

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2026

Special Order of Business

A public hearing was held for the implementation of an Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program (ACEDP) grant for the Huntsville Fire Department to inform citizens of the current scope and progress of the ACEDP project. Chelsey Weaver, the Community Development Coordinator for NWAEDD, presented slides of the equipment that was bought by the Fire Department with the grant money. It included a new rescue boat, a Ranger side-by-side, and Toyota Tacoma and equipment to outfit the truck and boat. After discussion the meeting was declared closed.

A public hearing was held to discuss the zoning change for 1128 N Gaskill St., from DUZ zone to R5 zone, with the intent of the rezone is to ensure multi-family housing development is feasible on this property. Zak Johnston, the Civil Engineer for the project, showed slides of the 32-unit townhomes they are wanting to build on the property. Mayor Dotson rescued himself, since his home is right across the street where the proposed townhomes are going to be built. After much discussion the meeting was declared closed.

A public hearing was held to discuss the zoning change for 217 Amanda Pl, From DUZ zone to R2 zone, with the intent to build single family residential homes on the property. Richard DeLaughter, the owner of the property, and Zak Johnston, the engineer, gave a description of how the proposed change should improve the conditions for the existing property by improving Amanda Pl with the construction of a subdivision. After discussion the meeting was declared closed.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Travis Dotson called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council at City Hall at 6:50 P.M.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Councilors Stephen Ford, Brad Willis, Leslie Evans, Chrystal Lacey, Scott Thomas, Guy Roden and Bettina Coger were present. Roger Eoff was absent. Watkins called roll and declared a quorum.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Thomas shared the Invocation and Counciler Coger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Counciler Roden made a motion to approve the Agenda, Seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson introduced April Shy who is running for Juvenile Judge.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

See above

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of December 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:

- Chief Herring reported that in December, the step program concentrated on Driving while Intoxicated (DWI). He stated that out of the 45 stops only 1 citation was issued for DWI.
- Public Work Director Brian Robinson reported that the new bathrooms are open at College Park.
- Mayor Dotson reported that the City has received the Trendsetter Award for the renovation of the Basham Building.
- Mayor Dotson reported that we will be getting flashing beacons lights in our school zones.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water & Sewer Comm.-Dec 18th
- Planning Comm.-Dec 22nd

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced an Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands from General Industrial (I2) to Dual Use Zone (DUZ). Councilor Thomas made a motion to place the ordinance on its third reading by title only, seconded by Councilor Roden. Motion carried. Councilor Thomas made a motion to Adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. 2026-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson orally presented the State of the City report. He reported that the City was in very good financial condition.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Setting Forth the Meeting Rules of the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Arkansas. Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Res. 1-2026. Councilor Roden made a motion to appoint Councilor Thomas as Mayor Pro Tempore in the event of Mayor Dotson's absence, seconded by Councilor Lacey. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget. Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Evans. Motion carried. Res. 2-2026.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Regarding the Inter-Agency Agreement Between the City of Huntsville, AR and the County of Madison, Ar. Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Res. 3-2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Lacey. Meeting adjourned 7:40.

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Janice Smith