

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
JUNE 13, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on June 13, 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, Back, Wilson, Minatra and Robinson. Councilman Avery was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Ford, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Smith.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on June 6, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of June 2-8 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#224880-225027	General	\$1,064,859.25
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RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-384-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3513

(Awarding Bid No. 3513 - Animal Habitat at Noccalula Falls Park - Bob Smith Construction, Inc. - \$1,196,101.50)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-385-23

APPROVING ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL EVENT  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(City of Gadsden - Special Event Retail License - For Barbarian Challenge on June 17, 2023 - To be held at Noccalula Falls Park)

Councilman Robinson 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-386-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT  
WITH EE GROUP, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - EE Group, Inc. - \$112,000.00 - To provide electrical design for lighting Broad Street Bridge with LED fixtures)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-387-23

AUTHORIZING UTILIZATION OF  
SOURCEWELL CONTRACTS

(Authorizing purchase of equipment for Public Works Department - 2 loader trucks; 2 dump trucks; garbage truck; mini garbage truck; leaf machine; Caterpillar M315-F and Caterpillar mini excavator; scissor lift, broom/milling attachment for Cat Skid Steer; jackhammer/ grapppling attachment - Amount up to \$2,200,000.00 - Utilizing Sourcewell National Government Purchasing Cooperative contracts)

Mayor Ford noted the cost to rent a bulldozer is \$5,000 per week, but the City of Attalla loaned one until parts can be obtained to repair one of Gadsden's.

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

ORDINANCE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

The following ordinance was introduced in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-35-23

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

(Amending FY2023 Budget - Transferring \$2,200,000.00 from unassigned fund balance to Public Works equipment account - For purchase of equipment approved by Resolution No. R-387-23)

Councilwoman Minatra moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance at its first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

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

## ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO GADSDEN CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION, INC. (Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts at 501 Broad Street and Temple Beth Israel property at 761 Chestnut Street)

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

Mayor Ford expressed appreciation to Hardin Center Director Tom Banks, who was present, for willingness to take over insuring and maintaining these buildings and for the services provided to local citizens.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Minatra announced tomorrow's Homeless Coalition event at 210 at the Tracks, which will provide free on-site services. She also announced United Way's Day of Caring event on Friday.

Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Smith joined in complimenting the Mayor for his leadership and City employees for their work, acknowledging challenges and good things happening.

Councilman Smith expressed gratitude for excellent response to a 911 call for his mother.

Councilman Wilson recognized his Southside High School classmates who are currently All-State Alabama High School Baseball Coaches of the Year—Brandon Johnson (1A), Blake Bone (4A), and Kevin Vinson (5A).

Councilman Robinson commended first responders for rescue of a person from the gorge at Noccalula Falls Park, and announced the Barbarian Challenge event this weekend.

Mayor Ford: provided funds to extend the July 4 fireworks display; noted efforts to relocate the Patriots Association and Tourism offices to better utilize the amphitheater; recognized Ruth Moffatt's (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director) collaboration with two groups to raise funds for the Carver Legacy Project, in collaboration with Ray Wetzel (Gadsden Museum of Art Curator); announced the formation of a task force to address homeless issues; thanked Police and Fire responders for the gorge rescue; noted police salaries are more competitive; anticipated announcements for an Airport Manager, Project Scout, and new City logo and seal; noted Gadsden will have two medical cannabis dispensaries.

President Back congratulated Eura Brown Elementary School, which received a \$2,000 award from the State and noted Gadsden City High School coaches will be invited to introduce themselves in future council meetings. He announced changes in the garbage collection schedule, due to next Monday's Juneteenth holiday, as well as the Patriots Association's fireworks display at 9 p.m. on July 4.

On behalf of Councilman Avery, City Clerk Iva Nelson announced the following: District 3 meeting on June 20 and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday thereafter at the Downtown Civic Center; District 3 community clean-up event on June 25 at North Gadsden Park; Carver Community Revitalization Community's Juneteenth Festival on June 17; Juneteenth Gospel Concert at First Baptist Church of Green Pastures on June 19; Juneteenth Banquet at Antioch Family Life Center on June 23.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (6-13-23)

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FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING  
JUNE 13, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3515 - Hoke Street Resurfacing Project

Wiregrass Construction Company	\$972,720.00
Alabama Grading & Excavation, LLC	\$974,636.00
Vulcan Materials, Asphalt & Construction, LLC	\$1,032,851.00

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

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