

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

The City Council met on July 11, 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, 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 July 5, 2023 were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of June 30 - July 6, 2023 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#225446-225630	General	\$1,679,781.64
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following ordinance, which was introduced for first reading at last week's meeting, was presented for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-42-23

AUTHORIZING SECOND AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE
CREATING ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

(Authorizing 2nd amendment to Entertainment District Ordinance - Expanding district to include: 1) Property on east side of Coosa River, east of Coosa Landing, bordered by the railroad, George Wallace Drive, and Buffalo Wild Wings parcel; 2) Property on west side of Coosa River, bordered by N. 1st Street, Broad Street, Albert Rains Boulevard, Riverside Drive, S. 2nd Street, Walnut Street, and S. 3rd Street - Note: Entertainment District provisions are contained in City Code Sections 6-61 through 6-67)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-404-23

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE
ALABAMA EXHIBITION DRIVING LAW

(Expressing Support for Criminal Statute adopted by State of Alabama, which created criminal offenses for Motor Vehicle Burnout, Donut, Speed Contest, Exhibition of Speed, and Sideshow - Expressing intent to invest capital assets, human resources and camera equipment to provide surveillance, investigation and prosecution of violations - Effective date of August 1, 2023)

Councilman Avery 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-405-23

REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

(Reappointing Charles Trotter and David Freeman - For terms expiring on 5-18-26)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-406-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH EE GROUP, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - EE Group, Inc. - \$5,500.00 - To provide electrical design for new food truck park to be located along Riverside Drive, between South 1st Street and Albert Rains Boulevard)

Mayor Ford explained the location is next to the former Convention Hall site and work will be performed by City employees. He said it will accommodate six to eight food trucks and a small stage.

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-407-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH TTL, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - TTL, Inc. - \$2,650.00 - To provide Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for potential acquisition of property at 255 Albert Rains Boulevard)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-408-23

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF ALABAMA
RECYCLING FUND GRANT FROM ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM)

(Authorizing Grant Acceptance - ADEM - Alabama Recycling Fund - \$73,371.56 - For purchase of forklift, concrete and blocks for drop-off pad and rolling gates - To be administered by Public Works Department)

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-409-23

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS
FROM ETOWAH COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE DISTRICT 28, DISTRICT 29, AND DISTRICT 30

(Authorizing Grant Acceptance - Etowah County Community Development Committee - Districts 28, 29 and 30 - \$6,000.00 (\$2,000.00 from each) - To purchase new mattresses for fire stations)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-410-23

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2022
ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG)

(Accepting Grant - Assistance to Firefighters - \$337,090.90 with 10% match of \$33,709.10 - For purchase of forty 2018 edition SCBA packs)

Councilman Wilson congratulated Chief Reed for the successful pursuit of the grant. He then moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

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

(1) ORDINANCE - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (Etowah County Community Development Committee Grants)

(2) ORDINANCE - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant)

(3) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY AT 741 FORREST AVENUE

Mayor Ford noted a group of local investors is purchasing the property for development of townhouse apartments.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Avery announced the following events: Head Start parent orientation on August 3 at Downtown Civic Center; Parent Symposium on August 12 at The Venue; District 3 clean-up event on July 23. He asked for everyone's patience as EMA responds to calls regarding damage assessment and noted community volunteers are organizing an event to assist with storm cleanup on private properties. Councilman Avery stated the District 3 meeting was postponed, with a date to be announced. He complimented the professionalism and work of the street level crime task force.

Councilman Wilson thanked KPOW Media for inviting him to this morning's show.

Councilman Smith thanked Mayor and City employees for their quick response and work, and Councilwoman Latham and President Back commended everyone on a good day of government.

Councilwoman Minatra referred to much storm damage on July 2. She advised work is continuing on a communication flyer regarding trash, debris, etc. and complimented Tena King and Jason Hill for the recent "infomercial." Councilwoman Minatra displayed the office number and hours at public works for reporting placement of large items for collection. She announced tonight's District 6 meeting at the Walnut Park Community Center.

Councilman Robinson and President Back encouraged residents to refrain from placing household items in ditches, which results in clogging drains when it rains. Councilman Robinson referred to recent vehicle break-ins and stressed the need for citizens to remove their valuables and lock their vehicles.

Mayor Ford: congratulated Derek Mummert, newly appointed Emergency Management Agency Director; announced Parks & Recreation's Surfin' USA fun day on Saturday; thanked the cities of Attalla and Rainbow City for loan of their dozers to Gadsden; reported on participation in a reading event at the Gadsden Public Library; reported on tour of the public works facility and encouraged the council to go.

President Back complimented the Mayor and his administrative team and expressed excitement to see dirt being moved, new life in buildings, property sales, and industrial recruitment. He commended Chief Reed and Howell Mathews for obtaining grants.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-11-23)
