

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
MAY 2, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 2, 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 Councilman Smith.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on April 25, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of April 21-27 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#223920-224070	General	\$485,094.91
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Mayor Ford read a proclamation proclaiming April 30-May 6, 2023, as “Municipal Clerks Week” and presented it to City Clerk Iva Nelson.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-181-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3504

(Awarding Bid No. 3504 - Lease of 66 new 2-seat Golf Carts for Twin Bridges Golf Course - Yahama of Hendersonville, TN - \$4,950.00 per month - Term of 48 months)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-182-23

AWARDING BID NUMBERS 3505, 3506,
3507, 3508, 3509, 3510 AND 3511

(Awarding Bids for 2023 Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting Contracts for Districts 1 through 7 - ZLA Solutions - \$0.0048 per square foot)

Councilman Wilson noted the successful bidder has purchased a facility and equipment, and has hired approximately 15 employees. He then moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (Transferring \$217,654.00 from various Public Works Departmental accounts for Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting Contracts)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-183-23

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS
FOR THE GADSDEN SPORTS PARK

(Authorizing Purchase - Security Cameras for the Gadsden Sports Park - B&H Photo Video - \$17,937.00 - Via contract with State of Alabama Omnia Partners Public Sector National Purchasing Cooperative)

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 Wilson introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-184-23

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF
SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR T-MOBILE

(Extending Special Use Permit - T-Mobile - 104 12th Street North in East Gadsden - For equipment modifications at existing wireless telecommunications facility - Note: Initial permit was authorized by R-198-22)

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 Smith and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-185-23

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

(Accepting Proposal for Emergency Situation - Johnson Excavation & Plumbing, LLC - \$23,750.00 - For demolition of unsafe Nealco buildings at 2403/2405 W. Meighan Boulevard)

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.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Josh Tanner (Interim Emergency Management Agency Director) introduced Laura Stargell (senior at Jacksonville State University), who is serving as an intern. He reported on grant applications that are being pursued. In response to Councilman Avery's inquiry, Mr. Tanner advised no more weather radios are available.

Howell Mathews (Public Works Director) noted cameras are being installed in areas prone to illegal dumping. He reported on convictions obtained in municipal court (\$1,000 fines and 8 hours of community service). Mr. Mathews reminded citizens to separate brush from other trash items and to call the department prior to placing large items on the curb. He also suggested clear bags for trash to deter persons from tearing into them.

PUBLIC

Robert Avery related various communications in regard to his request for a group to meet with Mayor Ford, as well as some council members, and the need to provide topics. He advised the topics include Dial-A-Ride, Carver Community Center issues, water issues, Land Bank access issues, appropriations to Downtown Gadsden, Inc. and Commercial Development Authority vs. other parts of the city, non profit agencies (such as Head Start and proposed Challenger Center, Northeast Alabama Black Chamber, big mistakes in American Rescue Plan report (Henry Street appropriation). Mr. Avery suggested John Solomon Sandridge as the artist for proposed murals.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council members expressed excitement about placement of litter cameras and the positive impact of technical tools. They joined with Mayor Ford in thanking various city employees for their good work and special assistance given.

Councilman Robinson reported on last weekend's bicycle event on Black Creek Trail, noting 600 plus participants on Saturday and Sunday.

Councilman Wilson congratulated Jacksonville State University graduates and provided his cell number to anyone who wishes to talk or meet with him.

Councilman Avery encouraged small business owners, noting one will be honored each month in District 3. He expressed concern about reckless driving and commended school principals. Councilman Avery announced upcoming clean-up efforts this summer, Coffee with A Cop on May 16, and a District 3 meeting on May 9.

Councilman Smith and Mayor Ford recognized Pastor Eric Smith, who has recently moved back to Gadsden. Councilman Smith announced Bill Avery's event at the Amphitheater on May 19.

Councilwoman Latham thanked District 1 constituents for presenting their concerns to her.

Mayor Ford reported on: salary increases for first responders and said more are needed, noted 20 jobs are available; reported on concentrated attention to Walnut Park and the Mill Village, with other neighborhoods to come; upcoming demolition of Convention Hall; upcoming Memorial Day Bash; posting of Director position for Northeast Alabama Regional Airport; work of Humane Society and animal control efforts; and career tech program for fire protection. He advised he made note of topics for the requested meeting, suggested targeting three issues at a time, and expressed willingness to meet with groups, along with the importance of being prepared and having the correct staff to attend. Mayor Ford stressed the need for audits and documentation to be provided when city funds are requested.

President Back extended condolences to the family of Peggy Butler. He read excerpts of a letter from Dusty Wright expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to work for the city. President Back commended Dusty and noted his accomplishments in overcoming diversity, attaining retirement, and being a homeowner, landlord, and care giver for his mother.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (5-2-23)

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

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

Bid No. 3512 - New Train Platform and Maintenance Shed at Noccalula Falls Park Pioneer Village

	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Mass Rock Removal</u>
Bob Smith Construction, Inc.	\$551,770.00	\$1,500.00
Hudak Construction Co., Inc.	\$730,000.00	\$525.00
Greer Building Contractors, LLC	\$752,341.00	\$1,320.00
Boatner Construction Company, Inc.	\$873,000.00	\$1,500.00

Bid No. 3514 - Ten 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Police Pursuit Vehicles (4WD Crew Cab)

Donohoo Chevrolet LLC	\$455,767.40
Ronnie Watkins Ford	NO BID

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