

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 10, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on October 10, 2023 in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Back. On roll call by the Assistant City Clerk, Jennifer Smith, 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 Councilman Smith.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on October 3, 2023 were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 29 - October 5, 2023 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#227527-227660	General	\$1,002,070.52
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President Back recognized Amanda Lewis, varsity volleyball coach and girls athletic director at Gadsden City High School, and GCHS volleyball players McKenzie Thomas, Avery Parker, Bella Barrow. She encouraged community support through attendance at school events. Coach Lewis also spoke regarding the girls' flag football program, stating the team has won most of its games during its first season.

(1) An ordinance amending Ordinance No. O-47-23 regarding Dogs and Cats, which was tabled 7 days on October 3, was presented in writing for consideration.

Councilman Wilson moved to substitute the following ordinance, which was seconded by Councilwoman Latham and unanimously carried:

ORDINANCE NO. O-64-23

AMENDING O-47-23 AMENDING CITY CODE ARTICLE IV. - DOGS AND CATS

(Amending O-47-23 Amending City Code Article IV. - Cats and Dogs- Requires owners to register and obtain licenses for dogs and cats over 6 months of age, with certain exceptions; Establishes permit for commercial breeders, and fines for owners of dogs or cats captured at large that are unlicensed or have expired licenses)

Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham 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-65-23

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY

(Authorizing Conveyance of Property - 513 Henry Street - District 3 - Conveying portion of city-owned property to Gadsden-Etowah County Progress Council in regard to its Head Start facility - Note: Quitclaim deed conveying the property requires the grantee to be responsible for maintenance of the retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk along Tuscaloosa Avenue)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-524-23

AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH JASON HARPER

(Authorizing Renewal of Consulting Agreement - Jason Harper - \$3,000.00 per month - To act as a liaison between the City and various public agencies, emphasizing Federal entities)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-525-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAMS & JENSEN, PLLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Williams & Jensen, PLLC - \$8,000.00 per month - To perform advocacy services in Washington, D.C.)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-526-23

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

(Authorizing Grant Acceptance - Coosa Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council - \$11,600.00 - For interactive panels to be used by the Gadsden Fire Department for presentations to students in the Career Tech Program at the Gadsden Fire Training Center)

President Back 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 Councilwoman Minatra and unanimously adopted.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-66-23

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

(Amending FY2024 Budget - Reflecting receipt of Coosa Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council Grant - \$11,600.00 - Appropriating for Gadsden Fire Department Fire Training Center)

Councilman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance as an item of new business. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-527-23

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

(Authorizing Purchase of Property and Building at 224 Broad Street from Carlisle Creek Partners, LLC - \$2,007,000.00 - For relocation of City Hall)

President Back 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 Councilwoman Minatra and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-528-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAMS BLACKSTOCK ARCHITECTS

(Authorizing Agreement - Williams Blackstock Architects - \$620,000.00 - To provide architectural and engineering services for the Gadsden City Hall Relocation)

President Back 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 Councilwoman Minatra and unanimously adopted.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-67-23

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

(Amending FY2024 Budget - Transferring \$620,000.00 from general fund unassigned fund balance - For Architectural & Engineering Services for the Gadsden City Hall Relocation; Transferring \$2,007,000.000 from general fund unassigned fund balance to purchase property at 224 Broad Street)

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.

PUBLIC SPEAKS

Mitchell Chastain, local commandant for the McLaughlin Detachment of the Marine Corp Leagues, introduced Johnny Baker, a two year national commandant and the local Toys for Tots coordinator. Mr. Baker shared that the league is reestablishing the Toys for Tots program in Gadsden and is being allowed to use space this year at 728 Forrest Avenue. He asked for the city to help provide a location for next year's program that in prior years has provided toys for 750 to 1000 children in Gadsden during the holiday season.

Fred Zackery spoke regarding maintenance of the Carver campus and asked that the city allow access to the facility restrooms without charge during events on the grounds. He encouraged the city to budget for an aquatic center to be built in Gadsden.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Smith stated he was looking forward to moving city hall. He thanked department heads for all of their work, noting he is getting positive feedback from citizens regarding planned drainage work in his district. He commended the mayor and staff for good things going on throughout the city. He announced a concert being held at the Pitman Theatre by Bill Avery, who recently recorded a new album.

Councilman Avery announced: New Liberty Tabernacle on East Broad is providing hot lunches every Tuesday for needy persons; HBCU month; appreciation for new businesses and all small businesses in District 3; schedule for trash and debris pickup; exhibition driving in District 3 and the dangers, particularly homes built close to the roadway; congratulations to the GCHS football team for their recent win; encouraged checking on seniors and the homeless during cold weather. Mr. Avery thanked the speakers and stated that he would meet with departments regarding the use of the Carver facility.

Councilman Wilson stated that he thought an aquatic center would make a great addition to the city, and that the mayor has spoken in previous meetings about the same topic.

Councilwoman Minatra announced that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and encouraged mammogram screening.

President Back corrected his remarks from the previous week regarding pink garbage cans, stating that they are available through Never Surrender at \$90 per can, and can be reached by phone at 256-549-0008. He announced A Walk Through Time at Forrest Cemetery will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 15. President Back announced the special called meeting to address nuisance cases would be held at 1:30 p.m. today. He shared that Katrina Herring, Senior Site Manager at the Gadsden Career Center, is retiring and thanked her for all she has done for the community. Ms. Herring thanked the council for their support.

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

Jennifer Smith, Assistant City Clerk (10-10-23)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
OCTOBER 10, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3528 - Landscape Maintenance

Thrive Outdoor, Inc.	\$487,639.98
CopelandScapes	\$629,736.00

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