

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JUNE 20, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on June 20, 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 Councilwoman Latham.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on June 13, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of June 9-15 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#225028-225174	General	\$1,892,193.74
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Brett Johnson (Mayor's Chief of Staff) introduced Anthony Tarver, newly hired Manager of Northeast Alabama Regional Airport. He noted Mr. Tarver, who is currently Airport Operations Supervisor at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, has extensive experience in airport management and administration. Mr. Tarver shared his goal of leading the airport into the future, while working to improve and enhance its experience, operations and reputation. President Back extended a welcome on behalf of the council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-36-23

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF
PROPERTY AT TO GADSDEN CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION, INC.

(Authorizing Conveyance of Property - Accepting \$30,000.00 offer from Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation, Inc. - Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts at 501 Broad Street, \$25,000.00 - Temple Beth Israel property at 761 Chestnut Street, \$5,000 - Note: Other just compensation includes assumption of insurance and maintenance costs and services provided to the citizens of Gadsden)

Councilman Robinson moved to adopt the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Minatra and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Latham, Smith, Back, Minatra, Robinson

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Avery

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

(1) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Harp and Clover, LLC, d/b/a Harp and Clover, at 124 Court Street. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-388-23

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Harp and Clover, LLC - Harp and Clover - 124 Court Street - Restaurant Retail Liquor License)

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

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for OM Mart, LLC, d/b/a Titan, at 601 Walnut Street. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-389-23

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(OM Mart, LLC - Titan - 601 Walnut Street - Retail Beer and Table Wine License)

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

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Emery Wings 2, LLC, d/b/a Coop Deville, at 202 Albert Rains Boulevard. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-390-23

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(Emery Wings 2, LLC - Coop Deville - 202 Albert Rains Boulevard - Restaurant Retail Liquor License)

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

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-391-23

AUTHORIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
WITH ERSHIG PROPERTIES, INC. D/B/A ERSHCO, LLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Ershig Properties, Inc. - Ershco, LLC- To locate Roses Discount Store at 2509 West Meighan Boulevard - Providing for rebate of 2% of City's 5% sales tax revenue - For period of 4 years from store's opening date or until \$250,000.00 has been paid to developer, whichever occurs first - Note: Former Big Lots store location in Canterberry Station)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

The following ordinance was introduced in writing and read by President Back:

ORDINANCE - AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 2.2 - City Seal

Councilman Smith moved to substitute an updated ordinance (2023/522.1) including provisions regarding city flag in addition to the seal and logo. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Latham and unanimously carried.

No action was taken for immediate consideration, and the ordinance will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Smith introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-392-23

AWARDING BID NO. 3515

(Awarding Bid No. 3515 - Resurfacing Project for Hoke Street, from Meighan Boulevard to Goodyear Avenue - Wiregrass Construction Company - \$972,720.00 - Note: Source of funding is Community Development Block Grant)

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 Latham and unanimously adopted.

PUBLIC

L. Curtis Dickerson expressed concern about incidents at the former Gadsden High School, including break-ins, racing, reckless driving, and gatherings of approximately 100 people. He presented pictures and suggested fencing to secure a portion of the property near the gym. Mr. Dickerson said the police response was good and he would like to see additional citations issued. President Back stated the information can be shared with the property owner, the Gadsden City Board of Education.

COUNCIL REMARKS

In the Mayor's absence, Brett Johnson (Chief of Staff) reported on: a major anticipated announcement; employee evaluations underway; possible impact of Congressional redistricting action and Gadsden's desire to remain in District 4.

Councilman Avery announced: cancellation of tonight's District 3 meeting in order to attend an event at the Kiwanis Pavilion at 5 p.m.; the next District 3 meeting at 6 p.m. on July 18; this Sunday's cleanup event, beginning at North Gadsden Park; Juneteenth banquet at Antioch Family Life Center on June 23. He complimented the Carver Community Revitalization Committee's Juneteenth festival last Saturday and the Juneteenth Gospel concert on June 19. Councilman Avery commented on the Supreme Court's ruling on Congressional districts and expressed hope the percentage of districts will reflect African American population percentages. He also commented on the effect of systemic racism and limiting written materials on Black history.

Councilwoman Minatra reported on this morning's Public Works Committee meeting, noting work continues to finalize one communication that will go out to the community regarding garbage, trash, recycling, etc. and to address trash and litter issues.

Councilman Smith complimented the work of the Mayor and all city officials and employees, as well as yesterday's Juneteenth program. He acknowledged great persons and strides made for African Americans and said there is still much work to be done. Councilman Smith extended condolences to Ruth Moffatt at the loss of her stepfather.

Councilman Robinson and President Back joined in reporting on last weekend's Barbarian Challenge event at Noccalula Falls and commending City employees who worked the event.

Councilwoman Latham thanked attendees for their comments and concerns and welcomed the new Airport Manager. She complimented organizers of the Juneteenth Gospel concert, as well as the choir. Councilwoman Latham noted she will be unable to attend the Juneteenth banquet due to a previous engagement but encouraged others to attend. She also thanked the Mayor and staff for their dedicated work.

President Back announced changes in the garbage collection schedule due to yesterday's Juneteenth holiday and the upcoming fireworks display on July 4. He reported on last week's visit by the Jasper Council President and complimented Beautiful Rainbow Café, Windy Van Hooten garden program, Downtown Gadsden, Inc., and the Center for Cultural Arts, including the Downtown Dance Conservatory.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (6-20-23)
