

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

The City Council met on August 11, 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, and Captain Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Williams.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 4, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of July 31-August 6, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#201871-202085 General \$1,066,371.81

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, provided an update concerning COVID-19, noting that weekly reports and conference calls will continue. She presented information regarding the Ambu-Bus COVID Project and COVID Response and Mitigation Project.

Mayor Guyton presented information concerning a “Hot Spot” testing event on August 20, from 8 a.m. until noon in the Gadsden City High School parking lot. He introduced Angela Anderson of East Central Alabama AHEC, who explained this is a free event made possible by CARES Act funding. Partners include UAB, Alabama Department of Public Health, Gadsden City Schools, Gadsden-Etowah Industrial Development Authority, Civil Air Patrol, EMA and City fire, police, and public works departments.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-223-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3438

(Awarding Bid No. 3438 - Concrete Work - CB&A Construction, LLC - \$7,847.83)

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-224-20

AWARDING BID NO. 3439

(Awarding Bid No. 3439 - Drainage Work - CB&A Construction, LLC - \$84,647.29)

<p>Councilman Canon moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and unanimously adopted.</p>
<p>(3) The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION NO. <u>R-225-20</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AWARDING BID NO. 3440</p>
<p>(Awarding Bid No. 3440 - Asphalt Patching - James E. Watts & Sons - \$10,166.35)</p>
<p>Councilman Cannon moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back and unanimously adopted.</p>
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></p>
<p>(1) Councilman Williams introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION NO. <u>R-226-20</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUTHORIZING THE SATISFACTION OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN</p>
<p>(Authorizing Satisfaction of Nuisance Abatement Lien - 1606 Baker Avenue - District 1 - Accepting \$1,271.60 offer from Kim Sturdivant Harris)</p>
<p>President Toles received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Williams moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Worthy and unanimously adopted.</p>
<p>(2) Councilman Williams introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION NO. <u>R-227-20</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUTHORIZING THE SATISFACTION OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIEN</p>
<p>(Authorizing Satisfaction of Nuisance Abatement Lien - 1609 Murray Avenue - District 1 - Accepting \$865.36 offer from Kim Sturdivant Harris)</p>
<p>President Toles received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Williams moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back and unanimously adopted.</p>
<p><u>DEPARTMENT REPORTS</u></p> <p>Craig Scott, Library Director, reported on Gadsden Public Library activities during its closure due to Covid and noted books can be reserved online and by telephone. In response to Councilman Reed's inquiry, he noted the Alabama City Library will reopen as a genealogy library. Mr. Scott reported on census response, estimating the current loss of Federal dollars at \$224 million over the 10-year period. He announced Carver Revitalization Committee is planning door-to-door visits in three local housing communities on September 5.</p>

PUBLIC

Mario Richardson Ray referred to Gadsden Freedom Coalition and the movement that is sparking across the city. He spoke regarding uplifting the community and is encouraged by elected officials who want to address homelessness, racial and economic divides in the city, and systemic change.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council members reiterated the importance of census response and its effect on our city, as well as commending the Carver Revitalization Committee for its efforts.

Mayor Guyton encouraged citizens to pursue technical training and available jobs in our community.

Councilman Cannon expressed faith that God is taking care of all our citizens.

Councilman Williams presented COVID statistics. He referred to the funeral of a family member and scripture as a road map. Councilman Williams reiterated the theme of society against racism.

Councilman Back announced food distribution at First Baptist Church on Wednesday. He expressed appreciation to first responders and described the procedures they adhere to with protective equipment.

Councilman Wilson thanked the public for its interest in the human relations subcommittee and invited volunteers to serve. President Toles noted the recent concerns from Black Lives Matter will be referred to the subcommittee.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-11-20)
