

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
JANUARY 17, 2017 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on January 17, 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 and Reed. Councilman Cannon was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jagears were also present.

The invocation was given by Brian Harbison.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on January 10, 2017, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of January 6-12, 2017 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#170806-170989	General	\$564,692.03
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-02-17

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY  
AT 817 WINDSOR STREET

(Approving Conveyance of Property - 817 Windsor Street - North 100 feet of Lots 13-14, Block G, Oakview Addition - Accepting offer of \$4,000.00 from Jackie L. McCormick & Deborah McCormick)

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

(2) The following resolution, which was tabled for 30 days on December 13, was presented in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-12-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1224 Malone Street - District 3 - Diane J. Glass)

Upon recommendation of the Building Official, Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Billingsley and unanimously adopted.

## 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 116 Boyd Drive, the State of Alabama, William David Hudson and wife Geneva Hudson, and Krystal Wood being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in February 2016, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

### RESOLUTION NO. R-13-17

#### ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 116 Boyd Drive - District 2 - State of Alabama; William David Hudson; Geneva Hudson; Krystal Wood)

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

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 3200 Sansom Avenue in District 6, Heirs of the Estate of Betty Barlow, c/o Nancy Beam, Bobby J. Allen, Billy Lee Deal, Dianne Adams, Harold Eugene Deal, David Eugene Barlow, and American General Finance, Inc. being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Official, recommended a 30-day extension due to recent improvement. Councilwoman Toles moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Echols and unanimously carried.

(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 19 W. Wilkinson Avenue, the Estate of John L. McCoy, Amie McCoy, Tina McCoy, Michael John McCoy, Sharon Marie Valles, Ronald McCoy, Roger McCoy, Dorothy Powell, and any known heirs of Amie McCoy being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated although a permit was obtained in June 2016, 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-14-17

#### ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 19 W. Wilkinson Avenue - District 7 - Estate of John L. McCoy; Amie McCoy; Tina McCoy; Michael John McCoy; Sharon Marie Valles; Ronald McCoy; Roger McCoy; Dorothy Powell; Any known heirs of Amie McCoy)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-15-17

AUTHORIZING SATISFACTION OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN  
AGAINST PROPERTY AT 10 CABOT AVENUE

(Authorizing Satisfaction of Nuisance Abatement Lien - 10 Cabot Avenue - District 6 -  
Accepting \$100.00 offer from Allen Millican)

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

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

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

(1) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN 1500  
BLOCK OF PARADISE AVENUE

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 Reed introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-16-17

AWARDING BID NO. 3327

(Awarding Bid No. 3327 - Renovations and repairs to 6 buildings in Noccoalula Falls Park  
Pioneer Village - Hudak Construction Company - \$406,350.00 for base bid, plus alternates 1  
through 3 - Note: Funding is from Christmas at the Falls proceeds)

President Williams received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an  
item of new business. Councilman Reed moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was  
seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.

PUBLIC

Joseph Cole reiterated his earlier request to increase entry level pay for policemen and firemen,  
noting it has been the same amount for ten years. He asked for immediate action, stating this  
should not have an effect on the current budget and would improve recruitment efforts.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

The Mayor and several Council members responded to Joseph Cole and said they will consider his request. Mayor Guyton said the benefit package and overtime should also be considered. Councilman Worthy pointed out the need for policemen and firemen to have affordable health coverage at retirement, which is younger than anticipated for other job classifications. He added the fire department is experiencing turnover. Councilman Billingsley said job requirements are stringent and good, honest police applicants are needed. President Williams complimented Mr. Cole's manner of presentation. He expressed support for the police department and cited a number of factors that determine entry level rates, which must be viewed objectively. Councilman Echols referred to former action to convert the former pension fund to State retirement and pointed out total personnel cost, currently at 70%, affects the City's financial solvency.

Councilwoman Toles encouraged residents to be aware of potential decisions affecting their neighborhood and offer input rather than complaining afterward. She announced a District 1 meeting at 6 p.m. on January 23 at the Antioch Family Life Center.

Councilwoman Toles reported on this morning's visit with Gadsden City High School students concerning availability of jobs (1,000 in Gadsden and 1,500 within a 25-mile radius). Councilman Worthy advised that taking a job and getting experience is a pathway to a better job. President Williams thanked Principal Colegrove for his support and encouraged parents to give good advice to their children. He said discussion included workforce needs and gaps, especially in the automotive industry.

Councilman Reed complimented improvements at Noccalula Falls and said it is good to see proceeds, rather than the deep deficits that existed in the past.

President Williams reminded everyone of the public meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday regarding a new community center in East Gadsden.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (1-17-2017)

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