

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 4, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on October 4, 2022, 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. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Rev. Larry Furhman.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on September 27, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 23-29 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#219324-219348	General	\$126,681.09
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Charlotte Nolen introduced Rev. Larry Furhman, who presented information concerning Mayor David J. Nolen's tenure and pointed out special accomplishments made. A large number of attendees were present, including family and friends. A portrait of Mayor Nolen was unveiled and presented to the city. President Toles expressed appreciation to the Nolen family and complimented Mayor Nolen's service as an elected official and businessman.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-271-22

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR VERIZON

(Authorizing Special Use Permit - Verizon Wireless - 220 South 5th Street - To install equipment and modify existing telecommunications facility)

Councilman Back discussed poor signal quality in the Country Club area with Jeff Bass (CMS representative).

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

(2) A resolution amending employee handbooks for Fire, Police, Public Works, Administrative and Clerical, and Management employees was presented for consideration. Councilman Williams moved to table the resolution for 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and unanimously carried. A lengthy discussion followed. Councilman Williams (Finance Committee Chairman) explained a “loophole” exists but more research is needed, noting the delay will give the personnel department and opportunity to conduct a study. Councilman Wilson agreed and pointed out the pay system is very complex. Councilman Worthy said he feels these type matters should be discussed with representatives of employee groups. In response to Councilman Cannon’s inquiry, it was noted the current handbooks have been in place since 2004. Councilman Back suggested a study to be performed by a third party.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-272-22

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH FINE, GEDDIE AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

(Authorizing Agreement - Fine, Geddie and Associates, LLC - \$7,100.00 per month - Term of one year beginning October 1 - For advice, representation and assistance with governmental issues, State legislation or proposed legislation, administrative activities, regulatory actions, etc.)

Councilman Wilson said he intends to vote against the resolution because he was advised the activity summary he requested is provided to the mayor’s office, but is not made available to the council.

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

AYES: Toles, Williams, Worthy, Back, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: Wilson

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-273-22

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 10-1-22 through 9-30-23)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Craig Scott (Library Director) announced the upcoming CommUnity Thanksgiving event, noting 8,784 meals were served last year. Buster Porch joined with him in praising the event, expressing thanks for past support, and encouraging everyone to continue donating money and time. Mr. Scott also announced a “Corks and Cornhole” tournament on October 8 to benefit the Love Center homeless shelter. He described progress made by the organization’s board and introduced the director, Christy Turner Richards. Mr. Scott noted the shelter is being named “Charlsie House” in honor of the late Charlsie Tarrance, its founder.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmen Reed, Back, and Williams expressed appreciation to the family for presentation of Mayor David Nolen’s portrait and complimented him. Councilman Williams reflected on being called to investigate segregation signage during his employment with the city and commended Mayor Guyton’s selection of a black male for an executive position in his office.

Councilman Reed commended the Love Center board for the progress made.

Councilman Worthy announced today’s EMA flu clinic at North Glencoe Baptist Church, as well as a Corona vaccine education event at The Venue on October 15. He expressed appreciation to the city and his constituents for the opportunity to serve, and noted today is his last meeting, unless an emergency arises. He extended best wishes to the incoming mayor and council and expressed hope for safety and better perception for police personnel.

Councilman Williams also expressed best wishes for administration and said Councilman Worthy will be missed. He expressed appreciation to organizers of an appreciation and birthday celebration scheduled in his honor, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at New Liberty Tabernacle of Praise.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (10-4-2022)
