

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 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

Councilors Stephen Ford, Chrystal Lacey, Scott Thomas, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Roger Eoff were present. Councilor Kevin Meythaler was absent, and one position is vacant. Watkins 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 and was seconded by Ford. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson had Economic Development Director, Brandi Holt introduce Sam Ireland from Placer.ai via Zoom and Sam gave a short presentation on how Placer.ai will help the City of Huntsville.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Bettina Coger was sworn in as a new Counselor for Ward 4, Position 1.
Mayor Dotson introduced Carmen Watkins as the new Finance Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, seconded by Ford. 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:

- Chief Thomas reported that Officer Blake Evans was taking classes for CID and should earn a certificate by December. He also stated that there will be a new report for the SRO.
- Planning Commission Director Thomas gave a description of the new Residential Accessory Building permit. This is for minor changes to any home or putting up a storage unit on a property. There is no fee for this permit.
- Chief Kevin Shinn said they had an unusually busy October because of the drought and that there were many brush fires that they had to respond to. The Fire Department has 22 members on its roster, but only 9 have been with the department over 2 years.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Economic Development – October 23
- Water and Sewer Commission – October 17
- Planning Commission – October 28
- Budget Committee – October 23 & 28

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson presented AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. Councilor Eoff made a Motion to place the Ordinance on its third reading by title only, seconded by Roden. Attorney Fritts read the title. Councilor Thomas made a Motion to Adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 2024-8

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW ZONING MAP AND CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilor Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules of reading the ordinance on three separate days and proceed with the second reading by title only. Motion seconded by Councilor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the title. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading by title only, seconded by Counselor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the title. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for further discussion. After no discussion, Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Ford. Councilor Thomas made a motion to Accept the Emergency clause, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 2024-9

Mayor Dotson presented a RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICY. Motion made by Councilor Eoff to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution 2024-10

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE HUNTSVILLE ZONING CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilor Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Roden. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules of reading the ordinance on three separate days and proceed with the second reading by title only. Motion seconded by Councilor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the title. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading by title only, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the title. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for further discussion. After no discussion, Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Councilor Thomas made a motion to Accept the Emergency Clause, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 2024-10

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDIAANCE AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE HUNTSVILLE ZOING CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilor Eoff made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Councilor Scott. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules of reading the ordinance on three separate days and proceed with the second reading by title only. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading by title only, second by Councilor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the title. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for further discussion. After no discussion, Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Councilor Thomas made a motion to Accept the Emergency Clause, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 2024-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Scott. Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Joetta Smith