

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 3, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on October 3, 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 Councilwoman Latham.

The minutes of the last Public Works Committee, Public Safety Committee, Work Session and Council meetings held on September 26, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 22-28 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#227503-227525	General	\$122,374.74
----------------	---------	--------------

Mayor Ford read a proclamation proclaiming October 8, 2023, as “Union Baptist Church Day” and presented it to members who were present.

Josh Nelson (Gadsden City High School Wrestling Coach) introduced wrestling team members Justin Campbell and Carter Womack and related program needs, including \$6,000 for bus transportation and a more suitable practice area. President Back presented a personal check to Elizabeth Hyatt (Carter’s mother).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) An ordinance amending Ordinance No. O-47-23 relating to managed care of dogs and cats, which was tabled for two weeks on September 19, was presented for consideration. Councilman Wilson noted great feedback was received in last week’s Public Safety Committee meeting and changes to the proposed ordinance are being finalized. He then moved to table the ordinance an additional seven days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-62-23

REZONING 1203 GARDNER STREET

(Approving Rezoning - 1203 Gardner Street - From B-2, General Business District, to R-1, One-Family Residence District - Requested by Danielle Byers and Perry Byers)

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-63-23

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY

(Authorizing Sale of Buildings T-1 and T-2 at Air Depot - \$500,000.00 - Creek Ridge Properties, LLC)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-521-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3527

(Awarding Bid No. 3527 - Vehicle Filters for Auto and Heavy Truck - Tractor & Equipment Company - \$23,128.11)

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

(2) A resolution amending Rules of Procedure for Council Business was presented for consideration. Councilwoman Minatra moved to substitute a resolution (2023/731.1), providing for public address to the council to be in the work session, with request being made no later than close of business on the prior Friday. Additional time, not to exceed five minutes, could be utilized for council members to make inquiries or interact with the speaker. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Minatra moved to adopt the resolution, as substituted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham, but failed to be adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Minatra

NAYS: Latham, Smith, Back, Wilson, Robinson

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-522-23

AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY POLICING AGREEMENT

(Authorizing Agreement - Greater Gadsden Housing Authority - To continue Community Policing Program within Gadsden's seven public housing facilities - Authority will reimburse City for salary of four officers - Term of one year, from 10-1-23 through 9-30-24)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY (513 Henry Street)

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 Wilson introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-523-23

AUTHORIZING SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT

(Authorizing Subordination Agreement - Community Bank of Mississippi and Citizens Spirit, LLC - Relating to terms of City's conveyance of property on South 1st Street to Citizens Spirit, LLC and future options if development did not occur - Note: Former Armory property, which was conveyed for construction of a cancer center)

President Back received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Wilson explained the "clawback" provisions were very stringent and this action is needed to allow contractors to be paid during the construction phase. He then moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Darlene Harcrow and Craig Scott requested financial support for the CommUnity Thanksgiving event and announced the schedule for volunteers, as well as the meal (10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day). The event is the biggest Thanksgiving dinner in Alabama, with 8,000 attendees expected. Councilman Smith and President Back acknowledged Pastor Willie Simmons, who started the event in the late 1990's and is undertaking a new venture to assist homeless persons in East Gadsden.

PUBLIC

Noah Meredith, 10th grade student at Westbrook and Boy Scout, announced his Eagle Scout project will be making bases for 100 grave markers in the Southern Hills Cemetery. He announced work dates of October 21 and 28, and encouraged citizens to come out and assist with the project. Chari Bostick, Director of Grace Heritage Foundation, expressed appreciation to Noah for his desire to work for people buried in the cemetery to be recognized and included in Gadsden's history. Councilman Wilson expressed appreciation for this project, stating the cemetery is important to him. He thanked Noah for his effort and stated the importance of seeking Eagle Scout designation.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Ford: noted clearing of trees continues at the pond near Riverview Hospital and along Rainbow Drive and I-759; thanked everyone who participated in Renew our Rivers and Gadttoberfest; announced First Friday this weekend; reported on fruitful meetings in Washington, DC and with ALDOT (relocation of Highway 411 and Eastern Connector projects).

Councilman Smith thanked Noah Meredith, Chari Bostick, Union Baptist Church members, and CommUnity Thanksgiving organizers for their work in the community.

Councilwoman Minatra encouraged breast cancer awareness during the month of October and announced upcoming Theater of Gadsden performances of *Anne of Green Gables*.

Councilman Robinson complimented clean-up work of the public works department on the mountain and the Barefoot University Home School group at Noccalula Falls Park.

President Back recognized special guests present, including Gadsden City Board of Education member Rita Smith, and First Baptist Church Youth Director, Cole Jordan. He encouraged citizens to purchase pink garbage cans to promote breast cancer awareness.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (10-3-23)
