

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
MAY 31, 2016 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 31, 2016, 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, Billingsley, Cannon and Reed. Councilman Echols was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, and Lt. Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on May 24, 2016, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of May 20-26, 2016 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#165697-165841	General	\$1,344,010.88
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Shane Wilson and Suzanne (WQSB Radio) presented a "First Responder of the Week" award to Officer Roebuck, and announced the prize money will go toward training new officers.

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 1008 Vinson Avenue, Gwendolyn Powell, a/k/a Gwendolyn Crocton, being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in September 2015, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-224-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1008 Vinson Avenue - District 2 - Gwendolyn Powell, a/k/a Gwendolyn Crocton)

Councilwoman Toles moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon 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 935 1st Avenue, Gadsden Heating and Sheet Metal and Linda Leach Thompson being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this vacant and unsecured commercial building since procedures began in May 2015, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-225-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 935 1st Avenue - District 3 - Gadsden Heating and Sheet Metal; Linda Leach Thompson)

Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon 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 1339 Forrest Avenue, FNA NP, LLC and Robert Spurling being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in July 2015, and recommended abatement. He noted an illegal junkyard is operating in the rear of the property and approximately 15 cars are present. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-226-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1339 Forrest Avenue - District 3 - FNA NP, LLC; Robert Spurling)

Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon 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 1317 4th Avenue, Margaret H. Smith being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in June 2015, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-227-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1317 4th Avenue - District 5 - Margaret H. Smith)

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

(5) President Williams announced that no action was necessary regarding 4 Laurel Road in District 6, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

(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 9 Marston Avenue, the State of Alabama and Pamela Contry being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated this case involves abandoned vehicles, trash and debris and numerous municipal court proceedings have been unsuccessful. He said procedures began in May 2015, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-228-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 9 Marston Avenue - District 6 - State of Alabama; Pamela Contry)

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

(7) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 2441 Fairview Road, Derek M. Bishop and Samantha Bishop, Quicken Loans, and Bank of America being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated contacts with the mortgage company have not resulted in improvements since procedures began in October 2014. He recommended abatement, noting rehabilitation is planned. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-229-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2441 Fairview Road - District 7 - Derek M. Bishop; Samantha Bishop; Quicken Loans; Bank of America)

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

(8) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 2007 Broadway Street, the State of Alabama and L.D. Campbell, c/o Dale Campbell, being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-230-16

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,306.40 - 2007 Broadway Street - District 5 - State of Alabama; L.D. Campbell, c/o Dale Campbell)

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

(9) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 1607 Mt. Zion Avenue, Tuscaloosa, LLC, and Mutual Savings Credit Union being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-231-16

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,181.40 - 1607 Mt. Zion Avenue - District 5 - Tuscaloosa, LLC; Mutual Savings Credit Union)

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

(10) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 316 Grady Street, the State of Alabama and Estate of Inez Duncan Minton being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-232-16

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,831.40 - 316 Grady Street - District 6 - State of Alabama; Estate of Inez Duncan Minton)

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

(11) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 2915 Topeka Street, the State of Alabama and heirs of L.E. Sharpton being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-233-16

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,131.40 - 2915 Topeka Street - District 6 - State of Alabama; Heirs of L.E. Sharpton)

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

(12) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 1116 Central Avenue, Jimmy Lee Dukes being the last known owner. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-234-16

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,381.40 - 1116 Central Avenue - District 6 - Jimmy Lee Dukes)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-235-16

AUTHORIZING RIPARIAN EASEMENT WITH
STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

(Authorizing Riparian Easement related to State-owned submerged lands - State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - \$649.65 annually - Allows construction of docks, observation decks, boardwalk and pedestrian bridge at Coosa Riverfront Park)

Councilman Worthy 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-236-16

ACCEPTING MAINTENANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY
OF PORTION OF CAMDEN COVE LANE

(Accepting Maintenance of Right-of-Way - Portion of Camden Cove Lane from intersection of Riverside Drive to the southern boundary of Lot 1 of the Camden Cove Subdivision)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-237-16

CREATING JOB CLASSIFICATION FOR
NUISANCE ABATEMENT INSPECTOR

(Amending Pay Plan adopted by R-403-04 and amended by R-463-04 - Creating Job Classification of Nuisance Abatement Inspector, job classification 240, pay range 5)

Councilman Cannon moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Toles, Williams, Billingsley, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: Worthy

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Kay Moore (Downtown Gadsden, Inc. Director) announced First Friday activities, a ribbon cutting for the new farmer’s market location at 5th & Locust, and the Summer Concert at the Amphitheater.

PUBLIC

Buster Porch and “The Jazzman” announced upcoming Musical Mondays at the Water Wall, which will begin on June 6. Councilman Billingsley encouraged the public to come out and participate.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton and Councilman Billingsley complimented the Memorial Day program at the War Memorial and stressed the importance of patriotism and knowing our history. Councilman Reed thanked the Gadsden-Etowah Patriots Association for honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice. President Williams expressed sadness that we are losing many veterans of our greatest generation.

Councilwoman Toles thanked the Police Department and Lt. Keener for addressing crime in certain areas of East Gadsden.

Councilman Worthy announced a District 3 meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Thompson Community Center. He also announced First Saturday activities at Carver, noting fund-raising activities will benefit the Gadsden Broncos.

Councilman Cannon announced a Karaoke contest this Saturday at the Alabama City gazebo.

President Williams congratulated Gadsden City High School graduates, one of whom is his daughter, Sydnie. He gave a “shout out” to his aunt and complimented her delicious red velvet cakes. President Williams reminded everyone of changes in the garbage schedule due to Monday’s holiday.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (5-31-2016)
