

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JANUARY 11, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on January 11, 2022, 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, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Brian Harbison.

Josh Tanner (Emergency Management Agency) provided an update on local Covid-19 statistics, noting there have been 1,657 new cases since December 28 in Etowah County and our classification is “very high” rate of transmission. He provided tips for individuals to protect themselves if attending large gatherings and asked everyone to avoid hospital emergency departments except in the case of life threatening situations. Mr. Tanner said updated quarantine guidelines are being reviewed. A brief discussion was held on the need for persons to unlock the storm shelter in Alabama City.

Fire Chief Reed reported an increase in “Person Under Investigation” calls and reported 21 staff members have been out over the past two weeks due to Covid. He said both hospitals are at capacity and are on diversion.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on January 4, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of December 31, 2021, through January 6, 2022, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#213046-213213	General	\$1,722,795.54
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RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-03-22

ELECTING DIRECTOR OF THE ETOWAH GADSDEN HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

(Reappointing Marie Franklin Johnson for term expiring December 22, 2025)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-04-22

ADOPTING AMENDED PUBLIC RECORD POLICY

(Adopting Amended Public Record Policy - Increasing fees for copies from \$.25 per page to \$1.00 per page - Increasing fee for research, compilation of data, etc. from \$10.00 per hour to \$25.00 per hour - Establishing \$15.00 fee for records provided on electronic media - Establishing \$15.00 fee for municipal assessment letters, environmental assessments, etc. - Note: Original policy was approved by Resolution No. R-275-06)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-05-22

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
CDG ENGINEERS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - CDG Engineers & Associates, Inc. - \$134,000.00 - To provide complete drainage study through the South Gadsden Area, from South 11th Street to Hickory Street)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-06-22

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH S&ME, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - S&ME, Inc. - \$36,100.00 - To provide complete drainage study along Greenwood Avenue/Arrowhead Drive/Paden Road area)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-07-22

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH S&ME, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - S&ME, Inc. - \$33,100.00 - To provide complete drainage study in North Gadsden Park/Goldenrod Avenue/Presley Avenue area)

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Williams challenged everyone to begin 2022 with “paying it forward” to those around us who have needs.

Councilman Cannon objected to being included in recent remarks on social media regarding his “silence” on the rendering plant and absence for certain votes, pointing out he was a Covid patient at the hospital on one occasion and visited his son out of state on another. He said he is retiring after this term and will not seek re-election.

Councilman Reed agreed and said he felt some had taken advantage while people were impacted by Covid.

Councilman Wilson thanked the clerk’s office for his birthday card.

Councilman Back urged caution as Covid cases increase. He explained routes for debris collection and noted delays occur due to various factors. Councilman Back thanked Craig Liggan for his responses on social media that addressed questions regarding resurfacing.

President Toles announced changes in the garbage collection schedule due to next Monday’s Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (1-11-22)
