

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 8, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 8, 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 work session, council meeting, and special called council meetings held on August 1, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 28-August 3 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#226174-226365	General	\$ 876,158.98
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Brett Johnson (Mayor's Chief of Staff), Ruth Moffatt (Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), John Moore (Director of Economic and Governmental Affairs), Tena King (Director of City Services), and Derek Mummert (EMA Director) joined in commending other cities and governmental entities, utilities, volunteers, first responders, and employees for their able assistance and response to the thunderstorm and the damage it caused on August 3. Councilmembers also expressed their gratitude.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-50-23

REZONING 808 SOUTH 4TH STREET

(Approving Rezoning - 808 South 4th Street - District 4 - From O-1, Office District to B-2, General Business District- Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Ghanshyam Patel - To establish an art gallery in the front portion of the building)

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-51-23

REZONING PROPERTIES ON FIELDS AVENUE

(Approving Rezoning - Properties on Fields Avenue - Lots 18-23, Block A, Mayfair Estates - District 1 - From I-2, Heavy Industry District, to I-1, Light Industry District - Requested by Free Range Properties (Steve Smith and Noah Smith) - To better market to potential tenants)

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-52-23

REZONING 809 VANDELL BOULEVARD

(Approving Rezoning - 809 Vandell Boulevard - District 6 - From R-1, One-Family Residence District, to I-1, Light Industry District- Requested by Ricky Joe Wells and Ricky Joe Wells, Jr. - To establish storage and repair garage for an automobile dealer - Note: Former Alabama City Fire Station #7)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-470-23

AUTHORIZING SCSEP HOST AGENCY AGREEMENT PY2023

(Authorizing Host Agency Agreement - Sponsor Agency: East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission - Term of 7-1-23 to 6-30-24 - To comply with Center for Workforce Inclusion and Alabama Department of Senior Services - Regarding Senior Community Service Employment Program)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

The following ordinance was introduced in writing and read by President Back:

ORDINANCE - AMENDING BUDGET FOR FUND 002 - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
(Equipment for Police Department)

Since no action was taken in this meeting, the ordinance will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting for consideration.

ADDITIONAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Latham moved to remove a resolution authorizing issuance of an alcoholic beverage license to 4th Quarter Bar and Grill at 1419 E. Broad Street, which was tabled indefinitely on November 22, 2022, from the table. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Latham stated the business has a history of selling alcohol without a license and after legal hours. She added police officers were dispatched to the location for a large number of incidents. Councilwoman Latham moved to consider the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson. The resolution failed to be adopted by the following vote:

AYES: None

NAYS: Latham, Smith, Back, Wilson, Minatra, Robinson

ABSTENTIONS: Avery

COUNCIL REMARKS

The council joined in praising the city's organized response and recovery efforts from last week's thunderstorm, and thanking those who have volunteered to help. President Back asked for the public's patience as Public Works' collection schedule has been interrupted.

Councilman Avery complimented Head Start's orientation program for parents and invited male role models to join him in welcoming kids as their classes begin tomorrow. He announced the Summer Fling/Public Safety Awareness event at Shiloh Baptist Church on August 19 and the District 3 clean-up on August 27. Councilman Avery advocated for volunteers with chain saws to assist elderly residents in his district who need to clear trees from the property.

Councilman Smith announced Saturday's parent symposium at The Venue and a food giveaway at New Destiny Church tomorrow. He noted a new facility provides access to a washer, dryer, and shower for those who need them.

Councilwoman Latham said she is anticipating a great year as school starts tomorrow and announced a pastoral anniversary celebration for Pastor Edward Jones and First Lady Lavada Jones at New Canaan on August 13.

President Back announced a hiring fair at The Venue on August 10, on behalf of the Alabama Career Center. He also announced a golf tournament at Twin Bridges on August 19 to benefit Community Development Project 2000. President Back urged drivers to slow down and watch for children as school begins and reminded everyone that golf carts on public streets must have the proper safety equipment and be operated by a person with a valid driver's license.

Brett Johnson (Mayor's Chief of Staff) reminded citizens if a contractor is performing work, they are responsible for removing debris, rather than the Public Works Department. He asked volunteers clearing storm debris to cut logs in small sections so they can be collected by city equipment, and reminded everyone that city workers are not allowed to go onto private property.

Ruth Moffatt explained the application process for the Micro Enterprise Program, which is designed to assist for-profit businesses with 15 or less employees and is being coordinated through the Community Development Block Grant program.

Councilman Wilson congratulated the Etowah County Commission and the Industrial Development Authority on the upcoming ground-breaking on an above-ground water tank at the Northeast Alabama Regional Mega Site

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-8-23)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
AUGUST 8, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3522 - Tee Shirts

Alabama Industries for the Blind	Unit Prices
Bordova Innovations, Inc.	Unit Prices
Educational Products, Inc.	Unit Prices
Model Tees	Unit Prices
SP Designs & Mfg, Inc.	Unit Prices

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the Assistant Purchasing Agent, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
