

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
JULY 28, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on July 28, 2020 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. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on July 21, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 17 - 23, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#201640-201765	General	\$427,769.31
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PUBLIC HEARING

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct a public hearing allowing anyone to speak in opposition to or in favor of an ordinance approving the rezoning of property at 101 Ewing Avenue from I-1, Light Industry District, to B-2, General Business District. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Charles Smith spoke in favor of the rezoning on behalf of his son, the property owner. The following ordinance was introduced in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-21-20

REZONING PROPERTY AT 101 EWING AVENUE

(Approving Rezoning - 101 Ewing Avenue - From I-1, Light Industry District, to B-2, General Business District - Applicant: Christopher Smith - Reason for Request: To allow tenant to operate a tire store, which is not allowed in an I-1 zone)

Councilman Worthy 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 Reed moved to adopt the ordinance, 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-147-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3437

(Awarding Bid No. 3437 - Vehicle Filters for Auto and Heavy Truck - Tractor & Equipment Company - \$22,032.44)

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

(2) Pursuant to the grant requirements, President Toles invited public comment regarding an application for a JAG Program FY2020 Local Solicitation grant but received none. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-148-20

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE
FOR JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Application and Acceptance - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program FY2020 Local Solicitation - \$33,860.00 - For purchase of equipment, including ballistic shields, remote controlled wheeled surveillance platform - For National Incident Based Reporting Systems training)

In response to Councilman Worthy's inquiry, Captain Paul Cody explained the equipment will augment several city/county joint teams; therefore, the Sheriff deferred the grant process to the city.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-149-20

AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
FOR 2020 JAG GRANT

(Authorizing Interlocal Agreement - City of Gadsden, Etowah County Commission and Etowah County Sheriff's Department - Regarding 2020 JAG Grant in the amount of \$33,860.00 - Designating City as applicant/fiscal agent for grant - Sheriff declined any funding - City will receive entire amount to purchase equipment, including ballistic shields, remote controlled wheeled surveillance platform, and set aside 3% for NIBRS training)

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-150-20

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH SAIN ASSOCIATES, INC.

(Amending Agreement - Sain Associates, Inc. - Regarding Broad Street Operational Analysis project - To include additional State and Federal contract clauses - Note: No additional funds are required)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Eric Wright, Public Relations, announced the city's plan to allocate \$201,260 in CARES Act funds in grants for local businesses was rejected by the state.

PUBLIC

Brandon Hall commented that he feels targeted, rather than protected, by policing in certain neighborhoods. He said the community's main concerns are about job opportunities with the closure of Goodyear and the need for youth programs. Councilman Cannon questioned if Mr. Hall was requesting additional police patrols in Attalla, since he resides there, and was advised the area of concern is East Gadsden.

The Mayor responded, stating there are jobs open in automotive manufacturing and training opportunities are available at Gadsden State Community College. Councilmen Worthy, Back, Wilson, and Reed reiterated various programs and jobs and stated the need for better communication from both sides. President Toles asked Mr. Hall to relay to future speakers in the group that she will ask that they adhere to the topic in their request. She and Councilman Wilson suggested presenting ideas to the council on what action can be taken.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Williams commended Mr. Hall as being one of the better products of Gadsden, advised his remarks related to city business, and said he shouldn't have been questioned about his residence or discouraged from speaking. Councilman Cannon explained he asked a question to better understand the request.

Councilman Williams urged building a bridge across the divide in the community and viewing a theme of society as a whole against racists, who are in the minority.

Councilman Reed said he is proud of his Southern heritage and referred to racism in other parts of the U.S. and other countries.

Councilman Wilson thanked the Family Success Center for the recent census, voter registration, and blood drive event.

Councilman Back encouraged census response and announced tomorrow's food distribution at First Baptist Church. He said a small number on both sides of issues make the most noise and urged showing consideration to the silent majority and treating others as you want to be treated.

President Toles affirmed her commitment to follow the rules of procedure, noting a previous speaker had made threatening remarks. She stated racism is a sin and encouraged communication and collaboration, as well as exercising the right to vote and participating in boards and other areas of community service.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (7-28-20)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
JULY 28, 2020 - 2:00 P.M.

The Assistant City Clerk received bid proposals as advertised for the following bids:

Bid No. 3436 - Cooling Tower Replacement for Gadsden City Hall

Stateline Mechanical, LLC	\$97,950.00
Comfort Systems USA Midsouth, Inc.	\$113,300.00
Modern Heating & Cooling, Inc.	\$113,746.00
Coosa Heating & Cooling, Inc.	\$113,800.00
P&M Mechanical, Inc.	\$116,750.00
Climate Flow, LLC	\$126,000.00
The Smith Group and Associates	\$135,750.00

Bid No. 3438 - Concrete Work

CB&A Construction	\$7,847.83
Bedwell and Whorton	\$9,649.50
James E. Watts and Sons	\$15,761.25

Bid No. 3439 - Drainage Work

CB&A Construction	\$84,647.29
Bedwell & Whorton	\$86,115.20

Bid No. 3440 - Asphalt Patching

James E. Watts and Sons	\$10,166.35
Wiregrass Construction	\$18,044.50

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the City Engineer, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
