

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL / QUORUM

City Recorder Joetta Smith and Councilors Roger Eoff, Scott Thomas, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Kevin Meythaler, Shawn Ellis, 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 Ford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Roden made a motion to accept the agenda as disseminated, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved.

### INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

No special guests introduced.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

No special order of business conducted.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eoff made a motion to accept minutes of March 13, seconded by Ford. Motion approved unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were heard.

### CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

- Police Chief Thomas provided councilors with a proposal for the digital radio system that had been previously discussed. Chief Thomas stated he would contact USDA for grant opportunities to help fund the purchase of the radios. Roden made a motion to spend up to \$30,000 of unallocated general funds to meet a grant match, seconded by Ford. Vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays.  
Chief Thomas stated that he had received a bid at the end of 2022 for an HVAC unit in the police department building, that was undersized and no longer working. The bid was \$12,500, and a payment was made. The contractor realized that there was much more work to be done than the original bid stated, and the project would be \$20,000.00. The contractor returned the payment to the city. Thomas sought other bids and received one bid slightly under that amount. He petitioned the Council to reappropriate the \$12,000 from the 2022 budget to the 2023 budget, and that he would cover the remainder in his current year's budget. Ford made the motion to reallocate the funds, seconded by Eoff. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mayor Dotson updated the Council on recent meetings and activities. Mayor asked Council for a guideline amount to spend on a city vehicle. Roden made a motion to allow up to \$30,000 to be spent on the vehicle, seconded by Thomas. Vote: 7 yeas, 0 nays.
- Mayor Dotson discussed with Council a property on Cain Street that required welfare inspection by city officials. Councilors were provided photos during the meeting, as well as written and oral findings of the inspection. After lengthy discussion, Councilor Roden made a motion to move forward with the formal

written notice to be supplied to the homeowner, giving thirty (30) days' notice to bring the home into compliance with city code and invite the owner to the following council meeting, after notice is provided, to discuss the matter. Motion was seconded by Thomas. Motion approved unanimously.

- Finance Director confirmed with elected officials that they had received the city's financial audit from Arkansas Legislative Audit, which they affirmed. Boyd asked Chief Thomas to speak of the dispatching agreement with the county. He requested that we begin the payments to Madison County for dispatching services in May instead of July, at the agreed upon prorated amount that Council had approved previously. Council members agreed to the change.

#### COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water and Sewer Commission – March 16
- Planning Commission – March 27
- Economic Development – March 14

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Eoff made a motion to place AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF ENGINE BRAKES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES on its second reading by title only, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE AUDITOR OF STATE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO DECLARE THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE TO BE A CITY OF THE FIRST CLASS. Eoff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ford. Motion passed 7 to 0.

Mayor Dotson presented AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE STREET & SIDEWALKS CODES OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS. Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on the first reading, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Roden made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eoff. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

KLB

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Mayor Travis Dotson

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City Recorder Joetta Smith