

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 14, 2025**

**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, Brad Willis, Leslie Evans, Chrystal Lacey, Roger Eoff, Scott Thomas, Guy Roden and Bettina Coger were present. Watkins 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 Eoff made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Roden. Motion approved.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

None

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chris Estes stated that he had been clearing some brush and would like to continue. Mayor told him to call City Hall and give the address for the public works to go and pick it up.

**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:

- Water Director Sean Davis informed the council that the water department is considering the purchase of a new property and hopes to relocate their office. They have discussed many related projects over the past few years and this property would address their needs for years to come. The property is owned by 4D LLC, which is owned by Mayor Dotson and his wife Jamie. The commission held a special meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>, voting to pursue the purchase. Davis said that he had contacted the city attorney, and the purchase would be allowed, with approval from the City Council. He also discussed the purchase with the mayor, who was agreeable to selling the property for what was owed, making no profit. The water department plans to cover all fees and closing costs and felt the price was very reasonable and well below market value. He discussed some quality-of-life improvements for both the employees and customers, specifically the added convenience of a drive-thru window for customer payments.
- Mayor Dotson gave a couple of announcements. First, he is going to set up a Mayor Youth Advisory Council which will let the youth shadow the mayor to see how everything works in all aspects of the city. He also stated that he is going to set up a Strategic Planning Advisory Committee. He stated that he would

like Councilor Bettina Coger, Chrystal Lacey, Guy Roden and Stephen Ford to serve. They will meet once a month on Wednesdays with the department heads. He stated that he signed the last of the solar field paperwork and that should be online in the next couple of weeks. He also said that there will be an overhaul of the building permits process and will give an update on that at the next council meeting. He gave an update on the cost of the splash pad. Total bid on the splash pad was \$349,377.39 of which \$143,000 was non taxable labor. \$6,200 was for the sitting walls and another \$11,656.00 was for remote access making it a lot easier to regulate anywhere. Including tax the total amount of the splash pad was \$391,899.36. We made a prepayment of \$174,688.68 which left us owing \$217,210.68 to Rob Green and ACS company. Of that \$217,210.68 there were two things that the mayor was not satisfied with. We were given a credit of \$15,277.22 which left us owing \$201,933.46, which means we got the splash built for \$358,000.00. The mayor reminded the council that when they had started talking about building the splash pad that it was voted on to spend \$437,000.00. The state has already reimbursed us with \$87,344.34 and we will receive another check of \$122,655.66 which means in total we will have \$181,899.00 that the state has put in on the splash pad. That leaves a total of \$256,000.00 or so left for parking, restrooms, and upgrading the sidewalks. He also brought up that we might consider getting a loan against our CD at the bank.

- The Mayor said that we are looking at a camera system from a company called Verkada They are monitoring City Hall right now and we are going to have them to give us a bid on a camera system for the splash pad. Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the purchase of the camera system, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried.

#### COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Personnel Committee- June 10th
  - Water and Sewer Commission – June 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Planning Commission-June 23rd
  - Economic Development-June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Wage & Position- July 1<sup>st</sup>

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget. Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilor Roden. Motion carried.

Resolution 9-2025.

Mayor Dotson reported on the 2023 Legislative Audit. There were two significant findings. First, the City paid \$8,500.00 to a planning commission member for a vehicle and \$1,640.00 to a Council member for various services. Although the Council passed an ordinance in 2011 allowing the City to conduct business with officials and employees up to \$5,000.00, the law changed and stated that you must have an ordinance and list every person by name that

you are doing business with. He stated that we have and will implement a new protocol that will be much more stringent and person specific to extend authority by the council if and when we do business with an elected official from now on.

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

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Roden. Meeting adjourned 7:05 p.m.

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Mayor Travis Dotson

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City Clerk Janice Smith