

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JANUARY 3, 2017 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on January 3, 2017, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Williams. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Echols, Billingsley, Cannon and Reed. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, and Captain Cody were also present.

The invocation was given by President Williams.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on December 20, 2016, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the weeks of December 16-22 and December 23-29, 2016, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#170476-170676	General	\$2,212,337.05
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PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Williams 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 ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 1513 Fillmore Avenue, Benjamin H. Covington and Rebecca E. Mewbourn being the last known owners. Diane Stevens and Rebecca Mewbourne were present. Ms. Stevens said demolition is complete but two to four weeks are need to clear the debris. Brian Greer, Deputy Building Official, recommended abatement, noting the case began in January 2016, and the picture he submitted was taken on December 29. Councilman Billingsley moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously carried.

(2) President Williams announced that no action was necessary regarding 1304 Colbert Avenue in District 6, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 2726 Hickory Street, the State of Alabama and Laquita Ealy being the last known owners. Brian Greer, Deputy Building Official, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in May 2016, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-01-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2726 Hickory Street - District 6 - State of Alabama; Laquita Ealy)

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

(4) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 32 Sandusky Lane, Chastity Lee Jenkins being the last known owner. Brian Greer, Deputy Building Official, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in June 2016, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-02-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 32 Sandusky Lane - District 6 - Chastity Lee Jenkins)

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

(5) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 2210 E. Tuscaloosa Avenue, the Estate of James T. Handy, Elizabeth Elaine Martinez, and Charlotte Handy and her heirs being the last known owners. Elizabeth Martinez stated she has been unable to obtain a permit but wishes to make repairs, and requested 60 additional days. Brian Greer, Deputy Building Official, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in June 2016, and recommended abatement. He explained a person's name must appear on a deed or tax records to qualify for obtaining a permit. In response to Mayor Guyton's inquiry, Ms. Martinez presented a document indicating she is a legal heir. Councilman Reed advised her to stay in constant contact with the Building Department. He then moved to table the resolution for 60 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously carried.

(6) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 32 W. Wilkinson Avenue, the State of Alabama, Linda Womack, and American General Financial being the last known owners. Brian Greer, Deputy Building Official, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in May 2016, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-03-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 32 W. Wilkinson Avenue - District 7 - State of Alabama; Linda Womack; American General Financial)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-04-17

AWARDING BID NO. 3328

(Awarding Bid No. 3328 - ADA Compliant Sidewalk Improvements - Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC - \$485,098.00 for base bid, plus alternate)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-05-17

AWARDING BID NO. 3332

(Awarding Bid No. 3332 - T-Shirts - Model Tees - Unit prices)

Councilman Cannon noted he had received many calls from persons interested in bidding; however, few bids were received. He then moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Toles and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-06-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
JBW&T, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - JBW&T, Inc.- Construction engineering and inspection services for ADA Compliant Sidewalk Improvements project - \$65,000.00)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

(1) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT
102 N. 10TH STREET IN EAST GADSDEN

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

DEPARTMENT REPORT

At the request of President Williams, Police Captain Cody explained that criminal trespassing complaints require action by the property owner. Violators are first issued a warning, then can be arrested for subsequent incidents. President Williams and Mayor Guyton stated the need to address “panhandling” around convenience stores, shopping centers, etc.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Toles announced a District 1 meeting on January 23 at the Antioch Family Life Center. She congratulated the Litchfield Middle School drum line, which has been selected to compete in Birmingham.

Councilman Worthy announced a prayer brunch at 9:30 a.m. on January 16 at the Senior Activity Center.

Councilman Billingsley announced a District 5 meeting at 5 p.m. on January 9 at the Banks Park Community Building.

Councilman Cannon said the Public Works Department is ready to address any hazardous road conditions that may arise with the upcoming winter weather event.

Councilman Reed encouraged citizens to monitor Channel 99 and contact local agencies to stay abreast of assistance that is available to address home maintenance and other needs. President Williams noted the City is limited in providing direct resources.

President Williams announced changes in the garbage collection schedule due to the New Year holiday.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (1-3-2017)
