

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 19, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 19, 2022, 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 Jagears were also present.

The invocation was given by Brian Harbison.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 12, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

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

#217304-217501	General	\$4,621,014.01
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President Toles recognized Emergency Management Agency Director Deborah Gaither, who received the 2021-2022 Alabama Association of Emergency Managers (AAEM) President's Award at the annual conference in Tuscaloosa. She was also elected to serve as the AHM Area 6 Representative, which will include Blunt, Cherokee, Pullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan Counties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Toles announced that no action was necessary regarding a resolution ordering abatement of nuisances on property at 216 S. 16th Street in District 5, which was tabled for 30 days on June 13, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Toles 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 ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 1012 7th Avenue, Adam Greer, Alan & Chareda N. Harris Sims being the last known owners. Adam Greer said the house burned in December 2021, and he is willing for the city to demolish it. He expressed his desire to remove a vehicle and numerous motorcycles from the garage, clear it, and retain the property. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in January, 2022, and recommended abatement. After demolition is complete, the owners will receive a bill and will have four payment options. Councilman Wilson advised Mr. Greer to take immediate action to remove his personal property. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-212-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1012 7th Avenue - District 5 - Adam Greer; Alan & Chareda N. Harris Sims)

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

(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 1814 Emanuel Avenue, Jason Keith Shaneyfelt and wife, Christy Olive Shaneyfelt, subject to a mortgage in favor of Price Buster, LLC being the last known owners. Jason and Christy Shaneyfelt requested additional time to complete repairs and described the work at 90% completed. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated his department was contacted by DHR and the case began in December 2021. He recommended abatement, noting the house could not be evaluated due to the volume of items inside. Councilman Wilson stressed the importance of cooperating with Mr. Harbison and allowing access and advised the path forward could not include hoarding. Councilman Wilson moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously carried.

(3) The floor was opened to allow public input regarding the city's application for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant in the amount of \$26,219. Captain Cody explained this annual grant. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-213-22

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE FOR JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Application and Acceptance - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2022 Local Solicitation - \$26,219.00 - For purchase of 5 fully encapsulated dry-suits and 3 air integrated dive computers)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-214-22

AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
FOR 2022 JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Interlocal Agreement - City of Gadsden, Etowah County Commission and Etowah County Sheriff's Department - Regarding 2022 JAG Grant in the amount of \$26,219.00)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-215-22

ADOPTING THE AEMA DIVISION F
REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

(Adopting Alabama Emergency Management Association Division F Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan - Multi-jurisdictional plan covering Blunt, Cherokee, Pullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties and their municipalities - Note: Phase 1 was previously approved by R-191-21)

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-216-22

AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP OF JOB FAIR

(Authorizing City sponsorship of Job Fair on August 10, 2022, at The Venue - Hosted by Career Center)

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 Back and unanimously adopted.

(2) President Toles introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-217-22

AWARDING BID NO. 3474

(Awarding Bid No. 3474 - Oscar Adams Elementary School Access Roadway - Bedwell & Whorton Excavating, LLC - \$299,432.45 - Note: No bids were received and the contract was negotiated)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chet Hallman, General Manager, announced that Twin Bridges Golf Course is hosting this week's Alabama-NW Florida PGA Tour Alabama Open tournament, noting approximately 80 players are registered. He thanked the City for its sponsorship support for this event, which has a history dating back to 1939, for the second year. Councilman Back commended Mr. Hallman, Nick Hall, and Kerry Payne, and joined with Councilman Wilson in complimenting the golf course.

City Clerk Iva Nelson announced polling places for the City election on August 23 and encouraged voters to make sure their information is up to date.

PUBLIC

Kevin Blackwell reported on the Special Programming for Achievement Network (SPAN) Program, which provides year-round counseling and education to at-risk youths. He noted 112 children were served this year, with 52 returning to their correct grade in school and 9 attaining their GED.

COUNCIL REMARKS

The council joined in wishing Building Official Brian Harbison a happy birthday and congratulating Deborah Gaither.

Councilman Wilson noted Lathan Development closed on purchase of the former Coca Cola building on Walnut Street and plans to restore it for use as a multi-tenant collaborative work environment. Councilman Back thanked Ron Summerall and Teachers Credit Union for their cooperative efforts.

Councilmen Wilson and Back urged young people to stop the trend of "doing doughnuts" on Broad Street, which is dangerous and leaves unsightly marks. Councilman Wilson suggested getting resources for first responders or funds to Downtown Gadsden, Inc. for private security. Councilman Cannon agreed and asked adults to lower their speed.

Councilman Back thanked Kevin Blackwell for his work with our youth and commended City Engineer Heath Williamson for his excellent management of numerous projects underway.

Councilman Worthy thanked the council for approving sponsorship of the upcoming job fair and encouraged the public to apply for available jobs. He advised since the 6th Street pool is not open, funds have been made available to the YMCA for swimming by those who cannot afford to pay.

Councilman Reed commended volunteers from Church of the Highlands, who performed mowing, weedeating, and clean-up of the areas around Breakaway Ministries Dream Center, Floyd Elementary, and the Black Creek Trail.

President Toles urged citizens to not litter and to report those who do. She said the city should not be blamed when more trash is placed on the street immediately after collection occurs.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-19-22)
