

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
APRIL 30, 2019 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on April 30, 2019, 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. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Jahtzee Meadows, Youth in Government Day student.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on April 23, 2019, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of April 19-25, 2019 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#190895-191041	General	\$809,229.50
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President Toles read a proclamation recognizing Gadsden City High School students Mustafa Enver, Joshua Kelley, Anne Roberts, and Linton Roberts for their selection as 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program finalists. Certificates were presented to them, as well as Anna Leach, a Westbrook student who is also a finalist and achieved a perfect score of 36 on her ACT exam.

Shane Ellison, Mayor's Administrative Assistant, read a proclamation proclaiming May 5-11, 2019, as "Municipal Clerk's Week" and presented it to City Clerk Iva Nelson. He also presented her with a framed collection of photos commemorating her 35 years of service with the City and her tenure as clerk.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 1535 Litchfield Avenue in District 1, which was tabled for 30 days on March 26, was presented in writing for consideration. No council action was taken and the resolution will be placed on the May 14 agenda for consideration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct the following public hearings:

(1) President Toles announced the public hearing regarding 1136 Litchfield Avenue in District 1 would not be held, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 217 Morningview Drive, Willie Bell Kirkland, and/or her heirs if deceased, being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in July 2018, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-164-19

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 217 Morningview Drive - District 2 - Willie Bell Kirkland and/or heirs if deceased)

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

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 1107 Hurst Street, FNA NP, LLC, and possible rights of redemption to the Estate of Henrietta Maull being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in April 2018, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-165-19

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1107 Hurst Street - District 3 - FNA NP, LLC; Possible rights of redemption to the Estate of Henrietta Maull)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-166-19

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT
WITH L & L MARINE

(Authorizing Agreement - L & L Marine - \$2,000.00 - For City sponsorship of couples fishing tournament to be held on June 1, 2019)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-167-19

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR BID NO. 3348

(Authorizing Change Order #1 - Bid No. 3348 - 2017 Street Resurfacing Project - Additional \$5,179.96 to reconcile additions and deletions - Adjusting contract price with J & D Enterprises, LLC, to \$1,218,469.96)

President Toles 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 Councilman Cannon and unanimously adopted.

(3) Councilman Cannon introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-168-19

ACCEPTING UTILITY EASEMENT

(Accepting utility easement from B & L Holdings, LLC - To allow for utility installations for Riverfront Development project)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Kay Moore (Director, Downtown Gadsden, Inc.) announced upcoming events, including First Friday, Star Wars pub crawl on May 4, Art on the Rocks on May 4-5, and the Downtown Music Festival on May 11 at The Venue. Ray Wetzel (Gadsden Museum of Art Curator) announced a Downtown Music Festival to be held at eight businesses on May 10.

PUBLIC

With unanimous consent of the Council, Nikki Tinker (Municipal Court Judge) invited everyone to attend a mock trial to be conducted by seventh graders in local middle schools tomorrow at the Gadsden City High School auditorium. School Superintendent Tony Reddick commended Judge Tinker for creating and coordinating the event.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

The Council joined in welcoming Youth in Government students and encouraging them to return to Gadsden after completing their education and to participate in local government and civic organizations. Their sponsor, Ernestina Cady-Hardrick, was commended for her stable guidance.

The Council also congratulated the National Merit Scholarship finalists for their hard work and accomplishments.

The Council joined in commending City Clerk Iva Nelson and her staff for their professionalism and congratulating her for today's recognition.

Councilmen Williams, Back, and Wilson commented on two proposed State bills that were not discussed with local officials before being advertised. They stated the importance of all facets of government working together and referred to ongoing contact with local delegation members. Mayor Guyton and his staff, as well as the Mayor's Association, were commended for their leadership in opposing the bills.

Councilman Worthy announced a community job fair at The Venue on Thursday.

Councilman Cannon commended Kara Roberts, wife of City Attorney Lee Roberts, who was present. He thanked Brian Greer (Building Department) for his assistance in a recent nuisance situation.

Councilman Reed complimented the talent of those who sang in a recent musical production "Looking for a City" at the Ritz Theater. He expressed appreciation for the trash collected in his district.

President Toles announced there will be no Council meeting on May 7, due to the Alabama League of Municipalities conference in Mobile. She referred to a recent newspaper article and joined in commending Kiara Kinney who earned her degree in nursing from the University of Alabama with a GPA of 4.0 while balancing many life roles.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (4-30-2019)
