

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 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 Clerk Joetta Smith and Councilors Scott Thomas, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Shawn Ellis, and Stephen Ford were present. Councilors Roger Eoff, Kevin Meythaler, and Deputy Clerk Boyd were absent. Councilor Roden 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 Evans made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted, seconded by Ford. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson welcomed Wes May with Huntsville Summit, Pastor Lonnie Siler, Chelsey Weaver of NWAEDD, Tom Shepherd.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

No special order of business conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to accept the minutes of May 8, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wes May presented a proposal for a five-year lease on the Basham building. Councilors suggested that Mr. May contact the city when he has more data to share.

Tom Shepherd shared that he has a mobile home on his property that will be used for storage and that someone had complained about the home. Planning Director Jennifer Thomas stated that a letter had been sent in March stating that the "accessory building" did not meet zoning requirements and was not permitted to be placed in the front yard of the property. She said that she had been in contact with Mr. Shepherd for several months. Councilor Roden asked that the Planning Commission work with Mr. Shepherd to give him more time to resolve the issue.

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:

- Bob Wright with Crews & Associates addressed the Council to discuss upcoming rate changes for Madison County Regional Water and subsequently the rate changes that Huntsville Water Dept. will face.
- Chief Shinn announced that as of September 1, the City's ISO rating will be a 3, which should result in reduced property insurance rates for Huntsville residents.
- Mayor Dotson announced updates on the general items that are ongoing in the city. Mayor Dotson asked Councilors Evans and Thomas to serve on the Wage and Position Committee that will be meeting Wednesday, June 21. Councilor Roden requested that a meeting of the Wage and Position Committee be scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, at 4:45.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Planning Commission – May 22
- Water and Sewer Commission – May 18

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Thomas made a motion to place AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE STREET & SIDEWALKS CODES OF THE CITY OF HUTSVILLE, ARKANSAS on its third reading by title only, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance title. Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Ordinance numbered 2023-4.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN AND VISION ZERO POLICY. Councilor Ford made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ellis. Motion passed unanimously. Resolution numbered 8-2023.

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE to purchase the walking trail park land from Madison County. Councilor Roden made a motion to move forward with the purchase, seconded by Ellis. Motion passed unanimously. Resolution numbered 9-2023.

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS to allow the city to build sidewalks on Parrott and Harris streets. Councilor Evans made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously. Resolution numbered 10-2023.

Mayor Dotson presented a resolution for the condemnation of property at 603 Cain St. Katrina Scott addressed the Council regarding the property. After discussion, Councilor Ford made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Dotson presented A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE TO UTILIZE THE OUTDOOR RECREATION MATCHING GRANT. Chelsey Weaver with Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District explained the grant opportunity that could be utilized to add a bathroom at the new park on College Street. It is a 50/50 matching grant and in-kind work is acceptable as part of the City's match. Councilor Ford made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced. Wage and Position Committee meeting was added on June 21, at 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Roden made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ellis. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

KLB

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Joetta Smith