

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

The City Council met on October 11, 2022, in regular session.

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

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on October 4, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of September 30-October 6 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#219349-219546	General	\$1,766,941.42
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 3516 Forrest Avenue in District 6, which was tabled for 30 days on September 6, was presented in writing for consideration. Councilman Cannon moved to table the resolution an additional 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Pro Tem Reed 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 for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 309 Roslyn Drive, the State of Alabama, Jackie McCormick, and Kim F. Parker, d/b/a The Parker Company, being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in March 2021, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-274-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 309 Roslyn Drive - District 2 - State of Alabama; Jackie McCormick; Kim F. Parker, d/b/a The Parker Company)

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

(2) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 522 Crocheron Alley, Angenetta O. Rodgers being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this mobile home since procedures began in October 2020, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-275-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 522 Crocheron Alley (mobile home) - District 3 - Angenetta O. Rodgers - Note: County records list the property address as Crocheron Avenue)

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

(3) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 553 W. Meighan Boulevard, Angenetta O. Rogers, subject to equitable rights of redemption if any of the Estate of Louvada Owens, being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated this case involves the property across the street from the mobile home at 522 Crocheron Alley, that no improvements have been made since procedures began in October 2020, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-276-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 553 W. Meighan Boulevard - District 3 - Angenetta O. Rogers; Angenetta O. Rodgers, subject to equitable rights of redemption, if any, of the Estate of Louvada Owens)

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

(4) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 2824 W. Meighan Boulevard, Gary C. Alexander being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, recommended tabling the resolution an additional 30 days based on recent improvements. Rhonda Watts, 2822 W. Meighan Boulevard, stated that although the owner started work last week to clean up the outside of the property, she was told by workers that there was much more to clean up inside. She described problems with rodents, people staying in the home with no utilities, and having to call the police many times. She added the owner has a repeated pattern of cleanup attempts with a return to the same problems. In response to Councilman Cannon's inquiry, Mr. Harbison stated he was not aware of the history of problems described by Ms. Watts. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-277-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2824 W. Meighan Boulevard - District 6 - Gary C. Alexander)

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

(5) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak for or in opposition to a resolution ordering the abatement of nuisances on property at 3502 W. Meighan Boulevard, Christopher Callaghan, possible rights of redemption of James Royce Spencer, being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this burned structure since procedures began in January 2022, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-278-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 3502 W. Meighan Boulevard - District 6 - Christopher Callaghan; Rights of redemption of James Royce Spencer)

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

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilman Wilson introduced the following ordinance in writing for consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. O-37-22

AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF A
MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY WITHIN
THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE
CITY OF GADSDEN

(Pursuant to State Act No. 2021-450, also known as the Darren Wesley 'Ato' Hall Compassion Act - To allow operation of medical cannabis dispensing sites, cultivators, processors, or integrated facilities licenses within the city - Directing copy of ordinance to be sent to Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission)

Councilman Wilson moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider the ordinance as an item of new business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cannon and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Williams, Back, Wilson, Cannon, Reed

NAYS: None

Councilman Wilson explained the State act requires cities to ‘opt in’ to the program in order to be eligible for potential dispensing sites.

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

(2) Councilman Cannon introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-279-22

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL USE PERMIT
FOR VERIZON WIRELESS

(Authorizing Special Use Permit - Verizon Wireless - 1044 Scenic Drive - To install equipment and modify existing telecommunications facility)

President Pro Tem Reed received unanimous consent to immediately consider the resolution as an item of new business. Councilman Cannon moved to adopt the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Craig Scott, Director of the Gadsden Public Library, announced a free concert at 5:30 p.m. on October 20 at Underwood Park. The artist is a rising Nashville pop singer/songwriter, Nedy, who has an anti-bullying message intended for teenagers.

PUBLIC

Tara Fulford (Never Surrender) updated the council on the pink garbage can program used to raise awareness for breast cancer. Teresa Taylor expressed appreciation to the community for its support. In response to Councilman Wilson’s question, Ms. Fulford said cans are still available for purchase through Advanced Imaging and they hope to continue partnering with the City and to order more pink cans for the program.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Williams expressed thanks to the organizers and attendees of an appreciation and birthday celebration held for him last week. He also expressed disappointment in recent public comments made by a State senator.

Councilman Back expressed appreciation for the efforts of Never Surrender, noting his wife is an example of the importance of early detection and is cancer free. He commented on weekend events that drew large crowds from throughout the state to the city, such as First Friday, soccer games at the sports complex, and a gymnastic competition at The Venue. Councilman Back thanked outgoing council members for their leadership and service. He emphasized the importance of voting, and that the remarks made by the State senator reflect poorly on the state.

Councilman Wilson thanked city and county departments that assisted with the recent Riverfest event, and expressed appreciation for the work of Never Surrender. He commented on the Sports Park, noting that pickleball will be included in phase three of the project. Regarding the ordinance authorizing operation of a medical cannabis dispensary, Councilman Wilson explained although the city does not have a current applicant, this action provides the possibility.

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

Jennifer Smith, Acting City Clerk (10-11-2022)
