

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
MAY 12, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 12, 2020, in regular session.

Due to the length of the work session, the meeting was called to order at approximately 11:25 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 Captain Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

President Toles announced a COVID-19 drive-through and walk-up testing event at Carver Community Center on Wednesday, May 13. She noted testing will be conducted at the Etowah County Health Department by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. President Toles urged the public to continue following safety guidelines.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on May 5, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of May 1-7, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#199993-200316	General	\$1,035,977.86
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RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-116-20

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR COVID-19 (AFG-S)

(Authorizing Grant Application - Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant for COVID-19 - \$13,260.00 - For supplies, with priority given to immediate needs such as masks, gowns, eye protection, etc. - Local 10% match to be paid from Fire Tax)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Carroll described modifications to EMS response protocol during COVID-19. Initially, one responder approaches the patient and others stand by unless determined to be needed. He estimated \$25-30 as the cost of required personal protection equipment (PPE), which includes safety goggles and shield, full body covering, foot covers, gloves, and mask for each individual, per call. The Chief commended patients who have followed the recommended guidelines when they experienced symptoms.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council members urged citizens to observe social distancing and other guidelines, including wearing masks, as the pandemic continues and businesses are reopening. They expressed appreciation to Councilman Wilson, who provided hand sanitizer to them. Councilman Worthy noted lunch will be provided to the first 200 participants at the Carver testing event.

Councilman Back announced backpack food distribution at First Baptist Church on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Councilman Williams noted there are 193 confirmed cases in Etowah County and commended first responders. He noted the city is applying for competitive grants and encouraged the local legislative delegation to act wisely.

Councilman Worthy thanked City Engineer Heath Williamson for his response to a sinkhole that formed.

(Councilman Worthy left the meeting at this time.)

Councilman Wilson stressed the need to complete the census survey and encouraged the administration to reopen the recycling center. He suggested temporary measures to allow restaurants to utilize the sidewalk to expand their seating capacity, noting some other cities have done so. Councilman Wilson said Broad Street could be closed on weekend nights, as done for First Friday events.

Mayor Guyton referred to Facebook comments, noting he sometimes has meetings or is conducting work during council meeting time, pointing out he doesn't have the right to vote. Frankie Davis said Goodyear provided the first official notification about its procedures for closing the Gadsden plant, which will begin on June 28. The Mayor stated the work to create other jobs, which started several years ago, is continuing. President Toles read the letter from Goodyear in its entirety.

Councilman Cannon said discussions regarding the pay structure for the fire department and construction of a fire station in Walnut Park are now on hold due to the impact of COVID-19. He addressed the following incorrect perceptions: (1) that the city discontinued Riverfest, pointing out the event was established and conducted by the Chamber of Commerce; (2) the Governor, not the Mayor, set the guidelines for closing and reopening of businesses during the pandemic; (3) you can support things, such as the Chamber of Commerce, without financial appropriations; (4) people are working although you may not see them. Councilman Cannon encouraged people to talk to him in person, rather than "hiding behind Facebook."

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (5-12-2020)
