

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 21, 2018 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 21, 2018, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Williams. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Echols, Billingsley, Cannon and Reed. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 14, 2018, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 10 - August 16, 2018 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#184710 - #184813	General	\$1,113,339.51
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Dr. Sharon Maness (Gadsden City Schools) and Karen Winn and Christy Colee (Renaissance) announced implementation of the My On Reading Program, a digital library program, in local schools. Students can access the library anywhere WiFi is present, or can download books to an iPad for reading at any location. They thanked the Mayor and Council for the \$300,000 appropriation that provided funding for the program, as well as before and after school tutoring in housing communities and the Boys and Girls Club.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) President Williams stated no Council action would be necessary on a resolution ordering abatement of nuisances on property at 408 S. 4th Street in District 4, which was tabled for 30 days on July 17, because the nuisance has been abated by the owners (LDA Investments, LLC and Rex G. Keeling).

(2) A resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien in the amount of \$136 for grass cutting on property at 2401 Ewing Avenue in District 2, which was tabled for 7 days on August 14, was presented for consideration. In light of recent information concerning a settlement agreement with the property owner, Investment Properties, Councilman Billingsley moved to take no further action. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Toles and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Williams stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct the following public hearings:

(1) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 725 1st Avenue, Tom Dawson being the last known owner. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-347-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$16,477.40 - 725 1st Avenue - District 3 - Tom Dawson)

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

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 1113 3rd Avenue, Denise Debra Miller and the State of Alabama being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-348-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,016.40 - 1113 3rd Avenue - District 5 - Denise Debra Miller; State of Alabama)

Councilman Billingsley moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Toles and unanimously adopted.

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 2211 Dozier Street/Avenue, the State of Alabama, those certain rights of redemption of Brad Johnson a/k/a Robert Brad Johnson being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-349-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$3,316.40 - 2211 Dozier Street/Avenue - District 7 - State of Alabama; Certain rights of redemption of Brad Johnson, a/k/a Robert Brad Johnson)

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

(4) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 2206 Nocalula Road, William T. Morrow and wife Evelyn F. Morrow being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-350-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Demolition - \$5,466.40 - 2206 Noccalula Road - District 7 - William T. Morrow; Evelyn F. Morrow)

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

(5) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 307 Graves Street, Nolan T. & Keelie R. Holland, James & Deanna Estes being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-351-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Grass Cutting - \$136.00 - 307 Graves Street - District 2 - Nolan T. & Keelie R. Holland; James & Deanna Estes)

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

(6) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 602 Washington Street, the State of Alabama and Douglas Brooks being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-352-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Grass Cutting - \$376.00 - 602 Washington Street - District 3 - State of Alabama; Douglas Brooks)

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

(7) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 413 Van Courtland Street, Kenneth Bolding, Jr. being the last known owner. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-353-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Grass Cutting - \$136.00 - 413 Van Courtland Street - District 6 - Kenneth Bolding, Jr.)

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

(8) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 418 Henderson Street, the State of Alabama and Thomas Reilly being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-354-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Grass Cutting - \$196.00 - 418 Henderson Street - District 6 - State of Alabama; Thomas Reilly)

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

(9) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution assessing a nuisance abatement lien on property at 2409 Hill Avenue, the State of Alabama and April Morris being the last known owners. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-355-18

ASSESSING NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY

(Assessing Nuisance Abatement Lien for Grass Cutting - \$256.00 - 2409 Hill Avenue - District 6 - State of Alabama; April Morris)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-356-18

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT
WITH GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Amending Agreement - Gadsden City Board of Education - \$200,000.00 - For security enhancements at local schools)

Councilwoman Toles moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Billingsley and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilwoman Toles introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-357-18

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH SAIN ASSOCIATES, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - Sain Associates - \$3,500.00 - Phase 1, Due Diligence - For field work required to design parameters for new emergency preemption equipment - Traffic signals at 12 intersections)

Councilwoman Toles moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-358-18

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE
FOR JAG GRANT

(Authorizing application and acceptance of FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - \$32,476.00 - For dive equipment for Gadsden Police Department - Note: Etowah County Sheriff's Office declined any allocation of the grant)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-359-18

AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
FOR 2018 JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Agreement - Etowah County Sheriff's Department - Regarding FY 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant - \$32,476.00 - Note: County declined grant allocation and total amount will be used to procure dive equipment for Police Department's dive team members)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Christina Richardson (Noccalula Falls Park Manager), Elaine Campbell and Tina Penley (Gadsden Art Association) joined in announcing that "Art on the Rocks" will be re-established as "Art on the Rocks at Noccalula Falls" and held on May 4-5, 2019. They expressed excitement at bringing back the event, which primarily showcases local talent. Councilman Reed expressed appreciation to the association.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Guyton announced lease terms are being finalized for construction of a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant on four acres of City-owned riverfront property between The Venue and the Riverwalk at Coosa Landing. The project involves a \$4 million capital investment and will create 120 jobs. The City will provide infrastructure work to facilitate the project and to serve The Venue. President Williams and Councilman Cannon commended the administration's work on the project.

PUBLIC

Jennifer Williams thanked the Mayor and Council for growth experienced by our city and complimented the orderly meetings conducted by her husband, Council President Deverick Williams. She wished a happy birthday to Councilman Echols and thanked him and other members for their work in our community, citing The Venue and Buffalo Wild Wings. Mrs. Williams expressed hope that the current elected officials will continue in their leadership roles.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Toles referred to the myOn Program and pointed out statistics on the number of prison inmates correlates to the number of students who don't accomplish reading comprehension by the third grade. Councilman Worthy noted the program can also aid parents who are challenged in reading.

Councilman Echols commented on his 32 years of service on the Council, stating he is 90 years old and will soon celebrate his 70th wedding anniversary. He expressed disappointment in the "little groups all over town" during the election process and said everyone needs to unite in one group. Councilman Echols said those who are critical of the City's investments in East Gadsden need to support the new facilities. Councilmen Billingsley, Cannon and Reed and President Williams joined in wishing Councilman Echols a happy birthday and commending him.

Councilman Worthy expressed appreciation for the City and Career Center's support of the job fair, noting there were 70 employers, 1,500 job openings and 300 potential employees.

Councilman Billingsley noted work continues on S. 11th Street and resurfacing is coming upon its completion.

Councilman Cannon wished a happy 38th anniversary to his wife, Lana. He was joined by Councilman Reed and President Williams in encouraging everyone to vote in next Tuesday's election.

President Williams announced the first annual "Movies in the Park" event at Thompson Park on August 25, noting it may spread to other locations in the city. He announced next week's Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 29, due to the City election on Tuesday, August 28.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-21-2018)
