

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JUNE 2, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 26, 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 Captain Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Williams.

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, provided an update on COVID-19, noting there are 12 deaths and 257 confirmed cases. She commended EMA staff, which has been activated since February 21. Concern was expressed for the homeless population and demonstrators participating in marches in regard to social distancing and wearing masks. Councilman Worthy noted his foundation, Gadsden Empowerment Initiative, received a grant to provide housing for COVID-19 patients.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on May 26, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of May 22-28, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#200528-200618	General	\$352,180.17
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RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-123-20

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO T-MOBILE

(Authorizing Special Use Permit - T-Mobile - To modify equipment at existing wireless telecommunication facility located at 104 12th Street North in East Gadsden)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-124-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH EE GROUP, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - EE Group, Inc. - \$340,000.00 - To provide all electrical engineering plans and specifications for construction of improvements for sports park at Gadsden State Community College)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Heath Williamson, City Engineer, provided an update regarding the city’s primary projects that are almost complete, underway, and in the design phase.

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director provided an update concerning April tax revenues, which were received in May, as well as expenditures. She said several businesses have closed. It was noted that COVID grant funds applied for cannot be used to replace budget losses.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Several council members complimented the reports given in today’s work session and council meeting and thanked the presenters for their work.

Several council members commented on the death of George Floyd, thanking organizers and participants of Sunday’s peaceful march in Gadsden. Opposition was expressed to violence and rioting. Councilman Worthy urged police officers, who are professionals, to help prevent bad actions. Councilman Back expressed his agreement and Councilman Williams noted good police officers are also disgusted by the incident. He related his personal experience of filing a complaint on a police officer.

Mayor Guyton encouraged the public to apply for jobs as automotive supply industries are reopening production.

Councilmen Worthy and Back announced food will be distributed on Wednesday at First Baptist Church and on Thursday at Shiloh Church.

Councilman Cannon referred to the 2% occupational tax as a needed tool for the city’s survival. Councilman Wilson said he researched cities that don’t have an occupational tax and pointed out they have other types of taxes and fees that Gadsden doesn’t have. Councilman Back agreed and said measured responses should be based on needs, rather than wants. Councilman Williams pointed out the danger of investing taxpayer money into private ventures due to the potential of failure.

Councilman Reed thanked Bellevue Baptist Church officers for designating a portion of their building as a storm shelter.

President Toles noted some businesses still owe the City for sales tax collected. She stressed the public’s responsibility to vote, based upon examination of candidates’ voting records in regard to their interests. She recognized Commissioner Jeffrey Washington, who was present.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (6-2-2020)
