

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 2, 2016 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 2, 2016, in regular session.

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

The invocation was given by Brian Harbison.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 26, 2016, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 22-28, 2016 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#167179-167310	General	\$1,602,729.74
----------------	---------	----------------

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) The following resolution, which was tabled for 30 days on June 28, was presented in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-309-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1303 Florence Avenue - District 1 - Glenda Taylor and heirs of Elzorah Rainey)

As recommended by the Building Official, Councilwoman Toles moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.

(2) President Pro Tem Cannon announced that no action was necessary regarding 1618 Springfield Avenue in District 1, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Pro Tem Cannon opened the floor to allow public comments concerning the city's application for a grant through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, FY2016 Local Solicitation. The funds (\$22,956 for Gadsden Police Department and \$11,647 for Etowah County Sheriff's Office) are to be used to purchase audio/video upgrades and protective equipment. No one spoke. (Note: Grant application was authorized by R-266-16 and Memorandum of Understanding between GPD and ECSO was authorized by R-279-16)

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-310-16

AWARDING BID NO. 3313

(Awarding Bid No. 3313 - Body Armor/Concealable Ballistic Vests for Police Department - Gulf States Distributors, Inc. - \$950.00 per vest)

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-311-16

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH MITEL

(Authorizing Agreement - Mitel - For purchase of telephones, training, and support for various City departments and buildings - Term of 36 months, with approximate cost of \$7,015.71 per month - Note: System is cloud-based, Voice Over IP)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-312-16

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH  
QUALITY RECORDING SOLUTIONS, LLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Quality Recording Solutions, LLC - Maintenance services for Eventide 911 digital logging recorder - \$6,500.00 per year - June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017)

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

PUBLIC

Judge Jamie Sledge reported on Gadsden Museum of Art activities, noting many accomplishments were made during the tenure of former Curator Rebecca Duke. He said the board remains committed and looks forward to working with the Mayor and Council for new leadership.

Dana Hale referred to the "Black, White and Blue" unity event held on July 23, 2016, noting the absence of the Mayor, Police Chief and department leadership, as well as the Sheriff's office. She encouraged participation in another event, which is being planned for September 3rd.

Eric Hutchins summarized his actions taken on behalf of clients and TOPS (The Ordinary People Society) in filing lawsuits in 2015 and a public protest on July 28. He said the issues relate to the court referral system and Municipal Judge Tom King and Prosecutor Garry Tucker. He requested the immediate termination of the Judge and Prosecutor by the City.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Reed said he is glad to see work on a sign for the Bellevue Highlands community. He noted the longest yard sale begins Thursday and reminded shoppers to make sure their vehicles are completely out of the road.

Councilman Worthy thanked Sheriff Entrekin for providing a “rock wall” and police officers who participated in the HOPE celebration, a back to school event sponsored by Quality of Life and area churches. He said 65 employers have confirmed participation in a Job Fair at Convention Hall on August 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A skills seminar will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Arthur Green Room. Councilman Worthy said he attended last Thursday’s protest but has not received calls of concern from the community. He invited Eric Hutchins and others to talk with the Public Safety Committee, noting they are meeting today at 1:30 p.m.

Councilman Billingsley announced a District 5 meeting at the Library on August 8. He said he was made aware of the protest last Wednesday and affirmed people’s right to do so. Councilman Billingsley urged caution as school begins next week and noted work is being done on the bridge on Highway 431 at Black Creek.

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

---

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-2-2016)

\*\*\*\*\*