

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
APRIL 11, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on April 11, 2023, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Back. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra and Robinson. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Ford, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Captain Entrekin were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Latham.

The minutes of the Finance Committee, Work Session, Regular Council meeting and Special called meeting held on April 4, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of March 31-April 6 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#223261-223312	General	\$778,031.91
#223354-223562	OLF Refunds	\$277,261.63

Mayor Ford read a proclamation proclaiming April 2023, as “Autism Awareness Month” and presented it to Mamta Mishra. Mrs. Mishra related her journey with her son Parag and announced the second annual “Together We Can Make a Difference” conference on April 22. Councilman Smith commended Dr. and Mrs. Mishra’s work and expressed support for the proposed park in North Gadsden.

Mayor Ford read a proclamation proclaiming April 2023, as “Fair Housing Month” and presented it to Stephanie Megois, President, Northeast Alabama Association of Realtors and other local realtors who were present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) The following ordinance, which was introduced for first reading at last week's meeting, was presented for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-27-23

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO
ETOWAH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS 911 DISTRICT

(Authorizing City’s 1/3 interest in building located at 4610 Airport Road - To Etowah County Communications 911 District - In exchange for allowing City to terminate its lease agreement dated October 1, 2019)

Councilwoman Latham moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously adopted.

(2) A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 235 N. 6th Street in District 3, which was tabled for 7 days on April 4, was presented for consideration. At the request of Councilman Avery, Zelamina Johnson was allowed to speak. She said she is one-half heir of the property known as Owens Manor and is attempting to get someone to place a tarp over the roof and to get it on the historic register. Ms. Johnson added the building operated as a boarding house that was used during the Civil Rights movement. Councilman Avery expressed hope that grants can be obtained to make repairs and designate the building a museum and moved to table the resolution an additional 30 days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-141-23

**DESIGNATING VOTING DELEGATES FOR ALABAMA
LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES BUSINESS MEETING**

(Designating Mayor Ford as Voting Delegate - Designating Council President Kent Back and Councilman Steve Smith as Alternate Voting Delegates - For business meeting at Alabama League of Municipalities Convention in Birmingham on May 12)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-142-23

**APPOINTING MEMBERS TO HUMANE SOCIETY PET
RESCUE AND ADOPTION CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(Appointing Jeff Johnson, Gina Hollingsworth, Lt. Cliff Heard, Shawn Blackmon and Dr. Donna Gurley - For terms ending at the end of 2026 - Note: Appointments by Mayor with approval of City Council are pursuant to Section 45 of City's contract with Humane Society Pet Rescue and Adoption Center)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-143-23

**APPOINTING MEMBER TO
WATER WORKS AND SEWER BOARD**

(Appointing Gil Isbell to replace Jim Turnbach - For term expiring on November 1, 2024)

Councilman Wilson thanked Jim Turnbach for his dedicated service since 1998. He moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-144-23

ACCEPTING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY
ON NORTH 11TH STREET

(Accepting conveyance of property from Elizabeth Price Moore, Gerre Gwin Price Gendron, and Alice C. Mogensen - Adjacent to City property in 400 block of N. 11th Street - District 3)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-145-23

AUTHORIZING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AGREEMENT
WITH ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(Authorizing Agreement - Alabama Department of Transportation - For preliminary engineering and construction - To resurface and widen Black Creek Parkway, from Wills Creek Road to South 11th Street - MPO Project, with City's 20% match being \$222,689.25)

Councilman Wilson described other improvements in the area and moved to adopt the resolution as introduced. The motion was seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously adopted. Mayor Ford said he had met with all utilities regarding the project timeline and their work should be completed by May 15, and paving should be completed by August 15.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-146-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
THOMAS M. MCELRATH

(Authorizing Agreement - Thomas M. McElrath - \$72,500.00 - For architectural and engineering services - To construct new Fire Station #6 at 206 Goldenrod Avenue in District 2)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Josh Tanner (Interim EMA Director) reported on assistance given for recent storm damage in Morgan County, Sardis, and Boaz. He also reported on distribution of 900 weather radios, including all schools in Etowah County, noting more have been ordered.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Ford commented on presenting a resolution to 101 year-old twins, and Council members Latham and Avery joined in wishing them a happy birthday.

Mayor Ford updated the council on: meeting earlier today with a potential industry; pursuit by contracted grant writer for several strong grant opportunities; plans for clean-up day on Friday organized for city employees; retirement of Lisa Rosser and temporary work to assist; promoting Brandon Phillips to Finance Director, hiring Laura Copeland as Assistant Finance Director/Revenue Director; summarized information presented by Rod Scott and Lisa Rosser concerning ARP funds, which were appropriated by the previous administration; commended Smoke on the Falls and thanked park employees, thanked Heath Williamson and Lee Roberts for their work, expressed concern for Tena King and Ruth Moffatt and their family members who are ill; work of EMA and Public Works to assist communities with storm damage.

President Back and Councilwoman Latham expressed appreciation for the ARP information presented today. Councilwoman Latham encouraged everyone to keep themselves informed and to participate when opportunities are extended, rather than later.

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for their hard work and Lee Roberts for the discretionary training today. He commended Councilman Wilson's annual "Feed the Need" events.

Councilman Avery announced upcoming events, including: tonight's District 3 meeting, clean-up events planned for June, July and August, Saturday's opening of a new restaurant on Tuscaloosa Avenue, tonight's NAACP meeting, Carver Community Revitalization Committee's rummage sale on April 22, and Flashback Old School event on April 15. He thanked Mr. Treadwell for his work with young people and CCRC for the recent Easter egg event. Councilman Avery referred to calls of concern about the ROSS Program at Carver, noting he hopes to meet with its director, as well as Parks & Recreation. He expressed concern for the young man who abandoned his car on the bridge and is still missing.

Councilman Wilson thanked and encouraged Mamta Mishra for her work, noting his sister was the first therapist here to work with autism patients.

Councilwoman Minatra thanked Jan Henson and Brian Harbison for their assistance in the Walnut Park community.

President Back and Councilman Robinson joined in complimenting Smoke on the Falls and encouraging the public to attend Art on the Rocks this weekend.

President Back thanked Mayor for organizing the clean-up this Friday. He responded to comments on social media concerning the increase in garbage fees, iterating the fee history and pointing out the last increase was sixteen years ago. He added that trash pickup is provided free of charge.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (4-11-23)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
APRIL 11, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3505 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 1

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.007
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.06
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3506 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 2

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.006
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.002
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
L&B Lawn Care	\$0.05
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.07
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3507 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 3

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.008
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Lawn Scapes	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.04
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3508 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 4

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.005
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Lawn Scapes	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.08
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3509 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 5

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.009
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Lawn Scapes	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.05
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3510 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 6

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.0095
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Lawn Scapes	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.05
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.50
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

Bid No. 3511 - Nuisance Abatement Grass Cutting in District 7

	<u>Per Square Foot</u>
ZLA Solutions	\$0.0048
TLC	\$0.0095
Jones Lawn Maintenance	\$0.02
Swain Lawn Care	\$0.03
Quincy's Angel Lawn Care	\$0.03
Superior Lawn Services	\$0.40
Perfect Touch Lawn Care	\$17.50

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