

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on September 15, 2020 in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Council President Toles. On roll call by the Assistant City Clerk, Jennifer Smith, the following council members answered present: Toles, Williams, Worthy, and Back. Council members Wilson, Cannon and Reed were absent. The acting 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 Councilman Back.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on September 8, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 4-10, 2020, were ratified by unanimous vote.

#202683-202855	General	\$282,437.73
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following ordinance, which was introduced for first reading at last week's meeting, was presented for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-20

AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 102-3(b)(4)

(Amending City Code Section 102-3(b)(4) - Defining Non-Full Time employee classification: 1) Employees working maximum of 19.9 hours for a 12-month period; 2) Employees working 29 maximum of 29 hours for a period of 245 days)

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Toles stated this was the time and place as advertised to conduct the following public hearings:

(1) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak in opposition or in favor of an ordinance adopting Fiscal Year 2021 Budgets. Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, summarized the budgets, noting a decrease of \$1,359,035.00 in projected revenues from Fiscal Year 2020, mainly due to occupational tax and recreational income decreases. She noted that the budget includes no raises for city employees, but that the city is absorbing all of a 5.5% increase in health insurance costs for employees. President Toles stated the ordinance has been presented today for the first reading and the Council will vote on it next week.

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution annulling a portion of an un-named alley located off of Dartmouth Street in District 2. No one spoke. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-253-20

AUTHORIZING ANNULMENT OF A PORTION OF AN ALLEY
LOCATED OFF DARTMOUTH STREET

(Authorizing annulment - Portion of alley in North Highlands Addition - Located off of Dartmouth Street - Requested by Justin Dale Nelson and wife, Iva Jo Nelson, Ruth M. Lopez, Jimmy Wayne Goble, and Susan Canizales and Janet Tomlinson, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Arthur Wayne Fambrough)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-254-20

CREATING AND CHANGING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS

(Amending Pay Plan adopted by R-403-04 and amended by R-463-04 - Creating Job Classification of Transit Driver at Pay Range 3; Changing Director of Risk Management to Risk Manager, from Pay Range 19 to Pay Range 14; Changing Payroll Coordinator from Pay Range 12 to Pay Range 14)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-255-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH RAPHA HOUSE

(Authorizing Agreement - Rapha House, a subsidiary of Family Life Center, Inc. - \$20,000.00, payable in monthly installments of \$1,666.67 - To provide 10 beds for City inmates - Term of 10-1-20 through 9-30-21)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-256-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH
SLACKEY'S BIG CHIEF DRIVE IN, LLC

(Authorizing Lease - Slackey's Big Chief Drive In, LLC - \$2,500.00 per month - For restaurant portion of 210 at the Tracks - 210 Locust Street - For term of one year, beginning 10-1-20)

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

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Worthy introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-257-20

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GADSDEN, THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION AND THE SHERIFF OF ETOWAH COUNTY

(Authorizing Second Amendment to Agreement dated March 1, 2019 - Etowah County Commission and Sheriff of Etowah County - Regarding incarceration of City prisoners in Etowah County Detention Center - Extending expiration date from 9-30-20 to 9-30-21)

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Several Council members thanked the Mayor's office and Finance Director Lisa Rosser for their work in preparing the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Guyton announced that after-school care programs at city community centers will begin on September 28th with changes in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. He referred to a letter from the Alabama Department of Public Health regarding large crowds, noting it played a role in the decision to cancel First Friday events for the remainder of the year.

Councilman Worthy shared current Covid-19 statistics for Etowah County. He encouraged people to wear masks, noting that attendees at a recent census event wore masks and that a First Saturday event should be able to continue if masks are worn. Councilman Worthy also urged citizens to complete the census.

Councilman Back announced that there would not be a food distribution at First Baptist Church tomorrow. He spoke about positive feedback he received regarding improvements at Twin Bridges Golf Course. He shared that his friend, former City Finance Director Steve Richey, had passed away. On a lighter note, Councilman Back noted he had received a complaint on social media regarding a squeaky chair during last week's council meeting and displayed a can of WD-40 to prove that he had made an attempt to remedy the problem.

Councilman Williams noted that according to the Alabama Department of Public Health, Etowah County had the largest seven-day average increase in Covid-19 cases and encouraged people to take precautions seriously. He expressed appreciation for a recent march for social justice conducted by the University of Alabama football team and Coach Nick Saban. Councilman Williams reiterated the theme of society against racism.

President Toles urged people to register to vote and then to exercise their right to vote.

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

Jennifer Smith, Acting City Clerk (9-15-20)
