

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 27, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 27, 2021 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 Captain Jackson were also present. Mayor Guyton was absent.

The invocation was given by Brian Harbison.

The minutes of the Human Relations Advisory Committee, Work Session, and Council meetings held on July 20, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 16-22, 2021 were ratified by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wilson

#209498-209629	General	\$834,098.32
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Councilman Wilson noted he abstained from voting due to not being able to review the payables prior to the meeting. He joined with Councilman Williams in explaining the process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-07-21

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY

(Authorizing Conveyance of Property - Gadsden/Etowah Chamber of Commerce - 1 Commerce Square - Lots 1-8, J. R. Hughes and Son Lumbar Company Addition - The Chamber exercised its option to purchase the real property, pursuant to Lease Agreement dated December 8, 1986 - Note: All amounts have been paid in full)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-167-21

AWARDING BID NO. 3457

(Awarding Bid No. 3457 - Small Tools and Equipment - Ag-Pro Companies, LLC - Unit prices for string trimmers and blowers)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-168-21

AWARDING BID NO. 3458

(Awarding Bid No. 3458 - Construction of new Fire Station No. 7, to be located at Banks Park - Allen Building Company - \$1,693,184.76)

Fire Chief Wil Reed explained this station will replace the Walnut Park station. In response to inquiries from council members, he said specifications had been trimmed for cost savings, with the bid amount being lower than expected. The Chief explained the new station is needed as soon as possible to prevent expenditures on the old station. He summarized Covid protocols currently observed by the department on fire and medic calls.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Reed introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-169-21

AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL
FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS ON A VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(Authorizing expenditure of American Rescue Plan funds - For Vaccinate Gadsden Incentive Program - July 20-October 15, 2021 - Providing \$100.00 incentive pay to citizens who become fully vaccinated, as well as entry into drawing for additional \$5,000.00 incentive)

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, said Gadsden citizens must receive all vaccinations after July 20 and cited participating providers. The first day to present vouchers at City Hall is August 18 and participants must also have their vaccination card and proof of residency.

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

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmen Williams and Worthy joined in expressing support for the vaccine incentive program. Councilman Williams noted data shows that vaccines are helping and encouraged those who may have medical concerns to consult their physician. Councilman Worthy pointed out Gadsden has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation.

Councilman Wilson commended the staff of Twin Bridges Golf Course, as well as the Alabama Open event. He thanked Northeast Alabama Regional Airport staff and business owners who helped with last weekend's fly-in. Councilman Wilson congratulated Eric Wright for the Auburn Extension Center's inaugural tomato taste-off event. He announced locations designated as cooling stations during the heat advisory.

Councilman Cannon noted Attalla and Etowah County have selected a new company for garbage and trash services and solid waste disposal. He suggested looking into this during the budget process, as well as the possibility of contracting services due to employee shortages.

Councilman Worthy announced an upcoming Job Fair at The Venue on August 24.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-27-21)
