

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

AUGUST 23, 2022 AGENDA WORKSHOP

Members of the City Council met in a **workshop session** on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022** at 5 pm at City Hall to review the proposed agenda for its next regular session. Council President Perry H. Cook presided over the meeting and Dan Weinrib acted as recording secretary. Those members present were as follows:

Council President Perry H. Cook
Councilor Jaime Anderson
Councilor Alan Taylor
Councilor Lisa Bright
Councilor Ben Short

Others present in official capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat

The City Council then determined the order of consideration for its upcoming agenda. Afterwards, Ford Fitts and Carter Irmischer of Streamline Development Partners floated the idea of rebating future sales taxes for the new Starbucks store they plan to build on Chalkville Mountain Road. They have a pending agreement with Starbucks, contingent upon their acquiring the property. Mayor Choat said the City typically does sales tax agreements for up to seven years, with a required minimum of \$3M in gross annual sales. They plan to return to the City Council with a drafted proposal sometime after they have bought the property. Mayor Choat disclosed that Public Works Supervisor Frank Jones has given his retirement notice after 32 years of service to the City, which the entire room groaned with dread. He will use up excess paid leave time before his October 1 retirement date. After minimal briefings from department heads & Mayor Choat, the meeting ended around 5:40 pm.

AUGUST 23, 2022 REGULAR SESSION

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in **regular session** on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022** at 6 pm at Trussville City Hall, with Council President Perry H. Cook presiding over the meeting and City Clerk Dan Weinrib serving as recording secretary.

President Cook called the meeting to order. Councilor Anderson led the prayer. Councilor Short led the pledge to the flag.

The following answered present to roll call:

Council President Perry H. Cook
Councilor Jaime Anderson
Councilor Alan Taylor
Councilor Lisa Bright
Councilor Ben Short

Others present in their official capacity:

City Clerk Dan Weinrib
Attorney Rick Stotser
Mayor Buddy Choat

They reviewed minutes from the August 4th agenda workshop and August 9th regular session. Councilor Bright moved and Councilor Anderson seconded the motion for approval. **UNANIMOUS**

President Cook then introduced the consent agenda. The only matter was appointing Ryan Benson to the Redevelopment Authority, succeeding David Morgan, with term ending November 23, 2026. Councilor Short moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion for its approval. **UNANIMOUS**

President Cook introduced the agenda. Councilor Taylor and Councilor Anderson seconded the motion to accept the proposed agenda as submitted. **UNANIMOUS**

Under public comments, Karen McIntyre (7961 North Lake Drive) mentioned the Norfolk Southern train block on the first day of school. She asked whether the school board could plant a bug in the train company's ear for resolving the ongoing issue, and she asked Councilor Bright whether her lobbying trip to Washington DC on this very topic was successful. Councilor Bright told her it was and that she'd tell her about it later.

With no further public comments, President Cook proceeded to the regular agenda.

Councilor Bright then moved for unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of introduced a proposed ordinance. Councilor Short seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS** Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed ordinance that would raise the bond requirement for construction-related Best Management Practices and renumbering a subsection within Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 38 – Environment. She moved and Councilor Short seconded the motion for approval. **UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2022-017-ADM**

President Cook then opened the public hearing on a public nuisance at 4720 Norrell Drive, the site of a former Lonestar restaurant, located behind Cracker Barrel. Owner Hermant Patel showed up. Director of Sustainability J.R. Malchus briefed the Council on the status of the abandoned commercial property. Mr. Patel

said he already cut the overgrown grass, which was met with skepticism by the entire City Council. He also said he would put up his own barriers to prevent vagrants and clean up the lot, which again was met with skepticism by the entire City Council. He wanted to keep the abandoned Lonestar sign, which is disallowed by the City ordinance. Councilor Taylor explained. When Patel showed he did not understand, Councilor Taylor then re-directed him to Malchus, who re-explained. Whether Patel really understood or wanted to comply completely remains unanswered. Since nobody else spoke up, President Cook promptly closed the public hearing.

Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed resolution to abate the aforementioned public nuisance at 4720 Norrell Drive. Any expenses the City incurs to clean up the property will become a recorded lien against the property. He moved and Councilor Short seconded the motion for approval. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2022-41**

During council reports, Councilor Anderson summarized upcoming Library events, including the 5K run. Also, ACTA is having auditions for the *Fairy Tale Christmas Carole*. Tickets for *Murder Is A Game* are now available. Its shows run in September and October. Also, the city cemeteries landscaping look much better. She publicly thanked Stacy Frazier for all her hard work. Anderson then yielded to Mayor Choat on the latest Fallen Warriors Project report. Milam has already begun moving dirt at the construction site. Mayor anticipates the project's completion sometime after Veterans Day.

Councilor Bright reported that Public Works is finishing its grass cutting. Also, the IDA will meet on August 25th. Also, the Trussville Schools Foundation had a successful Paws for the Cause fundraiser, generating \$48,000. High school football season started last Friday. The Huskies lost its road game to Phenix City. Gadsden City is its opponent for the home opener. For the first time ever, total student enrollment has crossed the 5000 threshold. The next school board meeting is August 25th. She acknowledged school board president Cathy Brown.

Councilor Short summarized all sign approvals by the Design Review Committee at its August 23rd meeting.

Councilor Taylor reported that at its most recent Utilities committee meeting, he and fellow members found that its finances remain healthy and strong. Also, new businesses, including Hero Donuts and Longhorn Steakhouse, have had ribbon cuttings. The Chamber's Bylaws committee is reviewing how it governs itself and will make recommendations soon to its entire membership for review and possible approval. Also, Leadership Trussville has its kickoff retreat on September 8-9.

President Cook reported that kids enrollment in various Park & Recreation sports remain strong. Longtime P&R employee Suzy Hammonds just retired. The Seniors Center stays busy with planned activities and field trips. Also, the Inspections Department remains busy with its field work. Also, on the eve of its first anniversary, the Tree Commission already plans to plant 14 new trees in public spaces. The Charnwood neighborhood needs replacement trees.

Mayor Choat reported that he and Finance Director Mike Hinson are reviewing financial numbers for the next budget, with the expectation that the Finance Committee and the entire council will then do the same in September. The City continues to enjoy healthy growth in its sales tax revenues. Also, he mentioned that Jefferson County is on the verge of authorizing the phased construction of apartments on Service Road. Trussville has no sway on the property's zoning & usage, but since it does control the road, Mayor Choat will use the City's influence to minimize the traffic impact from this potential development. Any children living there would be assigned to Clay-Chalkville (county) schools. Also, he announced that with the City Hall administration's move this month to 113 North Chalkville Road, future City Council meetings will now occur at the new temporary City Hall. The next scheduled Council sessions are September 8 & 13, 2022.

During audience comments, Richard Epstein (4742 Boulder Drive) reiterated his requests for street lights along Valley Road, as well as a new city pool and backup generator for the Civic Center. With no other business, the Council adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



City Clerk Dan Weinrib