

MEETING ROOMS 1 AND 2 - THE VENUE - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 7, 2022 - APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

The City Council met on November 7, 2022, in regular session.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. by City Clerk Iva Nelson. On roll call, the following council members answered present: Latham, Smith, Avery, Back, Wilson, Minatra, and Robinson. The clerk stated a quorum was present and the meeting was open for business. Mayor Ford, Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggears were also present.

The invocation was given by Rev. Tommy Marshall, Pastor of The Tabernacle.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on November 1, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of October 28-November 3 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#219993-220162	General	\$1,516,569.45
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ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilman Wilson nominated Councilman Back for Council President. Councilman Wilson moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Minatra. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-303-22

ELECTING CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

(Electing Kent Back as President of the City Council - For term ending November 2, 2026)

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

City Clerk Iva Nelson presented the gavel to President Back, who presided over the remainder of the meeting.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Councilman Avery nominated Councilman Smith for President Pro Tempore. Councilman Wilson moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Councilman Avery and unanimously carried. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 304-22

ELECTING CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

(Electing Steve Smith as President Pro-Tempore of the City Council - For term ending on November 2, 2026)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A resolution amending employee handbooks (Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, Administrative and Clerical employees, Management employees), which was tabled for 30 days on October 4, 2022, was presented for consideration. Councilman Wilson moved to table the resolution an additional 30 days, which motion was seconded by Councilman Avery and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-305-22

ELECTING CITY CLERK-TREASURER

(Electing Iva Nelson as City Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Gadsden - For term ending November 2, 2026)

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

Former City Clerk Martha A. Elrod administered the oath of office to Iva Nelson.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-306-22

AUTHORIZING RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES

(Verifying that all current officers and employees will continue to serve - Providing that new positions will require Council approval - Providing for Mayor to employ administrative assistant, director of economic development and governmental affairs, executive secretary, and secretary to mayor's office)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-307-22

AUTHORIZING CONTINUATION OF DEPOSITORIES

(Providing that current banks or financial institutions will continue as depositories of municipal funds until other action is authorized by the Council)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-308-22

ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS

(Adopting rules of procedure for Council business - Providing for meetings to be held each Tuesday at 11 a.m., order of business, duties of president, decorum, etc. - Note: No changes were made)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-309-22

AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT FOR
USE OF VEHICLE BY THE MAYOR

(Authorizing Reimbursement to Mayor Ford for use of his personal vehicle and fuel allotment - \$750.00 per month - Note: City does not presently have vehicle for Mayor's use and budget allocation of \$9,000.00 was not adequate in light of present automobile market)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-310-22

CREATING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND
AMENDING RESOLUTIONS NO. R-403-04 AND R-463-04

(Amending Pay Plan - Adding position of Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Job Classification Number 253, Pay Range 23 - Adding position of Director of City Services, Job Classification Number 257, Pay Range 23)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-311-22

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL USE PERMIT
FOR VERIZON WIRELESS

(Authorizing Special Use Permit - Verizon Wireless - For equipment modifications at existing wireless telecommunications facility at 1937 Springrock Street)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-312-22

AUTHORIZING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND VARIOUS FACILITIES

(Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding - EMA and various facilities owners - Regarding use of their facilities by public prior to and during severe weather events - Shelter Etowah “Safer Places” Program - Note: These locations are not official shelters but provide alternate places safer than private residences)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-313-22

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

(Authorizing Grant Acceptance - From Department of Homeland Security - \$17,624.00 - Awarded to Gadsden/Etowah EMA for purpose of enhancing CERT Program for Underserved Neighborhoods - For period of 11-1-22 through 10-31-23)

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

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (Reflecting receipt of \$17,624.00 Department of Homeland Security grant for CERT Program)

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

PUBLIC

Dr. R. Gary Ashley encouraged the council to focus on what’s best for the entire city, in addition to their districts, and suggested developing a long-range plan. He complimented today’s positive atmosphere, noting that elected officials should view themselves as ministers of their constituents, and offered a prayer.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Ford expressed excitement at working with the council and seeing energy and hope in the city’s residents.

Councilwoman Latham thanked District 1 constituents for the opportunity to serve and said she looks forward to working with the mayor and council.

Councilman Smith also thanked District 2 voters and is excited to work with the mayor and council in serving the whole city.

Councilman Avery thanked his constituents, family, friends, and mentors for their support. He referred to recent shootings and deaths, stressing the need to shed light on the issue and work to reach young people. Councilman Avery affirmed his strong focus on getting needed resources for his district, and stressed the importance of voting in tomorrow’s election.

Councilman Wilson explained today’s action regarding continuation of depositories and thanked elected officials, dignitaries, and citizens for the great attendance. He congratulated President Back for his selection and expressed excitement in working with the mayor and council.

Councilman Robinson said he is looking forward to the next four years and encouraged everyone to establish goals for monthly, yearly, and the term as a whole. He also complimented Councilman Reed’s tenure.

President Back thanked everyone for a great day and Mayor Ford for his vision. He wished success for the Gadsden City High School Titan football team as they compete in the State playoffs. President Back announced changes in the garbage collection schedule, due to the Veterans Day holiday on Friday. He also announced next week’s work session and council meeting will be held on Monday, due to the National League of Cities conference.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (11-7-222)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
NOVEMBER 8, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3487 - Body Armor/Concealable Ballistic Vests

	<u>Male/Female Price Each</u>
MES	\$861.00
Walter Craig, LLC	\$871.77
Read's Uniforms, LLC	\$890.00
Gulf States Distributors, Inc.	\$994.00
Mac Uniform	\$1,150.00
Galls, LLC	\$1,175.00

Copies of the bids will be forwarded to the Department and the Assistant Purchasing Agent, and a recommendation will be made to the Council.
