

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
OCTOBER 19, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on October 19, 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 Kent Back.

Josh Tanner (Emergency Management Agency) reported an improvement in Covid-19 statistics and vaccination rates and encouraged the public to continue using precautions. Chief Reed reported fewer PUI cases and no personnel affected by Covid. He expressed concern for a commander who had open heart surgery and is having complications.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on October 12, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of October 8-14 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#211350-211526	General	\$1,301,007.53
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) President Toles announced that no action was necessary on a resolution ordering abatement of nuisance at 5 Marston Avenue in District 6, which was tabled for 30 days on September 14, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

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

ORDINANCE NO. O-14-21

AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET FOR  
THE HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND  
AMENDING THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET  
TO REALLOCATE PRIOR YEARS CDBG FUNDS  
TO 2020 CDBG STREET IMPROVEMENTS

(Transferring \$600,000.00 from prior years CDBG Budgets: \$52,059.17 from administration and \$48,171.11 from housing assistance in 2015; \$20,515.61 from administration in 2016; \$79,512.48 from administration, \$616.31 from housing assistance, \$1,987.50 from Section 108 loan and \$147,415.56 from street improvements in 2017; \$57,369.34 from administration and \$9,132.50 from public services in 2018; \$13,934.45 from administration, \$55,240.83 from housing administration and \$114,045.14 from street improvements in 2019 – Increasing street improvements in 2020 CDBG Budget to \$1,100,000.00 – Amending City’s FY2022 Budget to reflect additional revenue and appropriation)

Councilman Reed moved to adopt the ordinance, 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-224-21

APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO HARALSON AVENUE  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

(Appointing Craig Scott, replacing Stephanie Wagner and Reappointing Bonnie Yarnell for terms ending 9-15-23)

Councilman Wilson noted he had received inquiries regarding the appointment and stated being a resident is required, but being a homeowner is not required to serve as a board member.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-225-21

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION  
FROM ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION

(Authorizing acceptance of donation from Etowah County Commission - For furniture consisting of 5 gray recliners and 1 gray sofa valued at \$2,145.00 - Note: For use in the Fire Department)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-226-21

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH ALDOT,  
B&B BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT AND RIVER ROCKS LANDING

(Authorizing Mayor to sign request form with Alabama Department of Transportation - Authorizing Land Use Agreement with Greenawalt Hospitality, LLC - Authorizing License Agreement with River Rocks Landing - To allow use of Jack L. Ray Family Park and ALDOT property adjacent to River Rocks Campground - For special event and concert on 10-29-21)

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wilson

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-227-21

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES

(Authorizing Agreement - Tyler Technologies - For Incode Public Safety Custom Reporting Tool - \$4,500.00 per year, beginning in year two - Note: Annual fee is waived the first year)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-228-21

AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

(Authorizing Intergovernmental Agreement - City of Gadsden Transportation Department, Etowah County Transportation Services, and Gadsden/Etowah Emergency Management Agency - Regarding use of transportation equipment and personnel in the event of a disaster)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-229-21

AUTHORIZING TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT  
WITH CALCEAN MINERALS AND MATERIALS

(Authorizing Agreement - Calcean Minerals and Materials - Abatement of state and local noneducational property taxes and construction related transaction fees - For period of 7 years - Company's capital investment is \$7,000,000.00 for expansion of existing industry in Commerce Center)

David Hooks (Industrial Development Authority Director) described the project and noted 40 additional jobs are being added. He cited revenue amounts that local and state schools will receive. At the request of Councilman Williams, Mr. Hooks explained there is no up-front money and the abatements only occur if the capital investment is made. Councilman Wilson commended the company for producing a much-needed product.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wilson

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Lisa Rosser, Finance Director, noted that 1,656 city residents had qualified to receive \$100 in the Vaccinate Gadsden incentive program. She added six drawings for \$5,000 each will be conducted following council meeting. Councilman Williams commended the program and congratulated the future winners.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Williams stated a desire to continue discussions regarding recruitment for the police and fire departments and noted plans to conduct a Finance Committee meeting.

Councilman Back thanked the Police Chief, Sheriff, and District Attorney's office for attending a community meeting last Thursday regarding rumors of crime activity. He expressed hope to establish a program utilizing pink garbage cans to promote breast cancer awareness.

Councilman Wilson noted he has received complaints regarding the overall structure of the architectural review board and noted a constituent had submitted an application to serve. He explained the board implements laws that are in place and an ordinance would be needed to make changes. Councilman Wilson noted he is working with a local business on the concert scheduled for October 29 on the river.

Mayor Guyton expressed excitement about Calcean's expansion and commended IDA staff for their work on the project.

President Toles encouraged remembrances for the fire commander mentioned earlier and the family of Colin Powell. She announced next week's work session and council meetings will be conducted in person and noted the Vaccinate Gadsden drawings will be held in approximately fifteen minutes.

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

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Iva Nelson, City Clerk (10-19-21)

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