

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
AUGUST 25, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on August 25, 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 Captain Cody were also present.

The invocation was given by Heath Williamson.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 18, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 14-20, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#202264-202385	General	\$425,308.53
----------------	---------	--------------

Josh Tanner (Emergency Management Agency) provided information regarding GuideSafe, an exposure notification app developed by the Alabama Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and MotionMobs. EMA Director Deborah Gaither provided the latest local statistics regarding Covid-19 and thanked everyone who assisted with the testing event on August 20 at the Gadsden City High School parking lot. She also noted September is National Preparedness Month.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-231-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH
BARNETT JONES AND WILSON, LLC.

(Authorizing Agreements - Barnett Jones Wilson, LLC - To perform structural engineering and observation services on as needed/on-call basis - Hourly Rates: \$125 for Staff Engineer; \$175 for Principal/Partner; \$250 for Senior Partner)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-232-20

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF TEMPORARY EASEMENT
FROM RONNIE AND CAROL WOMACK

(Accepting Temporary Easement from Ronnie & Carol Womack - 7.5 feet on each side of centerline of drainage pipe crossing Lot 37 of Cone Mills Parcel #2 - For City to repair area around drainage way on property at 77 West Tuscaloosa Avenue - Note: Will expire one year from the date signed)

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

PUBLIC

McKenzie Clark expressed appreciation to Councilmen Wilson and Williams for designating three seats for citizens under 30 years of age on the human relations subcommittee that is being formed. She urged the importance of hearing the perspective of young people and having courage to discuss difficult issues, such as racism, sexism, income, and equality to achieve cultural change.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Guyton shared observations from a recent visit to Tuscaloosa and stressed the importance of reducing the spread of Covid. Several council members joined in urging the public to continue social distancing, wearing masks, and washing their hands.

Councilman Cannon referred to actions taken to address the homeless situation in Alabama City and asked what else can be done. It was noted the city is limited on what action can be taken due to laws and Supreme Court decisions relating to the rights of individuals. Councilman Worthy noted that Gadsden is the lead agency of the homeless coalition and urged additional effort. President Toles said the city attorney had advised against public discussion on the homeless issue and noted the work of local groups are ongoing.

Councilman Worthy encouraged citizens to volunteer for a census response and voter registration event on September 5 at the Carver Community Center, noting several groups will be making door-to-door contacts.

Councilman Cannon said a drive-through trick or treat event on Wall Street is being planned for the Thursday prior to Halloween. He expressed condolences to the family of Shirley Alford Hill.

Councilman Reed announced Wednesday's ribbon cutting ceremony for Blackstone Restaurant on the mountain. He expressed remembrance for James Cotten, noting he recently died at age 93, and commended his service to the Tuskegee Airmen, the Air Force and Department of Defense.

Councilman Wilson thanked Ms. Clark for her remarks and noted formation of the subcommittee is continuing.

Councilman Back announced food distribution events on Wednesday at First Baptist Church and the Church at Wills Creek. He reminded everyone to treat others as you wish to be treated, especially on social media.

Councilman Williams congratulated Coach Ali Smith and the Gadsden City High School Titans for their win and Trent Davis, who recently committed to play football at Duke University. He thanked those who have taken up the fight against racism.

President Toles announced Downtown Gadsden, Inc. is planning to hold the First Friday event in September. She urged the importance of voting and serving in the community for society change. President Toles recognized her nephew, C.J. Miller, who plays football for GCHS.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (8-25-20)
