

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2020

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a workshop session on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Zack Steele presiding.

Those members present were as follows:

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

Absent: Councilman Perry Cook

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat

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. The Council reviewed the agenda and determined the order for consideration at the Council meeting.

Mayor Choat announced that we went through a refunding procedure on some of our warrant for a more favorable interest rate today. We have been watching rates for several months. In early February our savings would have been \$4 million, and by late February was at \$6.7 million. We then went through the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis and by June savings were at \$5.1 million. The August 11 numbers far exceeded any of these, even though we do not have the final numbers. We will need to call a special meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at noon to close this deal. Our financial advisor is not available for our rescheduled regular meeting on August 20, so we need a special meeting.

Councilman Taylor stated it was exciting to watch, even though difficult to understand some of it. He thanked Councilman Freeman for explaining and helping guide us through the process today.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in regular session on Tuesday, August 11, 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 asked Councilman Taylor to lead in prayer. Councilman Freeman led the pledge to the flag.

Those persons answering present to roll call were as follows:

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

Absent: Councilman Perry Cook

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat
Attorney

Council President Steele introduced the minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting for approval. Councilman Freeman stated he was not present at the workshop. Councilman Freeman moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

The agenda and consent agenda were presented for approval. The consent agenda was as follows:

Accounts Payable	
Non-Departmental	1,050.00
Mayor and Council	165.00
Administration	4,307.86
Inspections	1,696.00
Municipal Court	865.75
Finance	925.00
Information Technology	15,753.15
Police Department	24,648.98
Fire Department	22,319.13
Public Works	17,673.89
Garbage	189,938.19
Parks and Recreation	58,144.56
Library	21,426.45
Rental Property	152.69
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	359,065.65
DEBT SERVICE FUND	48,729.19
MUNICIPAL COURT FUND	149.36
CORRECTIONS FUND	4,602.63
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	412,547.83

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

A resolution to provide Tier I Retirement System of Alabama benefits to Tier II employees was presented. Mayor Choat stated this will help with recruiting and retention of employees. Several cities in our area have already adopted this plan. He stated he felt this will be an advantage for our city. This will increase the contribution amount for Tier II employees to 7.5% for non-public safety employees and to 8.5% for public safety employees. Councilman Freeman moved Resolution 2020-056 authorizing this change be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

A resolution to approve a memorandum of understanding concerning School Resource Officers between the City and the School System was presented. The school board approved this in December and we found one clause that we were not comfortable with when it came to the City Council in January. A change was made to this clause having to do with the dissemination of information, but this fell through the crack with the onset of COVID in the spring, and was not brought back up. Councilman Taylor moved Resolution 2020-057 be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant. Councilman Taylor stated there was no ill intent on either side. This was just a misunderstanding in drafting. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Rick Stotser stated sometimes city requirements and school requirements do not mesh as well as we would like, and we have to find a balance that serves both sides.

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-058 authorizing the purchase of right-of-way from Regions for the Highway 11 widening project be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-059 authorizing the purchase of right-of-way for the downtown loop road from First Baptist Church be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman. Quite a bit of this property will be donated. The motion carried with Councilman Taylor abstaining. Councilman Plant stated we appreciate the donation.

Council President Steele announced that the second City Council meeting in August will be rescheduled to Thursday, August 20 at 6:00 p.m. due to municipal elections being held on Tuesday, August 25.

Councilman Freeman asked J.R. Malchus to give an update on what is happening in the inspections department. Mr. Malchus stated permits were issued for 28 new homes in July with a valuation of more than \$9,000,000. Total new construction and additions totaled more than \$10,000,000. Councilman Freeman stated Planning and Zoning met last night and approved a resurvey and recommended two annexations.

Councilman Freeman stated the school reopening options are a moving target with COVID-19. He stated he felt we are fortunate to be in a city that supports our schools and public safety.

Councilman Plant stated he agreed on the re-opening issues the school has. He stated the finance update we received on Wednesday on the sale of warrants to refund part of the 2016 series warrants was very favorable. The city has 5.5 months of operating capital in reserves. We do not know what we may face in the future, but we are fine at the present. Councilman Plant stated the Library is taking appropriate action to slowly reopen, and is providing curbside service.

Councilman Taylor stated Chamber Director June Mathews' husband has had a medical issue. He is some better but has a way to go. Councilman Taylor stated he was proud of how strong our city is financially. The warrant sell went well. He thanked Councilman Freeman for keeping us updated.

Public Safety Director Wayne Sullivan reported they have cleaned up Valley Road this week, and removed the fallen trees from the right-of-way.

Council President Steele reported the Senior Citizen Center is still closed. ACTA is getting ready for the fall season. School will start tomorrow, This situation is a struggle for teachers, students and parents.

Mayor Choat stated we have been letting the grass grow on Valley Road to help stabilize it. The APPLE Study we commissioned will widen Chalkville Road from Green Drive to I-59. We will see what we can do in the area back toward downtown.

Mayor Choat stated we are into our budget time. Department Heads will need to get their information to Mike Henson. The library will reopen on Tuesday, September 8. New hours will be Monday through Friday from 10:00 to 6:00. There will be no weekend hours and no computer use at the present time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter
City Clerk