

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 13, 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.

Mayor Dotson announced that we are holding a public meeting to approve a couple of Ordinances to confirm water rates and to issue a water and sewer revenue bond. Mayor Dotson introduced consultant Ryan Bowman of Friday, Eldridge & Clark, and Cheryl Schluterman of Raymond James.

**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.

Mayor Dotson introduced an Ordinance Confirming Rates for Services Rendered by the Water and Sewer System of the City of Huntsville. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its first reading by title only. Seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its second reading by title only. Seconded by Councilor Ford. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an Ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its third reading by title only. Seconded by Eoff. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for discussion, after no discussion, Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Coger. Motion carried. Ord. 2025-9.

Mayor Dotson introduced an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Water and Sewer Revenue Bond. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its first reading by title only. Seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its second reading by title only. Seconded by Councilor Ford. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Councilor Thomas made a motion that the rule requiring the reading of an Ordinance in full on three different occasions be suspended and that the Ordinance be placed on its third reading by title only. Seconded by Lacey. Bowman read the Ordinance by title only. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for discussion, after no discussion, Councilor Eoff made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Roden. Councilor Thomas made a motion to accept the Emergency clause, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Ord. 2025-8.

**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Thomas shared the Invocation and Councilor Eoff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Roden made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment that 13 e & f were moved prior to the invocation. Seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion approved.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Mayor Dotson introduced several special guests:  
Maria McSperritt who is running for juvenile judge.  
Sheriff Body and his wife Katie.  
Austin Boatright, the County Clerk.  
Amanda Born, County Treasurer.  
Cord Riley, JP for the County.  
Greg Wheeler, the County DEM.

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson administered an Oath of Office to Mark Gates as Planning Commissioner.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025, seconded by Councilor Evans.  
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:

- Brian Robinson reported that they are working on the new bathrooms at College Park and Mayor Dotson reported that we got our second draw from the grant that we have received for the splash pad of \$80,655.66 which leaves around 42,000 to help with the cost of the bathrooms. The bathrooms should be done by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Dotson reported that there have been negotiations with the school district about adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> SRO. He stated that they have come to an agreement as follows. SRO/Sergeant will be a 75/25 split, school district will pay \$58,875.00 and PD paying \$19,625.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> SRO will be a 65/35 split, with the school district paying \$51,025 and the PD paying \$27,475.00. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SRO will be a 55/45 split, with the school district paying \$43,175.00 and the PD paying \$35,325.00.
- Mayor Dotson announced that the hangers at the airport are done.
- Mayor Dotson wanted to thank Josh Thompson for the donation of \$9,749.70 of heavy equipment we used to dig the hole at the Pantry.
- Mayor Dotson read a statement to dispatcher Lola Mitchell.
- Mayor Dotson reported that we need to trade off the 2020 Jeep Cherokee and would like to replace it with a 2025 Nissan Pathfinder. He stated that after the trade-in and difference in price will be \$20,000.00. Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve buying the Nissan for up to \$20,000.00, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried.
- Mayor Dotson reported that he has been in contact with a group that will give us a low interest loan and that the law has changed for municipalities that it used to be to pay off a loan is 5 years and they have extended it to up to 20 years now. With the loan he would like to build the training facility for the fire department and also buy the old bank building. The fire department and Administration can share the payment of the loan. Councilor Ford made a motion to table this and form a committee, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried.

- Mayor Dotson reported that an inter-agency agreement has been drafted between the City of Huntsville and Madison County concerning the operation and cost-sharing of District Court. He explained that Act 371, which came effective on August 5<sup>th</sup>, necessitates an agreement between the Mayor and County Judge regarding the distribution on Uniform Filing Fees. After meeting with county officials, the Mayor stated that the proposed resolution reflects the preferred approach of the County. The agreement outlines a cost allocation of 48 percent to Madison County and 52 percent to the City of Huntsville. Currently the County contributes approximately 17 percent, despite accounting for roughly 70 percent of the District Court Caseload. County Clerk Austin Boatright addressed the City Council and noted that the Madison County Quorum Court will meet the following Monday to consider three options related to the agreement. Following discussion, Councilor Eoff moved to adopt the interagency agreement between the City of Huntsville, Arkansas, and Madison County, Arkansas., seconded by Councilor Lacey. Motion carried. Res. 13-2025

#### COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Airport Commission-Sept. 4th
- Wage & Position-Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>
- Economic Development Comm-Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>
- Water & Sewer Comm.-Sept 18<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Comm-Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>
- Personal Policy Comm-Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
- Park Comm-Oct 9th

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Certifying Tax Rate to the County Clerk. Councilor Eoff made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Thomas. Motion carried. Res. 12-2025

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Regarding the Acceptance of Certain Real Estate and Approval of Donation Agreement of Real Property. Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the resolution, with the addendum, seconded by Councilor Coger. Res. 14-2025

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Regarding the Acceptance of a Certain Donation. Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Res. 14-2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Ford. Meeting adjourned 8:29 p.m.

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Mayor Travis Dotson

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City Clerk Janice Smith