

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 3, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 3, 2021, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Toles. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Toles, Worthy, Back, Wilson, and Reed. Councilman Cannon was absent and Councilman Williams joined the meeting shortly after it began. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Captain Jackson were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, provided an update on Covid-19, noting our vaccination rate is low and cases are increasing. She noted weekly conference calls have been reinstated and announced upcoming vaccination clinics. Councilman Wilson described spontaneous vaccination activities he saw in Dallas, TX.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 27, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 23 - 29 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#209630-209779	General	\$764,211.65
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PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Toles 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 annulling North 17th Street between West Meighan Boulevard and Alabama Avenue. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-170-21

AUTHORIZING ANNULMENT OF NORTH 17TH STREET BETWEEN
WEST MEIGHAN BOULEVARD AND ALABAMA AVENUE

(Authorizing Annulment of North 17th Street, between West Meighan Boulevard and Alabama Avenue - Requested by Hardwick & Price Properties, LLC, sole owner of all property abutting the rights of way)

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

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution authorizing an economic development agreement regarding the construction of an Olive Garden Restaurant. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-171-21

AUTHORIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
WITH AKIN HOLDINGS V GADSDEN, LLC

(Authorizing Economic Development Agreement - Akin Holdings V Gadsden, LLC - To demolish former Logan's Restaurant and construct Olive Garden Restaurant at 825 Rainbow Drive - Providing for rebate of 2% of City's 5% sales tax for a period of 5 years from opening date or until \$500,000.00 has been paid to Developer, whichever comes first - For infrastructure assistance)

Councilman Wilson explained the agreement, noting the capital investment is \$4.2 million.

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

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-172-21

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR DISH WIRELESS

(Authorizing Special Use Permit - Dish Wireless - To install equipment and modify existing telecommunication facility at 104 12th Street North, East Gadsden)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Jen Weathington, Parks and Recreation Director, announced upcoming events and programs, including First Friday, August Summer concert, flag football, after-school program registration, Summer Jam at Moragne Park, and Ragin' Cajun Swamp Party. She announced operating hours for various facilities.

PUBLIC

Larry Suttles expressed concern about litter and garbage lying on the streets and pointed out residential garbage service is mandatory. He referred to conversations with the City Engineer regarding drainage issues and related an incident where a vehicle was swept into flood waters during heavy rains last Tuesday. Mr. Suttles introduced Ms. Byers, who gave details of the incident, which involved her children, and stated the area was unfamiliar to them. President Toles stressed the danger of entering water while driving and said flooding occurred throughout the city on that day due to torrential rain. Councilman Worthy said drainage problems have existed for many years in that location and said roads cannot be barricaded unless a police officer is present. Heath Williamson, City Engineer, said the situation had been studied in a previous administration and a partnership with the county did not materialize. He expressed hope that Rescue Act funds can be used to alleviate this and other high priority issues but explained the process is slow. Mr. Suttles also expressed concern about garbage on the streets and asked if the mandatory garbage service participation can be enforced.

Virginia Calhoun said she has lived next door to the site of the proposed rendering plant for over fifty years and asked that it not be put in her neighborhood. She asked for consideration of her investment and inability to relocate.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Worthy announced this week's opening of the Freedom Center and Thursday's open house, as well as vaccination clinics at Colley Homes on August 10 and Starnes Park on August 17. He referred to another shooting on Tuscaloosa Avenue and expressed concern that a club is open until 4 to 5 a.m.

Councilman Wilson commended Laura Minton, a medical student at UAB, who was selected to present at the National Medical Association Convention in Washington, DC.

Councilman Back thanked Pastor Bruce Word and Freedom Church, as well as other local organizations that are working to address homelessness. He noted his presentation regarding rendering plant research was delayed due to illness of the person assisting him. Councilman Back expressed disappointment that someone mailed a very unkind letter to his wife at the school where she teaches. He encouraged anyone who has a problem with him to come and discuss it and leave his wife alone. Councilman Back reiterated his position regarding the rendering plant, which has not changed, and spoke about democracy. He thanked Larry Suttles for his comments and noted the city engineer had estimated the cost of addressing drainage issues in District 4 and throughout the city at \$200 million.

President Toles announced Friday's Summer Concert, noting the entertainer is Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-3-21)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
AUGUST 3, 2021 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3459 - Fuel Dispensing and Management Service

Ira Phillips, Inc. \$.105 Mark up over RACK per gallon (all fuel types)

A copy of the bid will be forwarded to the NEAPA Coordinator and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
