

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on September 1, 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 Keener were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Cannon.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on August 25, 2020 were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of August 21 - 27, 2020 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#202386-202520	General	\$425,308.53
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Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, presented the latest local statistics for Covid-19, reiterated the importance of following recommended guidelines, and answered inquiries from council members. She reminded everyone that September is National Preparedness Month and distributed information concerning "Alert Etowah," the emergency notification system powered by Everbridge, and noted information regarding shelters can be accessed at www.shelteretowah.com.

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 a resolution approving the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Jordan Service, LLC, d/b/a Jordan Mini Mart at 1000 Tuscaloosa Avenue. No one spoke. The following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-233-20

APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

(Jordan Service, LLC - Jordan Mini Mart - 1000 Tuscaloosa Avenue - District 3 - Retail Beer and Table Wine License, off premises)

Councilman Worthy moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Reed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Williams, Worthy, Back, Wilson, Reed

NAYS: Toles, Cannon

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-234-20

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #3 WITH
HUDAK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

(Authorizing Change Order #3 - Bid No. 3380 - Community Center Renovations Project, Phase 2 - 2000 W. Meighan Boulevard - Additional \$44,239.95 to modify the HVAC System and material increase to install canopy in parking lot - Adjusting contract with Hudak Construction Company Inc. to \$1,191,880.11)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-235-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
HOBIE CAT COMPANY

(Authorizing Agreement - Hobie Cat Company - \$5,000.00 - To sponsor Hobie Bass Open Series at Gadsden Coosa Landing on October 2-4, 2020)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jen Weathington (Parks & Recreation Director) and Hugh Stump (Greater Etowah Tourism Director) presented information from an economic impact report they commissioned from Chandlerthinks, LLC. The initial investment was \$10,000 for trout stocked in Black Creek and \$2,750 for advertising. Revenues from permits totaled over \$4,000 and the overall impact was estimated at \$18,000. Ms. Weathington also reported on the “Wheels on the Hill” event held last weekend and upcoming events were noted, including Art on the Rocks, Smoke on the Falls, and Christmas at the Falls. Mr. Stump noted the FLW fishing tournament, which is being held this week, is a national event. At the request of Councilman Worthy, Ms. Weathington explained the former “comp” for game day use of Weeks Field has been discontinued and the city assumed operation of concessions.

Kay Moore (Downtown Gadsden, Inc. Director) announced the First Friday event will be held on September 4. Preparations are in place for social distancing and masks will be provided to patrons.

PUBLIC

Larry Avery (Carver Community Revitalization Committee) explained the organization’s mission and noted First Saturday events are still being postponed. He announced a census response/voter registration drive on September 5 at the Carver Community Center. He thanked city departments and organizations that are assisting and encouraged citizens to volunteer for visits to three housing communities. Mr. Avery noted a special event is being planned for October, in conjunction with the Secretary of State’s office.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmen Reed and Cannon joined in extending condolences to the families of Kay Entrekin and Terry Hahn.

Councilman Cannon related Facebook anecdotes of Gina Fleming Morris, including her desire to be assistant mayor. Mayor Guyton invited her to text or call him.

Councilman Back announced there will be no food giveaway tomorrow, noting First Baptist Church is working to extend the program. He commended the work of Larry Avery, Kay Moore, Deborah Gaither and Hugh Stump. Councilman Back referred to Facebook comments about overgrown conditions at Forrest Cemetery and explained the department has employee shortages and is working to address the situation.

Councilman Worthy noted Carver Revitalization Committee’s event on September 5 includes drive-up census response, voter registration, and absentee voting. He encouraged citizens to exercise their right to vote. Councilman Williams noted a blood drive will also be held.

Councilman Williams commended Kay Moore and Larry Avery. He congratulated Dr. Lavender, GSCC President, who is retiring and expressed gratitude for her great partnership with the city. Councilman Williams also commended Gregg Bennett, who has been named Interim President. He expressed condolences to the families of Gwen Thomas and Emma Lois Cylar, congratulated the GCHS Titans for another win, wished his niece a happy birthday, and his parents a happy 50th anniversary.

President Toles announced changes in the garbage collection schedule, due to Monday’s Labor Day holiday. She reiterated the importance of voting and encouraged Facebook users to give positive support to the census, voter registration, and volunteering in the community.

Mayor Guyton commended Dr. Lavender and Dr. Rhea, who is also retiring, and encouraged citizens to utilize GSCC programs.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (9-1-2020)
