

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
APRIL 25, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on April 25, 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. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Isaiah McFarland, Youth in Government participant.

The minutes of the last Public Safety Committee, Work Session and Council meeting held on April 18, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of April 14-20 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#223742-223919	General	\$741,465.09
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On behalf of Mayor Ford, Ruth Moffatt (Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) read a proclamation proclaiming April 23-29, 2023, as “National Library Week” and presented it to Library Director Craig Scott and staff members Carol Wright, Amy McCary, and Rachel Cole, and Jade Swinford (Youth in Government participant).

Ms. Moffatt recognized Youth in Government participant Ta’Shanuna Barton, who read a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Ford, proclaiming April 2023, as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” and presented it to Emma Clapp (Family Success Center Director), Daniella Clapp, and Robben Phillips (James M. Barrie Center). Emma Clapp shared ongoing education work in local schools, pursuant to Erin’s Law, and Robben Phillips reported on statistics of interviews conducted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-28-23

AUTHORIZING TIF FUNDS FOR EXPENDITURES

(Appropriating Tax Increment Financing Funds - \$45,470.00 - Funding for agreement with CDG, Inc. - To provide plans, specifications, and permitting services for US-431 (E. Meighan Boulevard) Turn Lane Improvements for new commercial development - Note: R-174-23 authorized agreement with CDG, Inc.)

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-29-23

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

(Amending FY2023 Budget - Transferring \$500,000.00 from unassigned fund balance to Residential Clearance - Providing funds for Bid No. 3503, Nuisance Abatement Demolition Project)

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

PUBLIC HEARING

President Back stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct a public hearing allowing anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Smoke House 227, LLC d/b/a Club Reload at 922 Tuscaloosa Avenue. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-177-23

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(Smoke House 227, LLC - Club Reload - 922 Tuscaloosa Avenue - Lounge Retail Liquor License, Class I)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-178-23

CREATING JOB CLASSIFICATION AND
AMENDING RESOLUTIONS NO. R-403-04 AND R-463-04

(Amending Pay Plan - Adding position of Assistant Fire Training Officer - Job Classification Number 469 - Pay Range 16)

Councilman Avery noted he had requested and received information in order to understand this item better. He 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-179-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
GREATER GADSDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Authorizing Agreement - Greater Gadsden Housing Authority - To provide garbage collection services to housing communities - Rate of \$15 per unit, to be paid by authority, based on negotiated conditions)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-180-23

ACCEPTING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY
AT 1702 PEACHTREE STREET

(Accepting conveyance of property - 1702 Peachtree Street - District 5 - Conveyed by Renee Lindsey Underwood Taylor)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Howell Mathews (Public Works Director) advised residents should call before placing certain large items on the curb for collection and provided the telephone number. He reported on equipment in and out of service and reminded everyone that Gadsden provides free trash collection. Mr. Mathews noted a job at Forrest Cemetery is open.

Brett Johnson (Mayor's Chief of Staff) introduced youth mayor Jarrett Whaley, who expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in Youth in Government Day. Mr. Johnson reported on additional vandalism at Noccoalula Falls and announced a \$1,500 reward from Mayor Ford and Crimestoppers for information leading to an apprehension.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

The Council joined in welcoming Youth in Government students and made encouraging remarks to them. Councilman Smith and President Back recognized Superintendent Reddick, who applauded their participation in today's event. Councilman Avery highlighted the advocacy work of A. J. Tinker and congratulated him for acceptance to West Point.

Councilwoman Latham, Councilman Wilson, and President Back joined in commending the work of the Barrie Center and Family Success Center.

Councilman Smith expressed gratitude to city officials and employees and recognized Walter Lewis, who was present.

Councilman Avery reiterated encouragement to citizens to contact Public Works when they have large items to place for trash collection. He announced the upcoming “Coffee with a Cop” event on May 16 at Carver. Councilman Avery thanked constituents who participated in recent golf fund-raising events and congratulated Jessie Rawls, who won a \$50 putting prize. He also congratulated Councilman Wilson, who was selected “Auburn University Young Entrepreneur of the Year.”

Councilman Wilson complimented the baseball/softball complex at Gadsden City High School. He thanked Public Works for addressing a dead tree in his district and complimented the library and staff.

Councilwoman Minatra commended the work of public works and advised council members they can suggest locations for placement of cardboard collection trailers.

Councilwoman Robinson thanked a local pressure washing business for assisting with removal of graffiti from Nocalula Falls and announced a bicycle racing event for middle and high school students this weekend on the Black Creek Trail.

President Back complimented the work of LeRoy Falcon and the YMCA. He expressed dismay that Nocalula Falls was vandalized again and confidence that the culprit will be found. Councilman Back commented on yesterday’s grand opening of the Olive Garden Restaurant and his meeting this afternoon with a prospect for a movie project in Gadsden.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (4-25-23)
