES Act - \$1,677,217.00)

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

AYES: Toles, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: None

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

PUBLIC

John Anderson shared historical information he had gathered regarding the life of Emma Samson and voiced his opposition to moving the statue from its location on Broad Street.

Larry Suttles shared personal experiences of racist treatment and encouraged community members to treat each other better.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Several council members and the mayor spoke about the rise in cases of coronavirus and urged wearing masks in public, social distancing, and staying at home if possible.

Several council members thanked the Mayor’s office, Lisa Rosser, and Eric Wright for their work on acquiring Coronavirus Relief Funds through the CARES Act and the proposed plan for spending of funds. Councilmen Reed and Wilson both noted that all sworn officers/first responders will receive \$1,000 in supplemental pay, which is much higher in comparison to the amount given by other local cities. Councilman Wilson expressed appreciation for the planned small business assistance of up to \$3,000 each for approximately 150 businesses.

Councilman Back wished Eric Wright a happy birthday.

Councilman Worthy shared his views regarding racism and Confederate monuments. He spoke about recent marches in Gadsden, which he said were peaceful.

Councilman Wilson shared his view that relocating the Emma Sansom monument was an attempt to save the statue from being destroyed, stating he felt that future generations will not have an attachment to the monument and will not care to preserve it. He suggested the formation of a task force to study the options of what to do with the statue.

Councilman Reed expressed his respect for the local police and protestors, but feels that the community is being divided. He encouraged the community to stand together.

Councilwoman Toles thanked Jennifer Smith for her assistance in the absence of City Clerk Iva Nelson. She reminded the public of the Summer Feeding Program at the East Gadsden Community Center. She expressed her support of fellow council members, even when they disagree, and her intention to focus on taking care of her district and the business of the city.

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

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Jennifer Smith, Acting City Clerk (6-23-20)

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FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING  
JUNE 23, 2020 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3435 - Detention Pond Construction at the City of Gadsden Borrow Pit

Alabama Grading and Excavation	\$129,160.00
Norris Brothers Excavating	Determined to be non-responsive

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

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