

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
JANUARY 5, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on January 5, 2021 in regular session, via teleconference.

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. Heath Williamson and Lee Roberts were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Cannon.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on December 29, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of December 25-31, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

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| #205003-205090 | General | \$377,884.08 |
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Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, provided an update on Covid-19 statistics and vaccines. She noted the total number of cases exceeds 10,000 and advised the expected surge from Christmas and New Year has not been realized yet. Ms. Gaither noted one hospital is still awaiting vaccine and announced a drive-through event on Thursday at The Venue for first responders and persons 75 years and older. In response to questions, she noted hospital bed availability is at a critical level, healthy teachers are asked to wait 3-4 weeks to be vaccinated, and a couple of pharmacies have received vaccines for health care providers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) The following resolution, which was tabled for 30 days on December 1, 2020, was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-01-21

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1224 Malone Street - District 3 - Diane J. Glass)

Upon recommendation of the Building Official, Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously adopted.

(2) A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 721 Berea Avenue (740 Chestnut Street on county records) in District 5, which was tabled for 30 days on December 1, 2020, was presented for consideration. Councilman Wilson noted this property is involved in a circuit court proceeding and moved to table the resolution indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and unanimously carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Reed thanked City employees for their dedicated work and pointed out those at the library. Councilman Worthy agreed and thanked first responders. Councilman Back complimented Christmas at the Falls and thanked everyone involved in putting on the event.

Councilman Cannon encouraged citizens to wear masks and to pray for those who are sick, as well as doctors and nurses. Councilman Back expressed sadness at the death of many friends.

Councilmen Wilson and Back joined in extending condolences to the family of Joanne Hightower and commending her work in our community, stating she will be sorely missed.

In response to an inquiry, Councilman Wilson explained the council receives a report each week on all expenditures for review prior to ratifying payment of the accounts.

Councilman Worthy announced this year's Martin Luther King breakfast will not be held. He said he had received inquiries concerning the city's policy concerning grave side services at the cemetery.

President Toles announced the council will continue meeting by teleconference until Covid numbers improve, unless items arise that require an in-person meeting.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (1-5-21)

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