

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 30, 2016 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 30, 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: Williams, Worthy, Echols, Billingsley, Cannon and Reed. Councilwoman Toles was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Captain Wayne Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by President Williams.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 23, 2016, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 19-25, 2016 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#167823-167951	General	\$1,416,157.92
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Mayor Guyton read the following proclamations proclaiming:

- (1) September 2016, as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” - Presented to Judy Rubel, Jim and Jane Hicks and Phil Phillips.
- (2) Endorsing Alabama’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative - Presented to Kim Cochran
- (3) September 2016, as “Ovarian/Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month” - Presented to Carol Scott

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1) President Williams announced that no action was necessary regarding 305 Wilson Street in District 6, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Williams stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct the following public hearings:

- (1) President Williams announced that no action was necessary regarding 1007 North 9th Street in District 3, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.
- (2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to resolutions ordering the abatement of nuisances on properties at 1420-A Forrest Avenue and 1420-B Forrest Avenue, Keith G. Peters, Timothy D. Sprayberry, and Exchange Bank of Alabama being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in December 2015, and recommended abatement. Councilman Worthy said he spoke with the owners, who requested additional time. He moved to table both resolutions for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon 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 1104 Glen Iris Drive, Nimrod Rutledge and wife Lula Rutledge, and Willie Howard Rutledge being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated although a permit was obtained in January 2016, no improvements have been made since procedures began in September 2015. He recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-335-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1104 Glen Iris Drive - District 3 - Nimrod Rutledge; Lula Rutledge; Willie Howard Rutledge)

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 1203 4th Avenue, the State of Alabama and heirs of Ladue Freeman and wife Irene M. Freeman being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in February 2014, and recommended abatement. In response to Councilman Billingsley's inquiry, he said rehabilitation will be considered. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-336-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1203 4th Avenue - District 5 - State of Alabama; Heirs of Ladue Freeman and Irene M. Freeman)

Councilman Billingsley moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon 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 1203 Short Spruce Street, Ellis and Loretta Blount being the last known owners. Ellis and Loretta Blount said they have been working on the property since March but all improvements have been lost to vandalism. They expressed their desire for their son to live there when he is released from prison. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in April 2014, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-337-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1203 Short Spruce Street - District 5 - Ellis Blount; Loretta Blount)

Councilman Billingsley advised Mr. and Mrs. Blount to make exterior improvements and to work with Mr. Harbison to prevent demolition. He then moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously adopted.

(6) President Williams announced that no action was necessary regarding 1220-A Short Spruce Street in District 5, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

(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 2304 Norris Avenue, Nannitta Warren being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this burned house since procedures began in December 2015. He said demolition is complete but much debris remains, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-338-16

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2304 Norris Avenue - District 6 - Nannitta Warren)

Councilman Cannon advised the owner she would have some time to remove the debris before Public Works arrives to carry out the order. He moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Billingsley and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-339-16

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR BID NO. 3315

(Authorizing Change Order #1 - Bid No. 3315 - Roof and Support Structure Repairs at Gadsden Air Depot Building T-8 - Additional \$14,480.00 for further deterioration discovered after work began - Adjusting contract price with Hudak Construction Company to \$78,620.00)

Councilman Echols 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-340-16

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
FISHING 4 REEL OUTDOORS

(Authorizing Agreement - Fishing 4 Reel Outdoors - \$1,750.00 - For City sponsorship of fishing tournament to be held on November 12-13, 2016)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-341-16
AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
GOLF NOW, LLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Golf Now, LLC - For management of Point of Sale Software at Twin Bridges Golf Club - Two year agreement with automatic renewal for successive one-year terms - No monthly service fee)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY (2303 Norris 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 Worthy introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-342-16
APPROVING ADVANCE FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES

(Billy Billingsley - \$403.20 - To attend Congressional Black Caucus Conference in Washington, D.C. on September 14-18, 2016)

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 Reed and unanimously adopted.

(2) Councilman Reed introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-343-16
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION OF GRANT FROM
ETOWAH COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Authorizing Grant Application - Etowah County Community Development Committee - \$50,000.00 - For installation of water splash pad, basketball court and goals, lighting, fencing, and playground equipment in Adams Park)

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.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Deborah Gaither (Emergency Management Agency Director) reminded everyone that September is emergency preparedness month and announced upcoming CERT training classes. She congratulated the EMA team for their work, which resulted in Gadsden again receiving the designation of “storm ready” city.

Fire Chief Carroll announced a memorial ceremony at 10 a.m. tomorrow marking the 40th anniversary of an explosion that killed three firemen and honoring all those who have died in the line of duty. He noted the department’s upcoming fund-raising activities. Chief Carroll announced Gadsden received a Class II ISO rating and only missed Class I by two points.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton encouraged citizens to report suspicious activity in their neighborhood.

Councilman Worthy announced a concert, food and other activities at Carver Square on Labor Day, beginning at 3 p.m.

Councilman Reed congratulated the Fire Department, noting he remembered a past ISO rating of Class V. He encouraged the childhood cancer support group and expressed pride in being able to stand up to support our country and recite the pledge of allegiance.

President Williams announced a lecture by renowned author Bryan Stevenson on September 1. He reported on this morning’s administrative committee meeting, noting concern on behalf of taxpayers to ensure that paid administrative leave is not being overused. President Williams encouraged focus on safety during the upcoming Labor Day holiday and announced changes in the garbage collection schedule.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-30-2016)
