

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2024

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, Chrystal Lacey, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Shawn Ellis, Scott Thomas, Kevin Meythaler, and Stephen Ford were present. Boyd called roll and declared a quorum. Councilor Scott Thomas was also present (this correction made meeting of June 10, 2024).

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Ellis shared the invocation, and Councilor Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Ford made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Kaleigh Soma, of Grandma's House, introduced those in attendance to the services offered to children and families who are victims of abuse. Grandma's House is currently serving the Huntsville/Madison County area.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11 as presented, seconded by Ellis. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Written departmental reports were provided to councilors in their emailed agenda packets. These actions were taken, or information was presented during the reporting period:

- Finance Director Boyd announced that she had closed the Park Concession bank account and transferred the funds to the Park Fund account.
- Mayor Dotson reported:
 - The park land purchased from Madison County will be named "College Street Park."
 - Airport hangar bids have been opened and they will be reviewed in the next week.
 - Carl Stewart had been selected to begin training with Building Inspector Jason Polley. Polley plans to retire upon completion of the Madison County Jail.
 - Megan Montoya has been selected to be the new Animal Control Officer.
 - Mayor Dotson read a proclamation supporting The Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas, proclaiming this week to be Single Parents' Week in Huntsville.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water and Sewer Commission – March 21
- Economic Development – No March Meeting
- Planning Commission – March 25

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson received Line of Credit proposals from local banks. Dotson described the offers for comparison. He said a decision can be made at the next council meeting, and that he would supply councilors with a side-by-side comparison by email.

Mayor announced that the City had received two offers to purchase the Industrial Park land. One offer received from Jim and Susan Cagle was for \$200,345.00 with a \$10,000.00 check enclosed as earnest money, and Cagle proposed to close within 30 days or less. The other offer was received from Casey Kleinhenz in the amount of \$306,410.00 and is subject to project funding. Offer includes payment of \$1,000.00 monthly to the City as a non-refundable deposit and closing would occur on or before December 20, 2024. Additionally, the agreement stated the Buyer shall have the option to extend closing date by 12 months, continuing the \$1,000.00 monthly payments. The contract also stated that the Buyer and Seller shall define cost share for extending water/sewer and driveway to site, and that the site shall be rezoned to a multi-family housing zone on or before closing date. Mayor stated that he felt that the City should not extend the closing twelve (12) months past Dec. 20, 2024. He also stated that the City would not agree to extending water/sewer lines beyond the property lines, but he confirmed with Councilor Ford that the rezoning could be changed to suit multi-family housing. Ford stated that the Planning Commission would review any proposals and consider the needs of the City. Tye Rudolph, Huntsville Water Dept. Distribution Manager, confirmed that the water/sewer lines were at or close to the property. Councilor Ford suggested allowing Kleinhenz time to amend his offer after he is informed of the City's stance on the above topics. Council confirmed that the City would continue to accept more offers at this time. Roden added that Cagle should also be given the option to amend his offer as well.

Councilor Eoff made a motion to place AN ORDINANCE SPECIFICALLY PERMITTING CITY EMPLOYEES TO DO LIMITED BUSINESS WITH THE CITY on its second reading by title only; motion seconded by Ellis. Motion carried 8 to 0. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance title.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson presented councilors with more information regarding code enforcement software that was briefly discussed during the March meeting. Mayor stated that the software is \$2,000.00 per year. Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the expense, seconded by Ford. Roll call vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays. Boyd added that there may be enough funds in the Code Enforcement budget to cover the expense this year, without using unallocated funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eoff. Meeting adjourned 7:29 p.m.

KLB

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Joetta Smith