

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
MARCH 3, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on March 3, 2020, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Toles. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Cannon and Reed. 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 Brian Harbison.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on February 25, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of February 21-27, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#198121-198276	General	\$1,525,006.54
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UNIFNISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-08-20

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY

(Authorizing conveyance of property - Adjacent to 700 Agricola Drive - District 7 - Accepting \$150.00 offer from Frankie Patton)

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-09-20

FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION

(Updating Flood Prevention Ordinance to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Study dated March 16, 2016 - Repealing City Code Sections 54-31 through 54-37)

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

(3) President Toles announced that no action was necessary regarding a resolution ordering abatement of nuisance on 802 Avenue A in District 3, as the nuisance has been abated by the owners.

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 1158 Litchfield Avenue in District 1, Samuel L. Wyatt being the last known owner. Samuel Wyatt said he didn't receive notification concerning the nuisance until months after it was sent. He requested additional time, stating he has been working on the building but has experienced delays due to inclement weather. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, said he is not opposed to an extension, noting the case began in April 2019 and a permit was obtained in August 2019. He noted this was the original East Gadsden Sporting Goods building and it is in the path of the proposed Gadsden Eastern Connector (f/k/a I-759 extension). Councilwoman Toles moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously carried.

(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, Heirs of William Owen Leach, Jr., as follows: Donald L. Thomsen, III, Linda L. Thomsen, Joan Dickson Leach, William Dickson Leach, Sara L. Wilder, Joan Leach Hicks, and Gadsden Heating & Sheet Metal being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated this case, which involves an abandoned commercial building, began in June 2019. He recommended abatement, noting he has spoken with a local attorney and landlord, who advised the owner plans to perform demolition. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-86-20

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 935 1st Avenue - District 3 - Heirs of William Owen Leach, Jr., as follows: Donald L. Thomsen, III, Linda L. Thomsen, Joan Dickson Leach, William Dickson Leach, Sara L. Wilder, and Joan Leach Hicks; Gadsden Heating & Sheet Metal)

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 921 Avenue F in District 3, Estate of Lorene Harrell, Coosa Federal Savings & Loan, Lori Jean Burton, Dexter Dewayne Harrell, Vincent O'Neal Harrell, and Stanley Jerome Harrell being the last known owners. Dexter Harrell requested additional time, expressing interest in obtaining a permit and securing contractors to salvage the building. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, expressed no opposition to a 30-day extension but stressed the need to eliminate the nuisance. Councilman Worthy moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously carried.

(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 1351 Forrest Avenue (accessory building), Ann Harris and Michael Taliaferro being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this garage apartment since procedures began in June 2019, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-87-20

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1351 Forrest Avenue (accessory building) - District 3 - Ann Harris; Michael Taliaferro)

Councilman Worthy 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 3610 Georgia Avenue, David W. Waites being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in June 2019, and recommended abatement. He added the owner has offered to convey the property to the City. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-88-20

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 3610 Georgia Avenue - District 6 - David W. Waites)

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

(6) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 604 Blythe Street, the State of Alabama, Billy Wise, Michael Cason, and Towona Cason being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-89-20

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,841.40 - 604 Blythe Street - District 2 - State of Alabama; Billy Wise; Michael Cason; Towona Cason)

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

(7) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 1010 Slusser Avenue, Ronnie Pollard, subject to a mortgage in favor of Financial Service Company of Alabama, Carlos Tello, and State of Alabama being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-90-20

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,316.40 - 1010 Slusser Avenue - District 2 - Ronnie Pollard, subject to a mortgage in favor of Financial Service Company of Alabama; Carlos Tello; State of Alabama)

Councilman Reed moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back 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 803 Rogers Street, Morris Foster, III and the Estate of Cora Lee Brown, c/o Morris Foster, III, William Brown, and WF Cora Lee, c/o Morris Foster, III being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-91-20

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$2,741.40 - 803 Rogers Street - District 3 - Morris Foster, III; Estate of Cora Lee Brown, c/o Morris Foster, III; William and Cora Lee Brown, c/o Morris Foster, III)

Councilman Reed moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back 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 809 Wawonah Street, the State of Alabama, redemption rights of Florence Hardy, Chapman Hardy and/or their heirs, if deceased, being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-92-20

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,666.40 - 809 Wawonah Street - District 3 - State of Alabama; Redemption rights of Florence Hardy; Chapman Hardy and/or their heirs if deceased)

Councilman Reed moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back 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 1001 Spruce Street, the State of Alabama, the rights of redemption of Johnny L. Williams and/or his heirs, if deceased, being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-93-20

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,441.40 - 1001 Spruce Street - District 5 - State of Alabama; Rights of redemption of Johnny L. Williams and/or his heirs if deceased)

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

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-94-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3429

(Awarding Bid No. 3429 - Raymond Hill Community Center Re-Roofing Project - Mid-Western Commercial Roofers, Inc. - \$82,120.00)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Brian Harbison reported on the recent “sweep” to identify trash, debris, and abandoned vehicle nuisances in the Alabama City area. He noted the efforts will continue in the East Gadsden area next. Mayor Guyton stressed the need to keep our city beautiful, which will increase property values. Councilman Cannon affirmed his support for this effort.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Several Council members encouraged citizens to vote in today’s election and to be knowledgeable about the candidates.

Councilman Worthy recognized SCLC President Marcia Bush and regular attenders who were present. He announced a District 3 meeting Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Carver Community Center. Councilman Worthy announced the RAM medical/dental/vision clinic at Gadsden City High School on March 28-29. He reported on a recent EMA briefing concerning the Corona virus, noting our area is a “hot zone” for flu and Hepatitis A, which involve the same hygiene protocols.

Councilman Back emphasized need for more certified construction companies to perform work under the Community Development Block Grant program. He encouraged owners to address poor property conditions, noting today’s hearings involving demolition liens total \$16,000 expended by the city. Councilman Back warned that drainage inlets can become clogged by trash that is placed too close. He said many compliments were received for the recent high school mountain bike competition and expressed appreciation for the City’s investment in the Black Creek Trail. Councilman Back commended the Friends of the Falls group for their work, especially recent litter collections.

Councilman Cannon commented on confusion caused by erroneous information on the “Gadsden Truth” Facebook page, as well as potential candidates.

President Toles announced the City Council will not meet next week due to the National League of Cities conference in Washington, DC. She also announced a District 1 meeting at 6 p.m on March 23 at the Antioch Family Life Center.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (3-3-2020)
