

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 21, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 21, 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, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Back.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 14, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 10-16, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#201496-201639	General	\$802,682.93
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Deborah Gaither, EMA Director, reminded departments that Department of Homeland Security grant applications are due on Friday and noted reimbursement was approved for the Easter Sunday storm event. She reported on hydration stations set up at various locations. Ms. Gaither reported on rising COVID-19 statistics and the status of capacity at both hospitals. She announced a drive-through testing event at Antioch Family Life Center on August 5.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct a public hearing allowing anyone to speak in opposition to or in favor of a resolution authorizing an economic development agreement with Wakefield's Inc. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-142-20

AUTHORIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
WITH WAKEFIELD'S INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - Wakefield's Inc. - To locate a Martins Family Clothing Store at The Gadsden Mall, 1001 Rainbow Drive - Providing for rebate of 2% of the City's 5% sales tax payments - Period of 3 years from store's opening date or until \$85,000.00 has been paid to developer, whichever occurs first - Note: Location is former JC Penney store)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-143-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3433

(Awarding Bid No. 3433 - Greens Covers for Twin Bridges Golf Club - The Oaks Associates, LP - \$15,420.00)

Councilman Worthy 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-144-20

APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS
TO GADSDEN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

(Reappointing Jonathan Copeland, Scott Hindsman, Gutierrez Gregory Hall and Ben Connally for terms expiring on 6-30-21 - Reappointing Kevin Ferguson, Chris Williams and Rickey Hunter for terms expiring on 6-30-22 - Reappointing Kevin Silvey, Wesley Williams, and Lance Smith for terms expiring on 6-30-23 - Appointing Nell Minton to replace Ed Whatley for term expiring on 6-30-23)

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-145-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
FORD, HOWARD, AND CORNETT, P.C.

(Authorizing Agreement - Ford, Howard & Cornett, P.C. - To represent City's counterclaim against George Willett and/or third-party complaint against his employer - To recover the amount of City's insurance deductible relating to traffic accident on 2-20-20)

Councilman Back 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-146-20

ACCEPTING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY
ON MONTE VISTA DRIVE

(Accepting conveyance of property from John R. Ray, H. Daniel Ray and W. Allen Ray - 1300 Monte Vista Drive in District 7 - Lot 19, 3rd Addition to Monte Vista)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jen Weathington, Parks & Recreation Director, announced cancellation of First Friday and Summer Concert events for the month of August, noting they will be re-evaluated for September.

PUBLIC

Frank Leatherwood, Jr. empathized with the South in events leading up to the Civil War. He expressed opposition to slavery, but pointed out soldiers were protecting their families, homes, and state. He described the Emma Sansom monument as a “tombstone” to CSA soldiers, as well as a tribute to Emma.

Leticia Moorer said although her identity is not rooted in concrete and materials, the history surrounding it is not positive. She encouraged moving forward in a positive, peaceful manner and stressed the importance of both sides being heard. Ms. Moorer referred to her service in the army and affirmed that she served to protect all people.

Tamika Williams defined unity and stated the need to change the future history for our youth. She described Biblical love and spoke about peace. Ms. Williams encouraged finding a resolution for the city’s issues and stated that while prayers are good, people must also strive to do something.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton urged caution in response to rising COVID statistics. Councilmen Worthy, Wilson, and Williams joined in thanking Governor Ivey for her leadership in establishing a state-wide mandate for face coverings. The public was encouraged to continue social distancing, washing hands, etc.

Councilman Worthy expressed support for Superintendent Reddick’s decision for virtual schooling and putting emphasis on student safety. Councilman Back noted these type decisions are hard and encouraged parents to use this as a teaching opportunity with their children about discussion of controversial topics.

Councilman Wilson reminded citizens to complete the census questionnaire. He encouraged the public to support local businesses and noted grants up to \$3,000 are available. Lesa Osborn (Commercial Development Authority) noted the State approved \$100 million for small business grants up to \$15,000. Information was given on how to access the application.

Councilman Reed thanked the majority of the speakers for their enlightening comments and Lesa Osborn for her work on the Martin’s development project.

Councilman Back thanked Public Works employees for their hard work in collecting trash and debris. He stressed the importance of responding to the census and announced this week’s free food distribution at First Baptist Church at 2:00 on Wednesday.

Councilman Williams thanked speakers for their civil discourse and reiterated the love he expressed two weeks ago for people of other countries and white people. He wished Mayor Guyton a happy birthday.

President Toles announced she has appointed Councilman Wilson (Chair) and Councilman Williams (Co-Chair) to form a committee to collaborate with young people on current issues. She encouraged putting ideas into action through service to the community.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-21-20)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
JULY 21, 2020 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3408 - Alabama City Center Parking

Bedwell and Whorton	\$609,380.43
Wiregrass Construction Company	\$665,580.33
McCartney Construction/Vulcan Materials	\$1,294,442.00

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the City Engineer, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
