

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 28, 2020 - 11:00 A.M..

The City Council met on April 28, 2020, via teleconference.

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.

The invocation was given by President Toles.

At President Toles' request, Emergency Management Agency Director Deborah Gaither provided an update on local COVID-19 conditions. She thanked Fleet Maintenance and noted work on the ambulance is complete. Ms. Gaither noted departments are being asked to provide a list of resources needed for the next six to nine months for surge planning. She commended the work of first responders and announced drive-through testing will be conducted next week in the East Gadsden area.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on April 21, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of April 17-23, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#199782-199914	General	\$960,866.01
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RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-108-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3431

(Awarding Bid No. 3431 - 2020 Gadsden Landscape Maintenance - Proscapes of Alabama, Inc. - \$47,226.00)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-109-20

AUTHORIZING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT FOR
AN ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM II PROJECT WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA

(Authorizing Agreement - State of Alabama - Preliminary Engineering and Construction for intersection improvements at SR-1 (US-278/US-431/Meighan Boulevard) and SR-291 (Hood Avenue) - \$917,000.00 in ATRIP II grant funds - Note: No local match is required but City must cover cost of any project overruns)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-110-20

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FROM THE ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (ALEA) UNDER THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

(Authorizing Acceptance of ALEA Grant - \$89,258.21 - Pass through grant for conducting exercises, receiving training or purchasing equipment - Coates Bend Volunteer Fire Department, Altoona Volunteer Fire Department, and Ball Play #1 Volunteer Fire Department)

President Toles 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 Cannon and unanimously adopted.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-14-20

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

(Amending FY 2020 General Fund Budget - Reflecting receipt of and appropriating \$89,258.21 ALEA Grant - For Coates Bend Volunteer Fire Department, Altoona Volunteer Fire Department, and Ball Play #1 Volunteer Fire Department)

Councilman Reed moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance as an item of new business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: None

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Heath Williamson, City Engineer, provided an update regarding primary projects in construction and design phase currently underway and responded to questions from council members.

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, apologized to anyone that she offended by her remarks in last week's work session and expressed appreciation for all first responders and medical personnel, as well as all city employees. She said the financial impact from COVID-19 closures won't be known until the end of May and the Goodyear closure will be a \$2.5 million loss in city revenues.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Williams announced the Civil Service test has been re-scheduled to June 24 and encouraged people to apply for first responder positions. He noted the application is available on the city's website and a study guide can be provided upon request.

Councilman Back thanked Lisa Rosser for her comments, as well as her work. He expressed sadness at the loss of Goodyear and said the Industrial Development Authority is diligently working on a new vision for Gadsden. Councilman Back referred to many burglaries and break-ins in his district, encouraging people to lock their vehicles and to call the police to report any suspicious activity. He stressed the need to eliminate speeding.

Councilman Wilson extended condolences to the families of Jerry Pullen, Trey Dowdy, and Nicholas Drummonds.

Councilman Reed referred to hard financial decisions in the future and commended Lisa Rosser's work.

Several council members commented on the Governor's "Safer at Home" announcement, which includes reopening retail businesses, and encouraged citizens to be courteous, continue washing their hands and wearing a mask.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (4-28-2020)
