

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 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 Roger Eoff, Scott Thomas, Guy Roden, Shawn Ellis, Kevin Meythaler, and Stephen Ford were present. Councilor Evans was absent. Boyd called roll and declared a quorum.

### INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Roden made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Eoff. Motion approved unanimously.

### INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson introduced Madison County Judge Larry Garrett. Judge Garrett requested that Council consider waiving the city's portion of the building permit fees for the upcoming build of the new county jail. Councilor Eoff made a motion to waive the city's fee, seconded by Thomas. Motion approved 6 to 0.

The Huntsville Girls' Softball Team presented requests for upgrades to the city's softball fields.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson presented a proclamation declaring August 14, 2023, as Homelessness Awareness Day.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of July 10, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

### 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:

- During the monthly reports Councilor Roden requested a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Don Smith, as a long-time volunteer firefighter, husband to our former City Clerk/Finance Director, and public servant to our city. The meeting attendees honored Don with a moment of silence.
- Mayor Dotson reported that he was working on finalizing the cost estimate for the park projects, and the current total was \$492,693.00.
  - Mayor Dotson acknowledged that Sutherlands has offered to provide a heating/cooling unit for the new dog kennel for about two hundred dollars below their cost.
  - Mayor Dotson reported that Rausch Coleman had estimated \$65-68,000.00. He said that they offered us approximately \$35,000 to do the repairs ourselves. The city received an estimate from a contractor for the repairs and it very closely matched the Rausch Coleman estimate. He stated that he will continue discussions with Rausch Coleman regarding the repairs.
  - Mayor Dotson reported that Charles Coger, Airport Commission Chairman, would like to sell some land at the airport to the city, and as the city builds hangars using grant funds, Mr. Coger proposes to reimburse the city for the cost of the land. Additionally, Mr. Coger has offered to sell 2.7 acres near Mitchusson Park that is currently used for overflow parking.

-Mayor Dotson asked Council to consider in the next few weeks a waiver of building permit fees for the remaining homes that Terry Presley is building in the Highland Park subdivision to help offset the costs for Presley and progress the construction of a road to Highway 23, which will serve as additional ingress/egress to that area of town. Roden questioned the legality of this type of action, to which Fritts stated she would investigate further. Ford said that Planning Commission would discuss the matter and look at options for all developers. Dotson stated that he would like to find a way to promote growth in the city.

#### COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water and Sewer Commission – July 7, 20, & 24
- Economic Development – July 18
- Wage and Position Committee – June 21
- Planning Commission – July 24

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business conducted.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Roden stated that the Wage and Position Committee had approved in a June meeting, to increase the mayor's salary to \$50,000 annually, effective July 1, and declaring the position to be full-time. Councilor Roden made the motion to approve the changes, seconded by Eoff. Motion passed 6 to 0.

Mayor Dotson presented AN ORDINANCE ADDING TWO ZONING DISTRICTS TO THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS. Councilor Eoff made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Roden. Motion approved 6 to 0. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance.

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

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Roden. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

KLB

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Mayor Travis Dotson

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City Clerk Joetta Smith