

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on September 21, 2021, in regular session, via teleconference.

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, Lee Roberts, and Heath Williamson were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Cannon.

Deborah Gaither, Emergency Management Agency Director, presented local Covid-19 statistics. She reported on Vaccinate Gadsden and urged citizens to consider vaccines for Covid, as well as the flu. Ms. Gaither also announced an upcoming vaccination event in Attalla on September 25. Chief Reed reported on staff absences, as well as fire department medic runs, noting medics are sometimes assisting with ambulance runs. The response time for ambulances was discussed, as well as the possibility of providing Covid sick leave.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on September 14, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 10-16 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#210742-210922	General	\$1,295,552.79
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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-12-21

ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGETS

(Adopting FY 2022 Budgets - General Fund: \$53,203,745.00 - Special Revenue Funds: \$8,227,482.00 - Debt Service Funds: \$8,771,604.00 - Enterprise and Internal Service Funds: \$13,351,999.00 - Capital Projects Fund: \$8,100,000.00 - Capital Projects Fund II: \$7,200,000.00)

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

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-205-21

ELECTING DIRECTORS OF THE
ETOWAH GADSDEN HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

(Reappointing Marie Franklin Johnson for term expiring on December 22, 2021 - Reappointing Rebecca Walker for term expiring on December 22, 2023)

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-206-21

AUTHORIZING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT

(Authorizing Agreement - Gadsden Police Department, East Central Alabama Highway Safety Office, and City of Opelika - Regarding grants related to traffic safety enforcement - For period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-207-21

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH MITEL

(Authorizing Agreement - Mitel - For upgrade of telephones, hardware and software for various City departments and buildings - Term of 36 months - Monthly charges of \$7,538.61, one-time charges of \$488.00 and \$791.57 shipping and handling fees)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

The following ordinance was introduced in writing and read by President Toles:

ORDINANCE - AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 18-1 (b) - RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, reported the Vaccinate Gadsden program will end on October 15, which is necessary to conduct the drawings. A subsequent program is being considered, since funding is in place for 2,500 persons, and approximately 1,200 persons are anticipated to complete the initial program.

PUBLIC

Howard Gilbert requested help with rezoning property on Gadsden Avenue, which did not receive Council approval. Councilman Wilson responded, noting the Council vote and Planning Commission recommendation were unanimous, due to opposition received from neighboring property owners and residents. Councilman Worthy said the Building Official is working to remove the trailer illegally parked across the street. He advised Mr. Gilbert he can file action in circuit court.

President Toles stated she had invited Sharon Maness to make a presentation to the council due to the lack of outside agency funding for the Board of Education in the FY2022 budget, but made no commitments for funding. Sharon Maness thanked the city for its past support and requested continued funding for various tutoring programs, the MyOn reading program, and two fine arts teachers for elementary schools.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Several council members commented on the budget. Councilman Reed complimented Gadsden’s leadership among cities in our area. Councilman Williams said he was glad to see remuneration for employees who worked throughout the Pandemic and expressed hope that support can be given to the school system after the budget process is completed. He and Councilman Back cited line items benefitting the school system that are included in this year’s budget. Councilman Back also noted an appropriation for a mental health unit proposed by Judge Hassell.

President Toles commended Craig Scott’s work at the library, as well as volunteer groups. She affirmed her support and advocacy for education, which is demonstrated by her discretionary fund appropriations and volunteer work.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (9-21-21)
