

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council was called to order at City Hall by Mayor Travis Dotson at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Recorder Joetta Smith and Councilors Shawn Ellis, Guy Roden, Scott Thomas, Roger Eoff, Leslie Evans, and Kevin Meythaler were present. Deputy Clerk Boyd called roll and declared a quorum. Councilor Ford arrived at 6:12 P.M.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Thomas shared the invocation, and Councilor Meythaler led Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ellis requested an amendment to add rezoning ordinance under New Business, seconded by Roden. Roden made motion to accept agenda as amended, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

No special guests introduced.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

No special order of business conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas noted that his name was not listed in attendance on minutes of February 13, and Boyd added that the official minutes had been amended. Eoff made motion to accept minutes of February 13 as amended and February 15, seconded by Roden. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were heard.

CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Written departmental reports were provided to the councilors in their emailed agenda packets. In addition to the submitted monthly reports the following actions were taken:

- Mayor Dotson asked Street Superintendent Phillips to update Council on the cost of constructing 8 to 10 kennels for holding dogs behind the city shop building on War Eagle Avenue. Phillips reported that the costs would be \$10,000 to \$12,000 with utilities. Councilor Ellis made a motion to approve the expenditure, seconded by Councilor Evans. Motion passed unanimously. (Ford arrived at this time.)
- Mayor Dotson shared that the city car used by employees and officials for training and meetings, needed to be replaced, as the vehicle was unreliable for traveling distances. After discussion, councilors asked Mayor Dotson to prepare information for next month's meeting as to the cost to replace the vehicle.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water and Sewer Commission – February 16
- Planning Commission – January 23 & February 27
- Economic Development – February 21
- Park Commission – October 25, 2022

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson asked council members to volunteer to serve on a committee to assist in future planning for use of the Basham building. Councilors Ford, Eoff, Thomas, and Meythaler volunteered, along with Chief Todd Thomas.

Mayor Dotson informed council that the Batteau's had decided to withdraw their offer to purchase the industrial park land. He stated that he wanted to appoint a committee to address options for the industrial park land. It was decided that the same officials for the Basham building committee would serve.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson presented ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF ENGINE BRAKES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Councilor Eoff made motion to place ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Thomas. Motion approved unanimously. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance.

Mayor Dotson asked Code Enforcement Officer Joey McConnell to update council on some properties that have significant code violations. McConnell noted properties on Cain and Polk that have significant violations, and he also plans to divide the city into areas on which to focus. He reported that many residents have received notices of violation and two citations had been written by the police department.

Mayor Dotson continued the discussion from February's council meeting regarding payment to Madison County Sheriff's Office for 911 dispatching services through a memorandum of understanding. The proposal was for \$35,000 annually, to be issued quarterly beginning July, prorating 2023. Roden made motion to accept proposal as presented, seconded by Ford. Roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays. This action occurred during Departmental Reports.

Mayor Dotson presented AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS FROM LOW DENSITY ZONE (R-1) TO DUAL USE ZONE (DUZ). Roden made motion to place ordinance on first reading by title only, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Attorney Fritz read ordinance title. Thomas made motion to suspend rules and to place ordinance on second reading by title only, seconded by Roden. Motion approved unanimously. Fritz read ordinance title. Thomas made motion to suspend rules and place on third reading by title only, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Fritz read ordinance title. Ordinance was opened for discussion. No discussion followed. Eoff made motion to adopt ordinance, seconded by Roden. Roll call vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Thomas made motion to approve emergency clause, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Ordinance numbered 2023-2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ford. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

KLB

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Recorder Joetta Smith