

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 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, Stephen Ford, Chrystal Lacey, Scott Thomas, Leslie Evans, Guy Roden, Kevin Meythaler were present. One position is vacant. Janice Smith called roll and declared a quorum.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted; motion was seconded by Eoff. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

None.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9 and a special called meeting on October 3, 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 relayed that \$35-40,000 in fines are not being collected due to the lack of a jail.
- Public Works Director Scott Phillips said they are finishing up in the Cedar Bluff subdivision and starting on the school parking project. Mayor Dotson interjected that \$65,000 was received from Rausch Coleman for work in that subdivision. Around \$37,000 has been expended on curb and gutter work, 11-1200 linear feet of sidewalk, and drainage at the entrance. Park areas will be addressed also. Phillips and Chief Thomas have been partnering with the school to create a parking area to alleviate the traffic issues on Highway 412 during student pick up hours.
- Water Director Sean Davis reported better rates have been found for a loan for wastewater plant upgrades. The state was going to require another raise in rates. Four water line breaks have happened due to extra pressure from the new water tank coming online.
- Fire Chief Kevin Shinn reported the Forestry Station is being shut down, causing a serious issue for Madison County. An active volunteer firefighter had to be terminated due to misconduct.
- Mayor's Assistant Janice Smith reported she plans to have a 2025 budget to Councilors prior to the December Council meeting.
- Mayor Dotson asked for an extension of the deadline to accept bids for the Industrial Park land. Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Ford, to extend the deadline to December 1. Motion carried. Dotson reported revenue in the amount of \$910,936.43 was received from city sales tax after the one cent tax sunset. He

reported that the Wage & Position Committee met and recommends a 2.5% Cola for all full-time employees. Councilor Roden said this is estimated to cost \$30,829 additional for salaries in 2025. Motion was made by Eoff, seconded by Ford, to approve the 2.5 Cola. Motion carried. Dotson interviewed two residents, Bettina Coger and John Parks, for the vacant seat on the Council. He recommended Bettina Coger for the position (Ward 4, Position 1). Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Lacey, to approve the appointment of Coger to the Council. Motion carried. Dotson announced that he accepted the resignation of Finance Director Katie Boyd, and applicants are being interviewed. He recommends that the City's nine-year-old server be replaced immediately. It can be purchased for \$15,995 or a monthly payment plan. He also recommends an upgraded plan with the current IT company to enhance security. Motion was made by Eoff, seconded by Roden, to purchase the server outright, plus the upgraded plan. Roll call vote was unanimous.

- In the absence of Economic Development Director Brandi Holt, Mayor Dotson said that a strategic community plan was submitted to AEDI and would be available in a few weeks.
- Planning Director Jennifer Thomas said a new urban development plan and new zoning map will be presented next month.
- In the absence of Code Enforcement Official Jeremy Shinn, Mayor Dotson reported that letters will be going out to four owners of property on Dotson Street

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Economic Development – September 17
- Airport Commission – February 22
- Water and Sewer Commission – September 19
- Planning Commission – September 23
- Park Commission – August 16
- Wage & Position Committee – May 15, Oct 8

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 third reading by title only, seconded by Eoff. Motion carried unanimously. City Attorney Jessica Fritts read the ordinance title. Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Roden, to adopt the Ordinance. Roll call vote was unanimous. It was numbered 2024-7.

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 second reading by title only, seconded by Roden. Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Fritts read the ordinance by title.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NAME OF THE HUNTSVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. Mayor Dotson asked Attorney Fritts to read the Resolution which would add Charles Coger Field to the name. Councilor Eoff made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ford. Motion carried unanimously. It was numbered 16-2024.

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ADOPTED 2024 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS. Janice Smith reviewed Exhibit A. Councilor Eoff made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ford. Motion carried unanimously. It was numbered 17-2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ford.

JES

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Joetta Smith