

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 14, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 14, 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, and Reed. Councilman Cannon was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Jeramy Ward, Lee Roberts and Captain Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Crystal Wain.

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, cautioned residents about heat indices this week and announced the location of hydration stations. She presented the latest COVID-19 statistics, which are still increasing, noting no critical care beds were available this morning. Ms. Gaither urged continuation of social distancing, wearing masks, and washing your hands, and announced a testing event at Antioch Family Life Center on August 5.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 7, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 3-9, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#201265-201495	General	\$4,308,446.98
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RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-140-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3435

(Awarding Bid No. 3435 - Detention Pond Construction Project - Alabama Grading and Excavation, LLC - \$129,160.00 - Note: This relates to the City of Gadsden borrow pit)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-141-20

REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR BID NO. 3420

(Rejecting Bid No. 3420 - ADA Compliant Sidewalk Improvement Project - Reason: Conflicting instructions discovered in the bid documents, due to Federal and State law discrepancies)

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

PUBLIC

McKenzie Clark noted she had been a Youth in Government Day participant and is one of the few remaining residents in her class. She expressed sadness at decisions made in last week's meeting and opposition to "Confederate idolatry." Ms. Clark encouraged council members to justly represent communities of color and said Gadsden Freedom Fighters wish to be a bridge for understanding.

Semaja Conwell said she spoke against police brutality and the Emma Sansom monument at a young age and later moved away. She referred to the Moragne Park renovation and cited neighborhood parks that have not been improved. Ms. Conwell announced a census event sponsored by the Gadsden Freedom Coalition and stated the need to come together and take action to ensure the future of our youth.

Mario Richardson Ray said council members were elected by the community and will be judged by history. He said young people of all races are crying out for change and urged taking advantage of the opportunity of this moment. Mr. Ray expressed opposition to last week's decisions and denounced actions of General Forrest regarding the battle of Ft. Pillow.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Worthy announced tomorrow's virtual job fair, which is being coordinated by The Chamber and other groups.

Councilman Wilson noted he had visited homes regarding the census and stressed the need to respond. Councilmen Williams and Back joined in thanking the Carver Revitalization Committee, Craig Scott, and all who are working in the effort.

Councilman Wilson stated the need to address issues being raised and expressed hope that a committee will be formed. Councilman Williams thanked him for his support and said civil discourse is needed for resolution.

Councilman Reed encouraged people to vote in today's runoff election.

Councilman Back announced food distribution will continue each Wednesday at First Baptist Church through August. He said he is researching and having conversations with people on both sides of current issues, including the monuments. Councilman Back noted medical experts disagree on the effectiveness of wearing masks.

Councilman Williams noted the plea for wearing masks is based on data and involves only a small amount of time.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-14-20)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
JULY 14, 2020 - 2:00 P.M.

The City Clerk received bid proposals as advertised for the following bids:

Bid No. 3432 - Uniform Rental (NEAPA)

Cintas Uniform Services	Unit Prices
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Bid No. 3437 - Automotive Filter Sort (NEAPA)

Southland Transportation Group	\$22,022.09
Tractor & Equipment Company	\$22,032.44

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the Fleet Maintenance Director, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
