COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER
The regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council was called to order at City Hall by Mayor Darrell Trahan at 6:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM
City Clerk Joetta Smith and Councilors Pat Grubbs, Guy Roden, Scott Thomas, Travis Dotson, Leslie Evans, Kevin Meythaler, and Stephen Ford were present. Deputy Clerk Boyd called roll and declared a quorum. Councilor Eoff was absent.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilor Thomas shared the invocation, and Councilor Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Councilor Roden made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion approved 7 to 0.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS
No special guests were introduced.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
No special business conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilor Thomas made a motion to accept the council meeting minutes of April 11 as submitted, seconded by Councilor Dotson. Councilor Roden made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of April 25, seconded by Councilor Ford. Both motions were approved 7 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
No public comments were shared.

CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS
Written departmental reports were provided to the councilors in their emailed agenda packets.
• Police Chief Thomas stated that they are planning to schedule a Stop the Bleed class for all city employees, and CPR training/certification would be available too. The basement of the police department is being remodeled by the Washington County Prosecutor’s Office to offer an examination room for special victims, such as abused children. He added that he would like to see a group of city officials and business owners meet with the organizers of the First Friday events to discuss details of planning future events. Chief updated the council on a grant application that had been submitted with USDA for a body/car camera system. Chief stated that the entire system to equip all units and officers would cost about $90,000.00, and the grant funds had been reduced to a maximum payout of $50,000.00.
• Street Superintendent Phillips shared that they had installed curb and gutter on College Street to aid in water run-off issues.
• Water Department Director Davis said that they will begin repairing manholes and sewer lines soon.
• Fire Chief Shinn informed the Council that the new fire engine arrival will now be delayed until January. Shinn said that are holding a public education event on May 21, to raise money for the purchase of an inflatable safe house to educate kids in fire safety. Chief Shinn introduced the city’s first full-time firefighters, Steve McGourty and Gabe Dasen.
• Finance Director Boyd noted that sales tax was great again. She also noted that Building Inspector expenses had been moved in April to a newly created “Building Inspector” department, as it had been previously listed under Code Enforcement in our system. There were negative amounts reflected in the Code Enforcement budget report this month because of a journal entry to move those expenditures to the newly created department.

• Economic Development Director Brandi Holt announced that Juan Hernandez has agreed to serve as commissioner on the Economic Development Commission. Mayor Trahan asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Hernandez. Councilor Dotson made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion approved 7 to 0.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS
Mayor Trahan and council members were provided with minutes of the following commission meetings:
- Water and Sewer Commission – April 7
- Planning Commission – April 25
- Economic Development Commission – April 19
- Wage & Position/ARPA Committee – March 7 & April 7

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
No unfinished business was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Trahan opened the floor to discuss the annexation of the Industrial Park land. Mr. Cain had met with the surveyor, Jim Cagle, and City Engineer Charles Presley to look at the completed survey. There is a portion about eight tenths of an acre that should not have been included in the original description of the land. He stated that we would need to annex the land by ordinance if the council wished to do so. The city would need to advertise the notice of a public hearing at a minimum of 15 days prior to the hearing, then at the next regular council meeting can place the ordinance on the agenda for adoption. He added that if the council wished to move forward, the advertisement could be placed in the newspaper by May 26, to allow the hearing to be held at the June meeting. Councilor Evans made a motion to have an ordinance for the June meeting to annex the land into the city limits, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion passed 7 to 0.

Mayor Trahan announced that a local business was interested in purchasing the Industrial Park land. Ms. Boyd informed the council that the company would use the land for light industry, posing no noise or foul odor issues. The company is looking to expand from approximately twelve to fifteen employees to around forty. She added that it could be a landmark for this community in the future. Councilor Ford added he was in favor of the sale since it was serving the purpose for which it was purchased. Mr. Cain suggested that the council set a minimum price for which they would wish to sell the land and then advertise to accept bids.

Mayor Trahan opened the floor for discussion on the use of unallocated or ARPA funds for the purchase of the camera system for the police department. Councilor Roden made the motion to use ARPA funds to pay for the remainder of the purchase, beyond the grant funds. Motion was seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion passed 7 to 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND COMMENTS
Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT
Councilor Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Ford, adjourning at 6:40 p.m.