

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 14, 2023- 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on February 14, 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. Mayor Ford, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Latham.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on February 7, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of February 3-9 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#222170-222314	General	\$367,227.67
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Mayor Ford presented a commendation to Chet Hallman, honoring his accomplishments as golf pro at Twin Bridges Golf Course, including hosting the Alabama Open tournament, and various awards from the Professional Golf Association.

At the request of Mayor Ford, Councilman Wilson read a commendation honoring Chris Underwood of Beautiful Rainbow Café, who was selected into the Eagles Program at Auburn University. Family and friends who were present were recognized. Chip Rowan and Dr. Sharon Maness (Gadsden City Schools) commended the accomplishments of the café and the outstanding work of Chris. The public was encouraged to offer support to him as he transitions to Auburn.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) The following resolution, which was tabled for 7 days on February 7, was presented in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-40-23

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 704 Claire Street - District 2 - Margie Hembree)

Upon recommendation of the Building Official, Councilman Smith moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously adopted.

(2) A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 709 Hooks Lake Road in District 2, which was tabled for 30 days on January 10, was presented for consideration. Councilman Smith moved to table the resolution an additional 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Avery and unanimously carried.

(3) President Back announced that no action was necessary regarding a resolution ordering abatement of nuisances at 2919 ½ Shahan Avenue in District 6 (tabled for 30 days on January 10), as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Back stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct the following public hearings:

(1) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 124 Washington Street in District 3, Alisha Nappier being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this burned structure since procedures began in July 2022, and recommended abatement. In response to Councilman Avery’s inquiry, he said the fire damage is estimated to be 70% and he has received no contact from the owner. Councilman Avery moved to table the resolution for 7 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried.

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 2106 Hill Avenue, Leon and Brenda Brown being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated this case began in January 2022, and involves a burned house that was demolished with the debris remaining there. He recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-41-23

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2106 Hill Avenue - District 6 - Leon and Brenda Brown)

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

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 323 Roslyn Drive, the State of Alabama, possible redemption rights of Kim Parker, d/b/a The Parker Company, and Sterling Trust Company, f/b/o W. R. Erickson IRA, being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-42-23

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,845.00 - 323 Roslyn Drive - District 2 - State of Alabama; Kim Parker, d/b/a The Parker Company; Sterling Trust Company, f/b/o W. R. Erickson IRA)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-43-23

REJECTING BIDS FOR BID NO. 3496

(Rejecting Bid. No. 3496 - Pole Barn Construction for the Emergency Management Agency - Reason: Only bid received exceeded the budget appropriation for project)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-44-23

GRANTING EASEMENT TO
SPIRE ALABAMA, INC.

(Granting Permanent and Temporary Construction Easement - Spire Alabama, Inc. - For construction of natural gas lines in 900 block of Rainbow Drive, between McDonald's and Arby's restaurants)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT
WITH CDG, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - CDG, Inc. - \$22,285.00 - For subsurface exploration and materials report - Rehabilitation of Hoke Street, from Meighan Boulevard to Goodyear Avenue)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-46-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT
WITH TTL, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - TTL, Inc. - \$2,200.00 - For Phase I Environmental Site Assessment - Relating to potential property acquisition at intersection of Highway 411 and Riley Street)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-47-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(Authorizing Agreement - ALDOT - Preliminary Engineering and Construction Supplemental Agreement #1 - For intersection improvements at SR-1 (US-278/US-431/Meighan Boulevard) and SR-291 (Hood Avenue) - Construction cost of \$1,514,881.00, with 80% ATRIP 2 Grant funds and 20% City match)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-48-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(Authorizing Agreement - ALDOT - Federal Aid Rail/Highway Crossing Improvement Project - US-431/US-278/SR-1 (E. Meighan Boulevard) at 6th Street North - Cost of \$519,243.04, with 90% Federal funds and 10% City match)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-49-23

ACCEPTING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY
LOCATED ON EAST BROAD STREET

(Accepting conveyance of property from Robert C. Macon - 1600 block of East Broad Street - PPIN #43493)

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

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

The following ordinances were introduced in writing and read by President Back:

(1) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY AT 3610 GEORGIA AVENUE TO WILLIAM GRAVES

(2) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1308 AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL DRIVE TO KELLEY AUTO AUCTION, LLC

Mayor Ford noted this transaction will relocate a business to the City of Gadsden. He recognized members of the Jandrlich family, who were present.

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-50-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3499

(Awarding Bid No. 3499 - 2022 Ford F-450 Cab and Chassis - Ronnie Watkins Ford - \$46,022.50)

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 Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-51-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ALAGRANTS, LLC D/B/A SIMPLE GRANTS

(Authorizing Agreement - Alagrants, LLC, doing business as Simple Grants - For grant research, writing, and management services - \$8,500.00 for Comprehensive Grant Strategy - \$165 per hour thereafter)

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 Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Josh Tanner (Interim Emergency Management Agency Director) provided information about possible severe weather this week and reported on current Covid cases. He extended anniversary wishes to his wife, Kim.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Ford reported on activities, including placing art in city hall, advertisements on fines for littering, an upcoming amnesty period for garbage fees, placement of recycling trailers throughout the city, last week’s meetings in Washington, D.C. with a number of Federal officials, yesterday’s meetings with Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood on the comprehensive plan,

Council members joined in extending Happy Valentine greetings.

Councilman Robinson expressed excitement about upcoming projects at Noccalula Falls and thanked the Master Gardeners group for their work and plans.

Councilwoman Latham, President Back, and Councilman Wilson congratulated Chris Underwood.

Councilman Avery thanked everyone who participated in last week’s District 3 meeting and noted today’s White House Initiative meetings at the GSCC Valley Street campus. He announced pancake day this Saturday and upcoming Black History Programs. Councilman Avery extended condolences to the Carter and Jelks families.

Councilwoman Latham commended Josh Tanner’s character and integrity.

President Back announced a District 4 meeting scheduled for this Thursday, noting it will be rescheduled if severe weather develops. He complimented the Beautiful Rainbow Café and those who support it. President Back extended condolences to Kay Moore and her sister at the death of their mother.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (2-14-2023)

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