

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 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 Stephen Ford, Chrystal Lacey, Scott Thomas, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Kevin Meythaler were present. Councilor Roger Eoff was absent, and one position is vacant. 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

Councilor Roden made a motion to amend the agenda to add discussion of War Eagle One building under New Business; motion was seconded by Ford. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson introduced the new editor of the Madison County Record, Mark Humphrey.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of August 12, seconded by Roden. 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:

- Captain Herring attended the meeting in place of Chief Thomas. He asked the Council to consider the option to allow the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe this year, in place of purchasing a vehicle next year, since one with a police package is available locally. Councilor Roden made a motion to make the purchase, seconded by Ford. Motion carried 6-0.
- Finance Director Boyd asked elected officials to confirm that they had received their copies of the 2022 audit from Arkansas Legislative Audit. They confirmed that they had received them.
- Mayor Dotson announced that the Water and Sewer Commission had approved the appointment of Preston Scott to the commission, filling the seat vacated by Shawn Ellis. Councilor Ford made a motion to confirm the appointment, seconded by Roden. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Economic Development – August 19
- Planning Commission – August 26
- Water and Sewer Commission – August 22
- Park Commission – April 12

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor presented AN ORDINANCE SPECIFICALLY PERMITTING CITY OFFICIALS TO DO LIMITED BUSINESS WITH THE CITY. Councilor Roden made a motion to place the ordinance on its second reading by title only, seconded by Ford. Motion carried unanimously. Boyd read the ordinance title.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TAX RATE TO THE COUNTY CLERK. Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dotson introduce AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 12 OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION CODE OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS. Councilor Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Roden. Motion carried unanimously. Boyd read the ordinance.

Mayor Dotson updated councilors on the War Eagle One building. He had requested that Steve Brannon, a structural engineer, evaluate the building for potential use as a future City Hall. Mayor Dotson read the statement provided by Brannon, siting that extensive repairs would be required to the building which would be very costly. He recommended that decisions to purchase the property should be based on demolition of the building, unless the community has a strong sentimental attachment. No decisions were made regarding the property.

Boyd added that we will need to replace our server at City Hall soon. One quote received was \$16,000. She hoped to wait until 2025 to get one, but she believes it will be needed sooner. Councilor Ford made a motion to allow Boyd to get bids and report back at the October meeting; motion seconded by Roden. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Roden made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ford. Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

KLB

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Joetta Smith