

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
APRIL 18, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on April 18, 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, Minatra and Robinson. Councilman Wilson was absent. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on April 11, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of April 7-13 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#223563-223741	General	\$1,547,890.62
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On behalf of Mayor Ford, John Moore read a proclamation proclaiming April 18, 2023, as “Coach Fred “Buster” Gross Day” and presented it to Kelly Gross. Allen Millican, Chairman of the Gadsden City Board of Education, praised Coach Gross for his impact on the lives of young people and the example he set. Councilman Avery agreed and expressed hope that the legacy will continue.

On behalf of Mayor Ford, Ruth Moffatt presented a commendation to Gail Relford, trolley driver, who noticed an unresponsive man and obtained medical assistance for him, saving his life. President Back joined in commending Ms. Relford and expressing gratefulness for quality employees such as her.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-172-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3503

(Awarding Bid No. 3503 - 2023 Nuisance Abatement Demolition Project - Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC - Established unit price, with expenditures up to \$500,000.00)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-173-23

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO
WATER WORKS AND SEWER BOARD

(Appointing Kent Back to replace Shane Ellison for term expiring on 11-1-28 - Appointing Chris Robinson to replace Ben Reed for term expiring on 11-1-26 - Note: Terms will expire at end of council member term if it occurs first)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-174-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH CDG, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - CDG, Inc. - \$45,470.00 - To complete plans, specifications, and permitting services - For US-431 Turn Lane Improvements for new commercial development on E. Meighan Boulevard)

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

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

The following ordinances were introduced in writing and read by President Back:

(1) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING TIF FUNDS RELATED TO US-431 TURN LANE IMPROVEMENTS

(2) ORDINANCE - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (Transferring \$500,000.00 for Nuisance Abatement Demolition Project)

Since no action was taken in this meeting, the ordinances will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilman Smith introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-175-23

AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF
PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

(Authorizing Mayor to negotiate purchase of YMCA facility at 100 Walnut Street - For \$950,000.00 purchase price)

Councilman Smith noted the property may be used for further development. Tena King (City Services Director) noted the furnishings and equipment will be included, except for leased equipment. She added the sale has been approved by the YMCA board.

President Back received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Smith moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Minatra and unanimously adopted.

(2) Councilman Avery introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-176-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH TTL, INC.

(Authorizing Agreement - TTL, Inc. - \$6,500.00 - To provide environmental review and documentation services - For Coosa River/Broad Street Memorial Bridge Improvements Project)

President Back received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Avery moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Josh Tanner (EMA Interim Director) announced a weather radio distribution event on Saturday at Cash Saver Grocery Store. He encouraged the public to subscribe to Alert Etowah and television stations to receive additional weather information.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

On behalf of Mayor Ford, Brett Johnson (Chief of Staff) expressed appreciation to over 200 employees who participated in a recent clean-up event, noting 11,000 pounds of litter and trash were collected. He reported a suspect was arrested for recent vandalism at Noccalula Falls. He said street lights are being upgraded to LED through a contract with Alabama Power Company and street paving projects are being completed.

Councilman Robinson expressed thanks for the apprehension of the vandalism suspect and noted surveillance cameras are being placed throughout the city. President Back emphasized substantial expenditures and work invested into Noccalula Falls and said vandalism will not be tolerated.

Councilwoman Minatra complimented team leader Wendell Clark for his organization in the recent clean-up event, noting all of Walnut Park was completed.

Councilman Avery requested 50 of the weather radios for nutrition program participants and announced tonight's home ownership event by Habitat for Humanity. He thanked "mom and pop" businesses that have located in smaller neighborhoods and noted clean-up events are coming in June, July, and August. Councilman Avery thanked everyone who attended last week's District 3 meeting, including Craig Scott (Library Director). He noted he has requested support for a "Coffee with a Cop" event.

Council members Smith, Latham, and Back joined in commending Coach Buster Gross. Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Back thanked Allen Millican for coming and for his work as Chairman of the Gadsden City Board of Education.

Councilman Smith thanked city officials for their leadership and expressed excitement for the Olive Garden Restaurant, which will open soon.

Councilwoman Latham commended Gail Relford for her quick and effective action. She thanked the Mayor and city employees for the clean-up event and noted the efforts will continue and surveillance cameras will be placed.

President Back referred to Orchestra Partners and work on riverfront development and commended the Mayor's leadership in obtaining the YMCA property. He explained the YMCA will continue to offer services without a "brick and mortar" facility. President Back congratulated Mayor Ford for his promotion to training commander at Ft. McClellan.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (4-18-23)
