COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 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 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL / QUorum
Recorder/Treasurer Joetta Smith and Councilors Pat Grubbs, Guy Roden, Scott Thomas, Roger Eoff, Travis Dotson, Leslie Evans, Kevin Meythaler, and Stephen Ford were present. Deputy Clerk Boyd called roll and declared a quorum.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Councilor Roden made a motion to accept the agenda as disseminated, seconded by Councilor Dotson. Motion approved 8 to 0.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS
Kendall Provence, Bryan Sauceda, and Abbie McIntosh, students from the EAST Program at Huntsville High School, introduced themselves and expressed their desire to build a dog park in the city. They listed the materials and labor for which they have received donations and listed the remainder of supplies needed to complete the project. Chief Todd Thomas, who is the chairman of the Huntsville Park Commission, asked that they meet with the commission to review the plans and see what the budget might allow. A meeting is to be planned soon.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
No special business conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilor Eoff made a motion to accept the council meeting minutes of September 12 as submitted, seconded by Councilor Thomas. Motion approved 8 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mr. Kenny Malloy, of the Enclave Subdivision, stated that they had requested a lower speed limit sign to be installed in the subdivision about a year ago, which had been posted as 25 mph. Mr. Malloy requested that the speed limit be further reduced to 15 mph, if possible, in addition to a sign warning drivers of children at-play. He also requested that if the city is unable to pave the road, that gravel could be added to the streets. Street Superintendent Phillips said that we should hear in December if the subdivision roads would be approved for the state aid funds that we are expecting to receive in 2023. Chief Thomas explained the process with the state to further reduce the posted limit. The Planning Commission will discuss the request at their next meetings.

CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS
Written departmental reports were provided to the councilors in their emailed agenda packets.
• Chief Thomas shared how his department’s statistics are elevated for the year and expressed the need for a jail to arrest the offenders.
• Street Superintendent Phillips said that he had received three bids for the paving repairs at Cedar Bluff that had been advertised. The deadline for bids is Thursday, Oct. 13.
• Water Department Director Sean Davis stated that the department is going to receive a very large water rate increase from Madison County Regional Water next year. The commission will be discussing it at the November meeting.
• Fire Chief Shinn stated that the new estimated date for the arrival of the new fire engine is June 2023. Shinn noted that a group of local officials will be holding public town hall meetings throughout the county to discuss the jail issue, adding that one will be held in Huntsville on Oct. 18. He asked if councilors objected to releasing a notice about the meeting on the CodeRed Alert System. No objections were made.
• Mayor Trahan said that the one cent sales tax bond is set to sunset March 2024. The council discussed verbal support of the sales tax to build a jail. Councilor Eoff made a motion to express support of the tax, seconded by Councilor Dotson. Motion approved 8 to 0. Mayor Trahan also stated that Carroll Electric will no longer be hanging banners for events across Main Street, near Arvest Bank. There was a suggestion to install two flag poles on both sides to allow our street department to hang banners for the same purpose.
• Finance Director Boyd stated that revenue is at or above 75% through September, and expenses are very similar. Fuel and utility costs are up and we will watch budgets closely.
• Economic Development Director Holt added that Huntsville is included in two grant study opportunities, including strategic planning. She will have more information on those opportunities next month.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS
Mayor Trahan and council members were provided with minutes of the following commission meetings:

• Water and Sewer Commission – September 1
• Planning Commission – September 26
• Economic Development – September 20

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Councilor Eoff made a motion to place AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FINE AND PENALTY SECTIONS OF THE HUNTSVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY OR FINE PROVISION FOR CODE VIOLATIONS WHERE NONE CURRENTLY EXIST on its second reading, seconded by Councilor Dotson. Motion approved 8 to 0. Attorney Cain read the ordinance by title only.

NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Trahan opened the discussion to accept bids on the sale of the Basham building. Council decided to open and discuss the bids at the next council meeting. They discussed that they would like the bidders to explain their intended use of the building, in person or in writing. Councilor Roden made a motion to open bids at the next city council meeting with a minimum price to be set at $150,000, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried 8 to 0.

Mayor Trahan introduced AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN SPACE AREAS FOR ALL SUBDIVISIONS EXISTING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Councilor Ford made the motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Councilor Thomas. Motion carried 8 to 0. Attorney Cain read the ordinance in full.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND COMMENTS
Upcoming meetings and activities were announced. Council agreed to change the time of the upcoming special City Council meeting for the water bond issuance on Oct. 24, to meet at 5:30 p.m., instead of 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT
Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Thomas. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

KLB

Recorder/Treasurer, Joetta Smith
Mayor Darrell Trahan

City Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2022