

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 19, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on May 19, 2020, via teleconference.

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 was also present.

The invocation was given by Iva Nelson.

At the request of President Toles, Emergency Management Agency Director Deborah Gaither provided an update on local COVID-19 conditions. She said the number of cases is still increasing and stressed the need to continue social distancing. Ms. Gaither noted the health department is reviewing all locations for testing events.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on May 12, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of May 8-14, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#200317-200447	General	\$543,286.00
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RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-117-20

AMENDING AGREEMENT WITH FLW, LLC  
AND GREATER GADSDEN AREA TOURISM

(Amending Agreement with FLW, LLC and Greater Gadsden Area Tourism - Relating to sponsorship of fishing tournament, FLW Series Qualifying Event - Changing date of event from May 7-9 to September 2-4, 2020 - Due to COVID-19 - Note: Original agreement was authorized by R-22-20)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-118-20

AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR VERIZON

(Authorizing an extension of Special Use Permit - Verizon - For co-location of equipment on existing wireless telecommunication facility at 4610 Airport Road)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-119-20

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS (CDBG-CV) FUNDS

(Authorizing Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Funds - \$621,937.00 - Authorizing Mayor to sign Fund Agreement)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-120-20

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO 2019 CDBG ACTION PLAN,  
2015-2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

(Authorizing Amendments to 2019 CDBG Action Plan, 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, and Citizen Participation Plan - Relating to Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus allocation and use of funds)

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

ORDINANCE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinance was introduced in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-15-20

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

(Amending FY 2020 General Fund Budget - To reflect receipt of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus funds - \$621,937.00 - Appropriating to various accounts for expenditures)

Councilman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance at its first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: None

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-121-20

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT  
FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

(Authorizing Application and Acceptance of FAA Grant - \$129,476.00 - To install new LED style REIL units on both ends of Runway 6/24, to replace nonworking incandescent REILs and to address issues with existing rotating beacon and beacon tower located at Northeast Alabama Regional Airport - Note: FAA has agreed to waive 5% State match and 5% Gadsden Airport Authority match)

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

President Toles requested that updates be provided by various officials at the next meeting.

Councilmen Wilson, Williams and Back stressed the need for people to respond to the census. Councilmen Williams and Back urged the public to continue social distancing and adhering to guidelines.

Councilman Worthy announced produce will be given away in events at Shiloh and Friendship churches on Wednesday. He thanked Emergency Management and the Health Department for the recent COVID-19 testing event at Carver Community Center.

Councilman Williams noted the Alabama legislature approved Governor Ivey's plan for CARES Act distribution, which involves competitive grants for local governments.

Councilman Back asked for the public's patience while public works crews work to remove the increased volume of roadside debris. He referred to speeding complaints and asked drivers to slow down. Councilman Back said he has seen some good suggestions concerning business recruitment on social media, noting the process takes twelve to eighteen months. He announced groceries will be distributed at First Baptist Church on Wednesday.

Councilman Cannon thanked police and fire departments for their excellent response to a serious accident on W. Meighan Boulevard.

Mayor Guyton highlighted job opportunities with local auto suppliers and training available through Gadsden State Community College and Gadsden City High School. He asked the public to refrain from littering on medians and speeding. The Mayor noted some cities have a recycling fee. He encouraged citizens to call him with their questions, complaints, etc.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (5-19-2020)

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