

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 4, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 4, 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, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts, and Captain Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by President Toles.

The minutes of the work session, regular council meeting, and special council meeting held on July 28, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 24-30, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#201766-201870	General	\$888,008.78
----------------	---------	--------------

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, provided an update on COVID-19, noting there have been 538 new cases in the past 14 days, with 28 total confirmed deaths. She discouraged the use of 9-1-1, except in life threatening situations. Ms. Gaither presented information on testing sites, as well as a drive-through testing event at Antioch Baptist Church on Wednesday.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-217-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3432

(Awarding Bid No. 3432 - Uniform Rentals - Cintas - \$5.16 per week)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-218-20

APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS  
TO ELECTRICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

(Appointing Renza Avery and reappointing Jeff Phillips for terms expiring 6-28-21 - Reappointing Kenneth Turner for term expiring 6-28-22 - Reappointing Tom McElrath and Ray Coleman for terms expiring 6-28-23 - Reappointing Jay Morgan and Chuck Beshears for terms expiring 6-28-24)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-219-20

REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. R-148-20 AND R-149-20

(Repealing Resolution Nos. R-148-20 and R-149-20 - Relating to Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2020 Local Solicitation and Interlocal Agreement between the City, Etowah County Commission, and Etowah County Sheriff's Department - Reason: Due to change in fund allocation)

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 Back and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-220-20

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE FOR JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Application and Acceptance - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2020 Local Solicitation - \$33,860.00 - For purchase of ballistic shields and to provide National Incident Based Reporting Systems training - City will purchase on behalf of Etowah County Sheriff's office a remote-controlled surveillance platform)

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 Back and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-221-20

AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

(Authorizing Interlocal Agreement - City of Gadsden, Etowah County Commission and Etowah County Sheriff's Department - Regarding 2020 JAG Grant in the amount of \$33,860.00 - Designating City as applicant/fiscal agent for grant - City will purchase ballistic shields and provide NIBRS training in the amount of \$17,545.00 - City will purchase on behalf of the Sheriff's Office a remote-controlled wheeled surveillance platform in the amount of \$16,315.00)

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 Reed and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-222-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3436

(Awarding Bid No. 3436 - Cooling Tower Replacement for Gadsden City Hall - Stateline Mechanical, LLC - \$97,950.00)

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 Back and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, presented the financial review for July 2020. She noted overall General Fund losses are currently 3.6%, down from the initial 23% reported in May. Ms. Rosser attributed increases in sales tax revenue to Federal stimulus programs and noted occupational tax and recreational services revenue remain lower.

MAYOR COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Reed announced work on Noccalula Road will resume in the near future.

Councilman Cannon described the past week as trying and thanked his family and friends for their prayers.

Councilman Worthy highlighted census response rates and referred to an upcoming advertising campaign. Mayor Guyton noted that Gadsden State Community College is preparing ads. Councilmen Back and Wilson urged the public to submit their questionnaires.

Mayor Guyton said he had received numerous calls concerning the board of education and advised he has no control over the school system, which is governed by its own elected board.

Councilman Williams congratulated Laura Minton on her educational accomplishments at Auburn University, noting she is beginning medical school at UAB. He noted some companies are hiring, with others laying off employees. Councilman Williams apologized to Councilman Cannon for remarks he made last week while he was upset regarding treatment of the young man who spoke. He reiterated his plea to society to help stamp out racism and encouraged dialogue.

Councilman Back thanked the Mayor and Finance Director for their leadership in financial matters. He encouraged everyone to practice safety measures for COVID-19 and announced food distributions tomorrow at First Baptist Church and Saturday at Gadsden Christian Fellowship. Councilman Back highlighted two advertisements for jobs requiring skilled laborers.

Councilman Wilson presented information regarding Human Relations Advisory Committee, the subcommittee authorized by President Toles, noting the intent is to create an area for citizen participation, in addition to council meetings. He referred to accusations regarding his residency, noting he resides at 525 Turrentine Avenue, and invited visitors.

President Toles announced tomorrow's COVID-19 testing event at Antioch Baptist Church and noted The Love Center is in need of supplies.

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

---

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-4-2020)

\*\*\*\*\*