

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 22, 2023 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 15, 2023, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Back. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, the following council members answered present: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra and Robinson. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Ford, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Smith.

The minutes of the Public Works Committee, Work Session, and Council meetings held on August 15, 2023, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 11-17 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#226547-226714	General	\$1,693,873.00
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Mayor Ford recognized Gadsden City High School Head Football Coach Ali Smith and Brett Ellis, along with four Titan players. The Mayor and council members thanked them for coming and expressed support as they compete in the upcoming season.

Mayor Ford recognized Shalonda McClellan and Frances Core, who meet to pray in front of City Hall and other buildings in the community. The Mayor and council members joined in expressing appreciation to the ladies for their prayers for them.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-478-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
MUNICIPAL INTERCEPT SERVICES

(Authorizing Agreement - Municipal Intercept Services - For participation in program sponsored by Alabama League of Municipalities - Regarding collection of delinquent debts owed to City by intercepting funds from individual's State income tax refunds - Note: MIS will receive \$25.00 per successful interception)

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

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

The following ordinances were introduced in writing and read by President Back:

(1) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY ON NORTH 6TH STREET TO GREATER GADSDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

(2) ORDINANCE - AMENDING O-47-23 AMENDING CITY CODE ARTICLE IV. - DOGS AND CATS

(3) ORDINANCE - AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 46-97 (b)(4) REGARDING NOISE ORDINANCE

Since no action was taken in this meeting, the ordinances will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-479-23

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH EPROPERTY PLUS

(Authorizing Subscriber License Agreement - ePropertyPlus - \$12,500.00 - For software to manage real property and property data - For five-year subscription term - Note: Primary anticipated use is for Gadsden Land Bank properties)

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

(2) Councilman Wilson introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-480-23

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

(Authorizing Grant Applications to be submitted to ALDOT and FAA - For FY2024 improvements at Northeast Alabama Regional Airport - Note: City is co-sponsor for NEARA)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Derek Mummert (EMA Director) discussed the heat advisory in place and noted the cooling centers that are open. He introduced Marc Golden, newly appointed Deputy Director.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Ford noted work continues toward the city’s new app, grants, community meetings in each district, the master plan, consolidation of employee handbooks, and the FY2024 budget. He said the conveyance of the former 6th Street pool property to the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority will better serve Colley Home residents. The Mayor said the feasibility of a playground, splash pad or pool in a different location is being studied, noting the pool estimate was \$6 million.

President Back and Councilman Avery wished Larry Suttles a speedy recovery.

Councilwoman Latham encouraged attendance at tonight’s Board of Education meeting at 5 p.m., noting Superintendent Reddick is retiring at the end of August. She announced a Concerned Citizens for Education meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday at Emma Sansom Homes.

Councilman Smith praised ongoing work in the city, including clearing trees along the river bank, paving projects, and debris collection, as well as the new logo. He acknowledged City Clerk Iva Nelson’s birthday last week and announced a food distribution event at New Destiny Church.

Councilman Avery announced tonight’s District 3 meeting at Carver Community Center, upcoming CERT training, and a clean-up event on August 27. He commended Shiloh Baptist Church and all participants of the recent Back to School/Public Safety Awareness event and encouraged checking on others during the extreme heat.

Councilwoman Minatra announced a free program for parents of elementary school children at The Venue next Tuesday, noting the focus is reading skills and new 3rd grade testing.

Councilman Robinson asked for patience of residents while storm debris is still being collected

President Back invited constituents to share their thoughts regarding a proposed ordinance regarding cats and dogs, as well as other legislation. He thanked Mayor and staff for update on consolidation of handbooks in this morning’s Administrative Committee meeting

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-22-23)

**FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
AUGUST 22, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.**

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

Bid No. 3525 - Uniform Rental

Cintas Corporation

Unit Prices

Copies of the bid will be forwarded to the NEAPA Coordinator, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
