

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 26, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on October 26, 2021 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. Mayor Guyton, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Captain Jackson were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Williams.

Josh Tanner (Emergency Management Agency) reported Etowah County's category for Covid-19 has been reduced to "substantial" and provided statistics. He also reported on current vaccination rates and advised categories of people who are eligible for booster vaccines. Mr. Tanner explained the upcoming agreement for a new app, which EMA will use for public education, alerts, notifications, etc. Fire Chief Reed reported only two PUI calls last week; however, regular call volume is still elevated.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on October 19, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of October 15-21 were ratified by unanimous vote.

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| #211527-211646 | General | \$1,099,118.79 |
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Lisa Rosser (Finance Director) and Kerry Payne (Personnel Director) joined Mayor Guyton in presenting giant symbolic checks, as well as actual checks, to the Vaccinate Gadsden \$5,000 drawing winners, including Donna Benjamin, Eulalia Gaspar, Donald Holt, Isiah Lott, Timothy Thacker, and Noah Elijah Spears.

Councilman Cannon and Mayor Guyton joined in reading a proclamation honoring Marion Wise for his 51 years of service as a City employee and presented it to him. Several of his family members were present and were recognized.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

(1) Councilman Worthy read the following resolution, which was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-230-21

RENAMING WHITEHALL STREET TO WHITEHEAD STREET

(Renaming Whitehall Street to Whitehead Street - Honoring Mrs. Mattie Whitehead, oldest living original resident on the street)

Mrs. Mattie Whitehead, Tony Whitehead, and several other family members were present and were recognized.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-231-21

AUTHORIZING USE OF TRADEMARK

(Authorizing Use of Gadsden Riverfest Trademark - For concert to be held at River Rocks Landing on October 29, 2021 - Note: City accepted assignment of trademark from The Chamber, Gadsden & Etowah County by R-231-14)

Councilman Wilson 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: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wilson

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Councilman Williams introduced the following resolution in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-232-21

APPROVING DRAINAGE PROJECT LIST

(Approving Drainage Project List - To be funded by American Rescue Plan)

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Probate Judge Scott Hassell thanked the council for the City's willingness to be the first partner in a new response team to address emergency calls involving mentally ill persons, which will launch on December 1. He explained how team members will be paired and will work to provide treatment and follow-up, rather than the individual being arrested, noting the Etowah County Commission is also a partner.

PUBLIC

Tara Fulford (Never Surrender) expressed excitement to partner with the City for a program to place pink garbage cans on the street to raise awareness for breast cancer. She explained how their organization was founded and described its work to support people who are diagnosed with breast cancer, give mammogram assistance, and provide education in the high schools. Teresa Taylor thanked Councilman Back for envisioning the project. President Toles noted more details will be forthcoming.

Robert Hunter questioned the status of the Human Relations Advisory Committee and offered to assist with reorganization. President Toles advised Mr. Hunter to speak with Councilmen Williams and Wilson.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

The Mayor and Council members joined in welcoming attendees and congratulating Marion Wise and Mrs. Mattie Whitehead for being honored today, as well as the \$5,000 winners in the Vaccinate Gadsden incentive program. Commendations were given to Judge Hassell for the mental health program and “Never Surrender” for its work in the community. Councilman Back was complimented for his idea about the pink garbage cans and Councilman Wilson for his work on the Riverfest concert. City staff members were thanked for their assistance with the vaccination and other matters considered today.

Councilman Cannon announced Treats on Wall Street from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Councilman Worthy thanked Councilman Cannon for his willingness to consider approval of drainage projects under new business and cited areas in his district where the work is badly needed. Councilman Williams noted there are meaningful projects in each district and Councilman Wilson noted individual bids will be let for each.

Councilman Wilson acknowledged Mr. Hunter’s criticism of the Human Relations Advisory Committee and his willingness to offer help. He said although a final report and recommendations are not complete, many ideas discussed by the committee are coming to fruition.

President Toles expressed appreciation for a very productive meeting and announced upcoming meetings will be conducted in person.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (10-26-21)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
OCTOBER 26, 2021 - 2:00 P.M.

The City Clerk received bid proposals as advertised for the following bid:

Bid No. 3460 - Community Development Street Resurfacing Project

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Vulcan Materials | \$1,346,073.00 |
| Wiregrass Construction | \$1,548,570.00 |

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the City Engineer, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.

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