

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 18, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 18, 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, and Lee Roberts were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Back.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 11, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 7 - 13, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#202086 - 202263	General	\$851,211.07
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Josh Tanner, Emergency Management Agency, provided an update on Covid 19 statistics and commended first responders. He provided tips to parents of children attending school and said social gatherings are still an issue. He reminded everyone to use 911 for life-threatening situations only and announced Thursday's drive through testing event at Gadsden City High School.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-228-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3408

(Awarding Bid No. 3408 - Alabama City Center Parking - Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC - \$609,380.43)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-229-20

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1  
FOR BID NO. 3423

(Authorizing Change Order #1 - Bid No. 3423 - Murphree Stadium Drainage Repair Project - Additional \$9,315.69 to reconcile additions and deletions from changes initiated through construction - Adjusting contract price with Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC to \$305,324.69)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-230-20

PROVIDING TIER I BENEFITS TO TIER II PLAN MEMBERS

(Electing to provide Tier I retirement benefits to Tier II members - Pursuant to Act No. 2019-132 - Relating to Employees' Retirement System - Providing for contributions for Tier II members: 7.5% for regular employees; 8.5% for firefighters or law enforcement officers - Note: If approved by RSA, shall be effective the following fiscal year and is irrevocable)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Traci Pondick, RSVP Director, reported on this year's tax preparation assistance program provided by local volunteers in Etowah and Cherokee Counties.

CITIZEN REQUESTS

Kathye Vance questioned why the council's Public Safety Committee had never convened regarding her request to discuss the smoke-free ordinance amendment allowing hookah bars. She reiterated her desire for Gadsden to be smoke free and questioned if cigar bars are monitored quarterly to ensure they comply with the ordinance.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Worthy announced a drive through and outreach event on September 5 to engage citizens in regard to census response, voter registration, and absentee voting.

Councilman Cannon announced a Public Works Committee meeting at 9 a.m. next Tuesday to discuss grass cutting.

Councilman Reed commended first responders and all workers who provide services to the public.

Councilman Wilson noted the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage and congratulated women for their advancement. He responded to Ms. Vance, stating he agreed with most of her views on the dangers of smoking but supports the rights of individuals to establish businesses that cater directly to smokers, such as cigar and hookah bars.

Councilman Back announced tomorrow's food distribution at First Baptist Church and reiterated the importance of responding to the census. He was joined by Councilman Williams in commending City Clerk Iva Nelson and wishing her a happy birthday.

Councilman Williams reported on the August 20 drive through testing event for Covid-19 and advised Ms. Vance he appreciated her input. He referred to the 49<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the 1954 Civil Rights Act, stating society had to be told to honor the rights of women and minorities. He reaffirmed his pledge to remind people to work to eliminate racism.

President Toles urged people to register to vote and then to vote in order to influence leaders and their community.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-18-20)

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FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING  
AUGUST 18, 2020 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3434 - Construction of Park Boulevard from Gadsden Riverfront Commercial Development to Coosa Landing

	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate 1</u>
McCartney Construction	\$1,148,308.58	\$43,043.50
Bewell & Whorton Excavating, LLC	\$1,105,639.95	\$57,627.00

Bid No. 3441 - ADA Compliant Sidewalk Improvements

	<u>Base Bid</u>
Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC	\$395,735.40
CB&A Construction, LLC	\$359,336.01
Grout, Inc.	\$268,783.27

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

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