

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JANUARY 24, 2017 - 5:00 P.M.

The City Council met on January 24, 2017, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.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 Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on January 17, 2017, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of January 13-19, 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-03-17

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY
LOCATED ON PARADISE AVENUE

(Authorizing Conveyance of Property - Sale of Public Improvement Assessment, Pro Numbers 29466 and 29467 - 1500 block of Paradise Avenue - Lots 9-10, Block G, Unit 2 of Green Pastures - Accepting \$250.00 offer from Sheila and Lonnie Jones)

Councilwoman Toles moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Echols 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 in opposition to or in favor of an ordinance approving the rezoning of property at 101 Ridgeway Avenue from R-1, One-Family Residence District, to O-1, Office District. (The Planning Commission recommended approval.) No one spoke. The following ordinance was introduced in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-04-17

REZONING A PORTION OF PROPERTY LOCATED
AT 101 RIDGEWAY AVENUE

(Approving Rezoning - Rear portion of property located at 101 Ridgeway Avenue - From R-1, One-Family Residence District, to O-1, Office District - Requested by Craig Ford - To be used as office space; front portion of property was already zoned O-1, Office District)

Councilman Echols moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance at its first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Echols, Billingsley, Reed

NAYS: None

Councilman Echols moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Reed 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 822 Avenue B, the State of Alabama, Leslie Higgins, and Compass Bank being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in March 2016, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-17-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 822 Avenue B - District 3 - State of Alabama; Leslie Higgins; Compass Bank)

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

(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 1106 Hurst Street, Ollie Mae Williams and Jacqueline Belcher being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in November 2014, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-18-17

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1106 Hurst Street - District 3 - Ollie Mae Williams; Jacqueline Belcher)

Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Reed 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 807 Van Del Boulevard in District 6, Michael D. Overby being the last known owner. Michael Overby, requested additional time to determine the steps needed to bring the house in compliance and make the necessary improvements. He said he did some work several years ago, was hampered by health and money issues, but has now been awarded disability. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated this is an older case that was reopened in June 2015. He noted there have been few improvements and recommended abatement. Councilman Reed advised Mr. Overby to communicate with Mr. Harbison and moved to table the resolution for 30 days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-19-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS

(Authorizing Agreement - Academy Sports + Outdoors - Regarding \$1,200.00 and other items as sponsorship for Parks and Recreation Department in exchange for advertisement)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(Authorizing Preliminary Engineering Agreement - Alabama Department of Transportation - For resurfacing and traffic stripe on Randall Street, from 6th Street to 11th Street - \$30,899.70, with City's estimated 20% match being \$6,179.94 - FY2020-2024 MPO Cycle - Supercedes Resolution No. R-151-16)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-21-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(Authorizing Preliminary Engineering Agreement - Alabama Department of Transportation - For bridge replacement on George Wallace Drive over Nowlin Branch - \$157,651.50, with City's estimated 20% match being \$31,530.30 - FY2020-2024 MPO Cycle - Supercedes Resolution No. R-133-16)

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

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilwoman Toles introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-17

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FROM
ETOWAH COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Authorizing Grant Application and Acceptance - \$20,000.00 from Etowah County Community Development Committee - For revitalization of the Gadsden Tennis Complex located at 1500 W. Meighan Boulevard)

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

(2) Councilwoman Toles introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-23-17

AWARDING BID NO. 3326

(Awarding Bid No. 3326 - Expansion of Black Creek Multi Use Trail System - William Preston York - \$93,000.00)

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

(3) Councilman Worthy introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-24-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
STATE OF ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

(Authorizing Agreement - State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency - \$131,999.00 Hazard Mitigation Grant - Federal share of \$98,999.00 with City share of \$33,000.00 - East Gadsden Storm Shelter Project - For community safe room to be located at 1551 Mississippi Street)

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

(4) Councilman Worthy introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-25-17

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
STATE OF ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

(Authorizing Agreement - State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency - \$131,973.00 Hazard Mitigation Grant - Federal share of \$98,980.00 with City share of \$32,993.00 - West Gadsden Storm Shelter Project - For community safe room to be located at the intersection of Gladys Street and Lookout Avenue)

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton complimented City Clerk Iva Nelson's song performed at a luncheon today.

Councilman Reed recognized Luke Womack and his father, who were present. He noted Luke is pursuing his Eagle Scout designation.

President Williams announced a graduation ceremony at Gadsden Job Corps Center at 1:30 p.m. on Friday. He reported on last Saturday's public meeting concerning the new proposed community center in East Gadsden and thanked The Gadsden Times for its article. President Williams said he felt the conceptual renderings presented by Khafra Engineering were well received.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (1-24-2017)
