

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a workshop session on Thursday, September 17, 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 Perry Cook
Councilman Jef Freeman
Councilman Brian Plant
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: None

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 on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. The Council reviewed the agenda and determined the order for consideration at the Council meeting.

Under workshop items, the golf cart ordinance was brought up for discussion. Chief Rush stated this was not what he wanted and he was looking at something else. Mayor Choat stated he was not ready on the amendment to the alcohol ordinance. Mayor Choat stated he did not think we had received Council input on the Joint Use agreement between the City and the Schools.

Councilman Cook asked what had been done about the bike ramp on the trail in the Sports Complex. David Vinson stated the Park Board looked at it and feels the signage is adequate. There is a trail around the ramp, and with this alternate route and the signs, they did not see why this would be an issue.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in regular session on Tuesday, September 22, 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 Freeman to lead in prayer. Councilman Taylor 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 Rick Stotser

Council President Steele introduced the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting for approval. Councilman Taylor pointed out that Councilman Cook was shown as present at the

workshop and absent at the meeting held on the same night. The minutes were changed to reflect Councilman Cook was absent from both the workshop and the meeting. Councilman Cook moved they be approved as amended, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and the vote was unanimous.

The agenda, consent agenda, and agenda addendum were presented for approval. The consent agenda read as follows:

Accounts Payable	
Non-Departmental	550.00
Administration	3,157.70
Information Technology	24,766.40
Police Department	13,735.47
Fire Department	13,396.27
Public Works	32,563.89
Parks and Recreation	53,593.31
Library	25,123.16
Rental Property	36.99
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	167,075.12
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	1,129.28
CORRECTIONS FUND	7,592.38
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	175,796.78

New Council Orientation & Leadership Conference - Anderson, Bright, & Short - Montgomery - Oct 27-29 - \$310.00 each plus expenses
AAMCA Fall Training - Porter - Tuscaloosa - Oct 21-23 - \$265.00 pus expenses
Intermediate SWAT Level II - Robinson - Jacksonville, AL- Nov 9-12 - \$255 plus lodging
Reappoint Library Board members through October 25, 2024
Clyde Bolton
Lynn Pass
Reappoint Senior Citizens Advisory Committee through April 15, 2024
LaRue Meadows
Hedy Williams
Approve contract with McKinney Communications for Dish services for screen in entertainment district.
Approve contract Spectrum for wireless
Approve converting lighting at Greenway ballfields to LED decorative poles-514.29 mo
Hire Police Department effective Sept 26, 2020
Steven Sparks - Grade 17, Step 1
Dalton Balckwood - Grade 17, Step 1
Michael Pressley - Approve 5% premium for detective assignment, effective Sept 12
Entertainment District - Change order #2 - Misc. stage & pavilion changes \$33,646.94
Entertainment District - Change Order #3 - Braden’s corner development \$1,247,176.52
Liability and Property insurance for FY 2020-2021 - Best Insurance - \$313,795.00
Volunteer Fire Dept. Accident Policy - \$1,576.00

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

Mr. George Glenn, Dogwood Lane, was recognized and asked why the City is allowing the vagrant under the Interstate bridge to remain there. He stated he now has a line of grocery carts along the highway right-of-way and it looks awful. Also, there is no bathroom, so this is a problem.

Mayor Choat stated that intersection is not in the City. It is in an area where Trussville, Irondale and Birmingham boundaries all come together, but we are trying to find a way to handle this.

Mr. Glenn questioned why city workers are cutting the grass if it is not in the city, and Mayor Choat replied we are helping out ALDOT.

Councilman Plant asked is there a special circumstance? Is the person mentally incapacitated?

Mr. Glenn stated it was not his duty as a citizen to determine why he is there. He asked can the Jefferson County Health Department help?

Mr. Glenn asked does the city have an engineer or inspector or planning and zoning to enforce parking anymore? He asked how someone can have a building and advertise space for rent with zero parking spaces for the building?

Councilman Plant stated we cannot control advertising.

Mr. Glenn stated the City's zoning ordinance section on off-street loading and parking says parking must be provided. This building is 86' X 34' and two stories, so this is 5,848 square feet. This would require twenty-four parking spaces according to the ordinance. There are 1,116 square feet of lot not covered with building, which would allow at most seven parking spaces, and that does not include ingress and egress to the spaces.

Mayor Choat stated none of those buildings meet the parking requirements. He stated they are grandfathered. They will be allowed to use shared public parking downtown. The city is building a parking lot with 60 spaces in the area.

Mr. Glenn inquired about the building across the street that has no parking and now has the adjacent vacant area that could be used for parking up for sale.

Mayor Choat stated the City has an approved shared parking agreement with that owner.

Mr. Glenn asked was the agreement in writing, and Mayor Choat replied yes.

Mr. Richard Epstein, Boulder Drive, stated Bed, Bath, and Beyond will be gone soon. They do a lot of business, but several stores are being closed down. The parking lots at Target, Home Depot, Walmart, and Sams need to be restriped. Valley Loop Road traffic backs up. He suggested closing Norrell Drive, and forcing that traffic to go to the traffic signal. This would solve a lot of the problems. He stated it has taken him up to sixteen minutes to get out onto Chalkville Road. He stated lights are needed in the City Hall parking lot, and the clocks in the building need to be replaced as they haven't worked in years.

Councilman Cook moved Proclamation 2020-014 for Down Syndrome month be approved, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and the vote was unanimous.

The fiscal year 2020-2021 budget was presented for approval. Mayor Choat gave credit to Finance Director Mike Hinson for putting this budget together. Our budget has increased by 4%, and provides for new equipment and employees. The city will absorb the employee health insurance increase, merit increases and longevity. There is no COLA. This budget includes the costs of converting our employees under Tier II retirement to Tier I. He thanked the Council, Mike Hinson, and the department heads for their work.

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-065 adopting this budget recommended by the Finance Committee, be approved, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

Councilman Cook stated it is easier for our employees to do their job with better equipment, but our employees make it work regardless.

Councilman Freeman thanked Mike Hinson and the Mayor for their openness and willingness to go over everything with him - all 204 pages.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

Ordinance 2020-033-ADM was presented to surplus Lot 43-AB of the Anderson Farms Resurvey 1. This tract lies between 112 Anderson Circle and the Cahaba River. The property will be conveyed to James Thomas for \$10,000.

Councilman Freeman moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Plant and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

Councilman Freeman then moved Ordinance 2020-033-ADM be adopted as presented, seconded by Councilman Plant, and upon a roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

An ordinance to annex 8116, 8118, and 8166 North Lake Drive was presented. Councilman Freeman stated this annexation was not recommended by Planning and Zoning as the properties do not abut a dedicated public right-of-way, and the property at 8166 North Lake Drive does not lie within 750 feet of a fire hydrant, and fire fighting apparatus cannot traverse the 3,000 foot driveway. Councilman Freeman moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Plant and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

Councilman Freeman then moved an ordinance to approve this annexation be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and upon a roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yeas: None

Nays: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

An ordinance to annex 3155 Center Street was presented. Councilman Freeman stated this annexation was not recommended by Planning and Zoning due to numerous zoning and code violations. Councilman Freeman moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Plant and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

Councilman Freeman then moved an ordinance to approve this annexation be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and upon a roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yeas: None

Nays: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

An update to the Stormwater Management Ordinance was presented. Councilman Taylor moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules of procedure to allow for the immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Freeman and upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

Councilman Taylor then moved Ordinance 2020-034-ADM be adopted as presented, seconded by Councilman Freeman, and upon a roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Steele, Cook, Freeman, Plant and Taylor

Nays: None

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-066 authorizing the acquisition of right-of-way and temporary construction easements on four tracts for the downtown loop road project from Look Developers and Malchus and Sons be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Taylor moved Resolution 2020-067 to approve a license agreement with Ferus Artisan Ales for the use of the City's pavilion in the entertainment district at 119 Beech Street, seconded by Councilman Cook. This will allow Ferus to use this area to serve patrons using Covid-19 separation until that time that the area qualifies to become a true entertainment district. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Cook reported that TRA discussed art awareness and commissioning murals on buildings downtown. The Park and Recreation Board received updates and enrollment numbers on fall sports. Our gymnastics program placed first and second in two recent tournaments. There will be a Pass, Punt and Kick tournament here this weekend. Totally Christmas will be held on November 20 and 21.

Councilman Freeman asked J. R. Malchus to update the Council on activity in the department. Mr. Malchus stated since the last meeting they have issued 203 permits and have done 278 inspections.

Councilman Freeman stated twenty-six permits for new construction were issued last month. He stated Design Review met and approved sign changes and a couple of Cahaba Project renovations. Hamilton Place Shell was approved.

For the Board of Education Councilman Freeman reported school is in full swing, and there have been no major COVID outbreaks. Our number two ranked football team played Thompson who is ranked number one on national television this past Friday. It was not a good outcome, but ESPN was impressed with the facility. CityFest will be this weekend.

Councilman Plant stated the Chamber will hold CityFest on Saturday with a new format and showcasing downtown. We are proud of our schools and our athletics.

Councilman Taylor thanked the Council for approving the budget. Public safety has many increases due to the entertainment district.

Council President Steele stated Public Works is getting ready for CityFest. ACTA will perform "Wait Until Dark" September 24-27 and October 1-4. He asked Mayor Choat if anyone has seen what the COVID numbers are in our schools, and Mayor Choat replied that he had not. He stated he felt it was important that parents have this information.

Mayor Choat stated CityFest on Saturday will combine our farmer's market, vendors, food trucks, a kid zone, our bicentennial, a cemetery tour, information center, and handouts. After 3:00 things will move to the entertainment district. The Auburn football game will be shown on the screen at the stage at 11:00. Three On A Strong will perform at 4:00. The Alabama Game will be shown at 6:00. He thanked the volunteers and June Mathews and her staff. There is an increase for the Chamber in the budget.

Mayor Choat stated he will meet with Mr. Cooper at ALDOT tomorrow. He stated he has received official notice that Library Director Emily Tish will retire effective January 1, 2021. She has served our library for twelve years.

Stacy Frazier stated, next week we will start the cloud conversion for the city software.

Mr. George Glenn asked how many more properties are needed for the loop road right-of-way, and was told Best Insurance and one more.

Mr. James Thomas thanked the Council for approving the sale of the property at the back of his lot on Anderson Circle.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter
City Clerk