

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2020

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a video conferenced workshop session on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with each member logging in from their individual location. Council President Zack Steele presided.

Those members present were as follows:

Council President Zack Steele  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Jef Freeman  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: None

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat  
City Attorney Rick Stotser

The workshop was convened and the Council received a preliminary agenda and supporting documentation for the City Council meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. The Council reviewed the agenda and determined the order for consideration at the Council meeting.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in video conferenced regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Steele presided over the meeting and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary. Council President Steele called the meeting to order and explained that we are in compliance with Governor Ivey's Proclamation issued March 18 declaring a COVID-19 public health emergency, and that this Proclamation allows a waiver of the Open Meetings Act for governmental bodies to meet by telephone, video conference or similar communication, during this period. This Proclamation limits discussion to COVID-19 matters and essential city business, thus there will be no reports and no discussions not pertaining to these items. He explained that with this unique situation with members all signing in from different places, Mayor Choat will be describing each item for consideration before one of the Councilmembers makes a motion.

Council President Steele called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Freeman to lead in prayer. Councilman Cook led the pledge to the flag.

Those persons answering present to roll call were as follows:

Council President Steele  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Jef Freeman  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: None

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat  
Attorney

Council President Steele introduced the minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting for approval. Councilman Taylor moved they be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook, and the vote was unanimous.

The agenda and consent agenda were presented for approval.

Those items on the consent agenda were as follows:

Accounts Payable

Non-Departmental	14,970.50
Mayor and Council	5,206.25
Administration	11,904.22
Inspections	1,230.77
Municipal Court	3,450.33
Finance	4.50
Information Technology	2,372.06
Police Department	36,095.42
Fire Department	19,615.61
Public Works	9,729.27
Garbage	189,401.21
Parks and Recreation	17,813.10
Library	8,348.50
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>320,141.74</b>
CAPITAL PROJECTS	3,377.00
CORRECTIONS FUND	9,152.72
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</b>	<b>332,671.46</b>

Promote Jessie Clifton to Fire Lieutenant, Grade 20, Step 8  
 Accept resignation of Steve Phillips effective April 15, 2020

Councilman Plant moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-021 to mirror the Department of Revenue temporary late payment penalty waivers for sales, use and lodgings taxes for the months of February, March and April 2020 on small businesses, food service businesses, and hotels and motels through June 1, 2020 was introduced. This is to grant some relief to these businesses during the restricted operations resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis declaration. Councilman Taylor moved it be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-022 to temporarily waive local alcohol tax payments for the months of March, April, and May through June 30, 2020 during the restricted operations resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis declaration was introduced. Councilman Taylor moved this be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-023 to approve the purchase of rights-of-way and temporary construction easements on three tracts for the downtown loop road was presented. Councilman Plant moved this be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook and the motion carried with Councilman Taylor abstaining due to a conflict.

Resolution 2020-024 to amend the right-of-way and temporary construction easement approval on Tract 36 of the downtown loop road was presented. Councilman Plant moved this be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, and the motion carried with Councilman Taylor abstaining due to a conflict.

Resolution 2020-025 in support of Governor Ivey’s “Stay at Home” order and in support of police enforcement during the COVID-19 public health crisis was presented. Councilman Taylor moved this resolution be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant. Council President Steele stated

this is not to be punitive or draconian, but to let the public know we are serious about controlling the spread of this disease. He stated he would love to get back to normal. The vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-026 in full support of Governor Ivey's and State Health Officer's various proclamations and orders dealing with the COVID-19 public health crisis and measures to protect the citizens of the state was presented. Councilman Freeman moved it be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-027 to encourage use of protective masks during the COVID-19 public health crisis was presented. Councilman Freeman moved this resolution be approved, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and the vote was unanimous. Council President Steele stated we encourage this to prevent the spread of this virus to ourselves and to others.

Resolution 2020-028 to award the bid for the three-year pouring contract for Parks and Recreation to Birmingham Coca-Cola. Mayor Choat stated this contract includes \$60,000 for park projects to be distributed at \$20,000 per year. Councilman Cook moved this resolution be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-029 to award the bid for the audio, visual, and lighting systems and video wall for the stage in the downtown entertainment district. Mayor Choat stated this is a high quality system that will allow us to attract regional acts and artists. The video wall will allow effects to be displayed during performances, but can also be used for announcements and possibly ads for local businesses at other times. The cost of the audio, visual and lighting is \$457,966.07, and the cost of the video wall is \$239,637.45 to a total of \$697,603.52. Mayor Choat stated the wall is twenty-seven feet wide and twelve feet tall. He stated we received only one bid. We were able to negotiate with The ESB Group, Inc. for a \$40,000 reduction in the price. Councilman Cook moved the bid be awarded to The ESB Group, Inc. in the amount of \$697,603.52, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution 2020-030 to engage Stifel as underwriter for the Series 2020 warrants refunding the 2014 warrants was presented. This will authorize the Mayor to execute the purchase agreement. An ordinance for Council approval will then be required. Councilman Plant moved this resolution be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook. Councilman Freeman stated this is what he does for a living. He stated the current market environment is wild with swings of 500 basis points day to day. He stated he did think it was prudent to be in a position to act when rates are right. The vote was unanimous.

A re-appointment for Kathy Brown to the school board through May 25, 2025 was presented. Council President Steele stated there has been discussion about whether to reappoint or to interview other candidates for the position. The current situation with the pandemic has made it difficult to conduct public interviews. He stated once there is a motion and second, he will call upon each member for their comments. Councilman Freeman moved Kathy Brown be reappointed to the School Board through May 25, 2025, seconded by Councilman Plant.

Councilman Cook stated the Board of Education is important to the city. He stated he was disappointed we did not reach out to more people. He stated he agreed Ms. Brown is upstanding and hard working. Sabrina Wilks is a fine candidate. She worked for our school system, and presently works for the Jefferson County School Board, in the Planning and Credentials area, and will soon go to the State Board of Education in the same position. Some say she would be disruptive to the Board, but change can bring improvement.

Councilman Freeman stated he considered other candidates. A person who disrupts is not always bad. Currently our world is in disruption. He stated in the current situation, he felt we need to keep the proven for continuity. He stated snide remarks on social media made by the other candidate mentioned tonight, do not represent what we need on the Board.

Councilman Plant stated the school board has our confidence. They give a tremendous amount of time, and it is shown in the accolades received and goals reached. He stated he is proud

of our system and our Board. He stated Ms. Brown has his full confidence. He thanked her for her service, and for her future service.

Councilman Taylor stated it is not accurate that we did not consider others. He stated he looked at each of them. He stated it is disturbing and disappointing that, except for reading her resume, he did not hear her name raised until tonight. He stated you cannot deny the record of our schools. Ms. Brown has done an excellent job.

Council President Steele stated there has been a lot of debate over this. There has been healthy debate. He stated he felt we have done our due diligence, and feels the system has done a good job. He stated he has talked with some previous and current employees and these have caused some concerns. He stated he has no problem with Ms. Brown. He stated some things give him pause. He stated he had some heartburn over the SRO agreement. The way the lacrosse situation was handled gave him pause. The summer program being ceded to the YMCA and the way it was handled gives him some concern. He stated he wants to make sure the best person possible is chosen. He stated he wants the system to continue to move forward. Things in the last six months are concerning. He stated he would like to see us move forward. He stated he has two children in the system and they are excelling. The vote was unanimous.

Council President Steele urged the community to be safe and to practice social distancing, and to stay at home as much as you can.

No other business coming before the City Council, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter  
City Clerk