

COUNCIL CHAMBER - CITY HALL - GADSDEN, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 22, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

The City Council met on November 22, 2022 in regular session.

Due to the length of the work session, the meeting was called to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. by Council President Back. On roll call by the City Clerk, Iva Nelson, 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. Heath Williamson, Lee Roberts and Chief Jaggars were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Latham.

The minutes of the last work session and council meeting held on November 14, 2022, were approved by unanimous vote.

Payment of the HTE System accounts for the week of November 11-17 were ratified by unanimous vote.

#220305-220415	General	\$175,386.99
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On behalf of Mayor Ford, Brett Johnson presented a commendation to the Parks & Recreation Department in recognition of the recent Kansas City Barbeque Society world invitational event at Noccalula Falls, especially the work of Jen Weathington (Director), Janet Tarrance, Christina Richardson, Kayla Fair, and Jennifer Gipson. Individual certificates were presented to those present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Back announced that no action was necessary regarding a resolution ordering abatement of nuisances on property at 3516 Forrest Avenue in District 6, which was tabled for 30 days on October 11, as the nuisance has been abated by the owner.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

President Back 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 324 Moringview Drive, The Estate of Robert George being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in July 2021, and recommended abatement. In response to Councilman Wilson's inquiry, Mr. Harbison said rehabilitation is not a likely option, noting the policy caps improvements at 20% of the appraised value. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-315-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 324 Morningview Drive - District 2 - The Estate of Robert George, heirs listed as follows: Jesse George, Bobby Ray George, Cynthia Cash, Sharon Fields, Kenneth George, Angela Miller, James George, Labretta Ervin, Cynthia Cash & ETALS)

Councilman Smith moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson 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 1806 Mt. Zion Avenue, Ashley J. Baker, subject to a mortgage in favor of John Baker and Carol Baker, being the last known owner. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made to this burned structure since procedures began in July 2021, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-316-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 1806 Mt. Zion Avenue - District 5 - Ashley J. Baker, subject to a mortgage in favor of John Baker and Carol Baker)

Councilman Wilson moved to adopt the resolution as introduced, which motion was seconded by Councilman Avery 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 2501 Lookout Avenue, the State of Alabama, possible rights of redemption of the Heirs of James E. Humphrey and Shirley Humphrey, subject to the legal and equitable claims of the Alabama Medicaid Agency, subject to a mortgage in favor of Wells Fargo Financial Alabama, Inc. being the last known owners. Brian Harbison, Building Inspector, stated no improvements have been made since procedures began in August 2021, and recommended abatement. The following resolution was introduced in writing for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. R-317-22

ORDERING ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

(Ordering Abatement of Nuisance - 2501 Lookout Avenue - District 7 - State of Alabama, possible rights of redemption of the Heirs of James E. Humphrey and Shirley Humphrey, subject to the legal and equitable claims of the Alabama Medicaid Agency, subject to a mortgage in favor of Wells Fargo Financial Alabama, Inc.)

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

(4) The floor was opened to allow anyone to speak in opposition to or in favor of a restaurant retail liquor license for 4th Quarter Bar and Grill, 1419 E. Broad Street. Arkala and Roderick Loyd requested issuance of the license. A discussion followed regarding pending charges relating to sale of alcohol after legal hours and a court hearing scheduled for February 16, 2023. Councilman Wilson related past practice of delaying council action until court cases are resolved. Councilman Back moved to table the resolution for an indefinite period, which was motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-318-22

APPROVING APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

(Approving Council President's appointment of seven standing committees - General Administration: Smith, Minatra, Wilson - Finance: Avery, Back, Minatra - Education and Recreation: Latham, Smith, Robinson - Community Development: Robinson, Latham, Back - Intergovernmental Relations: Back, Wilson, Avery - Public Safety: Wilson, Robinson, Smith - Public Safety: Wilson, Robinson, Smith - Public Works: Minatra, Avery, Latham - Note: Each councilman chairs one committee, serves as vice-chair of one and member of one)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-319-22

AWARDING BID NO. 3486

(Awarding Bid No. 3486 - 2017 or Newer T2 4X2 Off Road Terminal Tractor - Briggs Industrial Solutions - \$78,360.00)

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Brett Johnson (Mayor's Chief of Staff) reported on the Mayor's activities over the past week, including (1) promoting Gadsden on Birmingham television stations; (2) meeting on animal habitat at Noccalula Falls Park; (3) Civil Service Board promotion of Jeff Morris (first black assistant chief); (4) negotiations for increasing internet speed; (5) activities of new staff members Ruth Moffatt and Tena King; (6) acquiring financial software system (Tyler); efforts to increase communications with personnel through email and weekly meetings.

The council joined in welcoming Ruth Moffatt and Tena King. Councilman Wilson advised them Human Relations Advisory Committee recommendations will be presented in the near future.

The council joined in wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. President Back encouraged the public to volunteer for the CommUnity Thanksgiving event and announced changes in the garbage collection schedule due to the holiday. Councilman Avery announced the holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day at the Carver Community Center.

Councilman Avery thanked the Mayor’s office for the work on technology improvements. He encouraged checking on seniors, veterans, and those less fortunate during cold weather.

Councilman Smith complimented the administration’s energy and thanked meeting attendees.

Council members Latham, Smith, Avery, and Back commented on the National League of Cities conference, thanking the city for its investment in their attendance and noting that ideas and things learned will be presented. President Back reported on the conference schedule and workshops included.

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

Iva Nelson, City Clerk (11-22-22)

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - BID OPENING
NOVEMBER 22, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

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

Bid No. 3491 - 2023 or Current Production Year Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD, 4-Door High Country

Donohoo Chevrolet LLC \$72,311.50

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