

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 2, 2019 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 2, 2019, 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, and Lee Roberts were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on June 25, 2019, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of June 21-27, 2019 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#192608-192775	General	\$694,931.81
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(1) The following ordinance, which was introduced for first reading at last week's meeting, was presented for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-19

AMENDING SECTION 106-71 OF THE CITY CODE
ARTICLE III, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

(Amending City Code Regarding Garbage Fee Exemptions - Allowing persons receiving railroad or veteran's benefits to receive an exemption if income is below 75% Federal poverty level - Limiting exemptions to persons holding only one active garbage account and residing there - Limiting number of garbage cans to one per exemption)

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct a public hearing allowing anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Sharma, LLC, d/b/a Texaco Food Mart at 400 N. 12th Street. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-254-19

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(Sharma, LLC, d/b/a Texaco Food Mart - 400 North 12th Street - Retail Beer and Table Wine License, off premises only)

Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson

NAYS: Toles, Cannon

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-255-19

ESTABLISHING GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART - ART PROGRAM

(Establishing Art Program - Providing an opportunity for local artists to teach art in class setting - Gadsden Museum of Art will engage artists - City will receive 30% of net revenue - Public will pay small fee for classes)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-256-19

2020 CENSUS PARTNERSHIP

(Creating 2020 Census Partnership with U.S. Census Bureau and State of Alabama - City will support goals and ideas, disseminate 2020 Census information, encourage City residents to participate in awareness events, provide advocates to speak to organizations, support census takers, and strive to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-257-19

CREATION OF THE 2020 CITY OF GADSDEN COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

(Creating City of Gadsden Complete Count Committee - Relating to 2020 Census - To bring together a cross section of community members who will utilize their local knowledge and expertise to reach out to all persons of our community)

Councilman Williams stressed the importance of achieving a full count because the census directly affects Federal funding. He moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-258-19

AUTHORIZING LEASE AGREEMENT
WITH ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

(Authorizing Agreement - Alabama Power Company - To upgrade 198 existing roadway lighting fixtures to LED fixtures and maintain them - For limited area from Walnut Street to West Meighan Boulevard and 1st Street to 6th Street, Also along Broad Street bridge and continuing on E. Broad Street to 6th Street in East Gadsden - City's estimated cost is \$5,199.18 per month for an initial term of 36 months)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-259-19

AWARDING BID NO. 3409

(Awarding Bid No. 3409 - 2019 Street Resurfacing Project - J & D Enterprises, LLC - \$1,341,729.50)

President Toles received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Williams moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Shane Ellison (Mayor's Administrative Assistant) announced Turnip Tuesday, tonight's outdoor movie at Adams Park, First Friday, and the July Summer concert. He noted this is the last weekend to see the Noccalula Experience play.

PUBLIC

Joseph Cole referred to his former remarks about interaction between police officers and black males, noting one had been investigated and satisfactorily resolved. He related details of an incident that occurred Sunday night involving a thirty-eight year old, stating he was profiled and treated badly by officers. Mr. Cole said the man was told he had no complaint when he asked to file one. President Toles advised Mr. Cole she had viewed a video of the incident and none of the things he described were on it. Council members responded, outlining the procedures for filing a complaint and initiating an investigation, rather than presenting information in a public forum. Complaints may also be submitted to the Civil Service Board, which governs police officers. Although officers can make mistakes, confidence was expressed that matters will be investigated. President Toles disputed other statements that had been made regarding a Lieutenant's actions and alleged comments by her. She emphasized the importance of the truth and working things out to reduce human tendencies toward hatred.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

The Council joined in wishing everyone a safe and happy Independence Day holiday and President Toles announced changes in the garbage collection schedule.

Councilman Williams referred to a newspaper article concerning a national issue in recruiting law enforcement officers and encouraged everyone to seek recruits. He congratulated Dr. Michael Shehi, who recently threw the first pitch at a professional baseball game.

Councilman Worthy encouraged citizens to participate in First Saturday activities at Carver Square.

Councilman Reed encouraged all citizens to cooperate with the 2020 Census process and announced the Patriot's Association fireworks presentation on July 4.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-2-2019)
