

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 16, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 16, 2022, in regular session.

Due to the length of the work session, the meeting was called to order at approximately 11:25 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, and Cannon. Councilman Reed joined the meeting after it was in progress. 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 Councilman Back.

(Councilman Cannon left the meeting at this time.)

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 9, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 5-11 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#217953-218137	General	\$927,050.28
----------------	---------	--------------

President Toles recognized David Hooks (Industrial Development Authority Director), who introduced Keith Whitley (CEO, Alabama Cancer Care Centers of Alabama), Tim Coker (CPM Holdings, LLC), and Susan Moore (Riverview Hospital). Mr. Whitley and Mr. Coker presented information concerning their desire to purchase property on 1<sup>st</sup> Street (former Armory) from the City to construct a new cancer treatment center. A picture of the building concept was displayed and Mr. Whitley explained their philosophy of treatment, noting ten existing centers from central to north Alabama. Council members participated in the discussion and President Toles expressed appreciation to the IDA for their work on expanding our local health care industry.

(Councilman Reed entered during the above presentation.)

RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-235-22

ENDORING THE EAST ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2022 (CEDS)

(Endorsing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy process - East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, through CEDS Advisory Committee - To identify goals, tasks and other milestone approaches to positively impact economic development in the region in support of Economic Development Administration grant investment)

Councilman Williams pointed out the support provided to municipalities by EARPDC, including planning and grant writing services. He moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Back and unanimously adopted.

### NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilman Back introduced the following ordinance in writing for consideration:

#### ORDINANCE NO. O-32-22

#### AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND CONSUMMATE THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

(Authorizing Mayor to negotiate and execute documents - Regarding sale of approximately 2 acres located on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, between Riverside Drive and Cherry Street - \$600,000.00 - CPM Holdings, LLC submitted Letter of Intent to purchase for proposed construction of Cancer Treatment Center/Medical Office)

Councilman Back moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance as an item of new business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

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

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Katie Holland, Principal of Eura Brown Elementary School, described impromptu visits by Robert W. Echols, Jr. during his tenure on the city council, as well as his assistance through discretionary funds. She described development of an outdoor facility (now in Phase 3), which began as a suggestion for an outdoor reading area by Sherry Bridges (daughter and long-time media specialist at the school) which, will be known as the “Robert W. Echols, Jr. Outdoor Classroom.” Ms. Holland thanked Councilman Back, as well as others, for their financial support and noted a dedication ceremony will be held.

Nick Hall (City Planner) provided an update on the Elliott Wellness Center, noting asbestos has been removed in the former community center building, which is slated for demolition. He described the floor plan and outdoor areas to be included, noting it will be equipped with drive-through facilities to facilitate distribution of food, vaccinations, etc. for seniors.

Iva Nelson, City Clerk, reminded citizens of the culmination of absentee voting and the polling locations for the August 23 election.

PUBLIC

David Woodard thanked Gadsden fire medics for their quick and effective response to an emergency call to his mother’s residence. He thanked outgoing Councilmen Williams, Worthy, and Cannon for their service and encouraged pay increases for first responders.

COUNCIL REMARKS

President Toles announced next week’s council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, due to the city election on August 23. She joined with Councilman Reed in commending fire and police first responders for their work.

Councilmen Williams and Back complimented the IDA staff for recruiting the cancer treatment center and expansion of health care.

Councilman Worthy reported on last week’s Job Fair at The Venue. He expressed concern that elderly citizens are paying for grass cutting services on abandoned property adjoining theirs and expressed hope the city can fill vacancies in grass cutting crews. He recognized candidates present and encouraged citizens to vote in the upcoming election.

Councilman Back complimented city employees and department heads. He reported on Gadsden’s participation in the first economic development academy presented by the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilman Back thanked Principal Holland and praised the work and memory of Mr. Echols.

Councilman Reed noted Councilman Cannon’s advocacy for the wellness center and cited other improvements in Alabama City, including the Ritz Theater, the library, and the Alabama City Center.

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

---

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-16-22)

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING  
AUGUST 16, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.**

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

Bid No. 3483 - Solid Waste Transfer and Disposal Services

A&D of Alabama, LLC	\$30.97 per ton (Year 1) \$31.87 per ton (Year 2) \$32.77 per ton (Year 3)
Alabama Waste Disposal	\$31.50 plus fuel surcharge (Year 1) \$ See WM Exceptions (Year 2) \$ See WM Exceptions (Year 3)
Republic Services	NO BID

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the Department and the Assistant Purchasing Agent, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.

\*\*\*\*\*