

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

MAY 9, 2024 AGENDA WORKSHOP

Members of the City Council met in an **agenda workshop session** on **Thursday, May 9, 2024**, at 5 pm at the City Hall Annex to review the proposed agenda for its next regular session. Council President Jaime Anderson presided over the meeting and Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows: Council President Jaime Anderson
Councilor Lisa Bright
Councilor Perry Cook
Councilor Ben Short
Councilor Alan Taylor

Others present in their official capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat
City Clerk Dan Weinrib

The City Council then determined the order of consideration, agreeing to keep all proposed consent and regular agenda items. Mayor Choat introduced Amerex HR People Director & city resident Jacy Whitaker to those in attendance. She is the designated mayoral appointment to the City Employee Civil Service Board. Mayor also reported that he would soon meet with DeJarvis Leonard (ALDOT) to get an update on the I-59 lane widening project, slated for later this year. With nothing left to review, the agenda workshop adjourned by 5:25 pm.

MAY 14, 2024 REGULAR SESSION

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in **regular session** on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**, at 6 pm at the City Hall Annex, with Council President Pro Tem Ben Short presiding over the meeting and Dan Weinrib serving as recording secretary.

President Short called the meeting to order. Councilor Bright led the prayer and President Short led the pledge.

Those members present were as follows: President Pro Tem Ben Short
Councilor Lisa Bright
Councilor Alan Taylor

Others present in their official capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat
City Attorney Rick Stotser
City Clerk Dan Weinrib

Those absent: Councilor Jaime Anderson
Councilor Perry Cook

They reviewed the minutes from the April 23 agenda workshop and regular session. Councilor Taylor moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approval. **UNANIMOUS**

President Short introduced the consent agenda, as well as the regular agenda. Councilor Bright moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion for approving the one-item consent agenda. **UNANIMOUS** Councilor Taylor moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approving the regular agenda. **UNANIMOUS**

During public comments, Beckie Nash (414 Linden Street) spoke up about a pending alcohol license application. *Her remarks will be included later in these minutes.*

Under the regular agenda, Councilor Taylor asked for unanimous consent to suspend the rules and bring an ordinance up for immediate consideration. Councilor Bright seconded the motion. **Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS** Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed ordinance to authorize the issuance of a \$3.2 million line of credit through Regions Bank. He moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion. **Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2024-007-ADM**

Rice Advisory managing director Chris Williams and Bradley Arant bond counsel Rod Kanter explained the benefits (lower and fixed interest rate; payments covering both interest and principal, instead of interest only) of transferring the outstanding balance to Regions from Synovus.

Councilor Bright asked for unanimous consent to suspend the rules and bring an ordinance up for immediate consideration. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS** Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed ordinance to prohibit cut-through driving, where drivers steer their cars through either public or private property to avoid stop-sign or traffic light intersections. She moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion for approval. **Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2024-008-PS**

Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed resolution awarding the bid to install new traffic lights at the Bethune Parkway & US Highway 11 to Stone Electric Co. Inc. He moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-18**

Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed resolution awarding the bid to Milam & Co. LLC, for installing raised curbing and other improvements on certain sections of the US Highway 11 median, thus enhancing overall public safety. She moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-19** Mayor Choat further explained the project covers the highway section between Complete Cleaners and Taco Mama.

President Short then brought up a proposed vacation of an undeveloped street and related right of way off Dollar Road. At his prompting, the city clerk gave a briefing and consequently thanked attorney David Glenn for his assistance on this matter. Short then convened a public hearing, then promptly closed it since nobody in the public spoke up. Neither affected property owner was present.

Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed resolution vacating the recorded yet undeveloped street & right of way between 7632 & 7668 Dollar Road. He moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-20**

President Short then convened a public hearing regarding beer and wine licensing for Capella Pizzeria, located in Homestead Village. Owner Abdulkadir Ozbey introduced himself. He answered the councilors' questions about alcohol signage, employee training and prior experience to their satisfaction. His Hoover/US Highway 280 location already offers wine and beer. He had never been cited for violations. Most of his patrons are families with young children.

Brian Payant (409 Debbie Drive) spoke up in opposition. *Background - in past years, he had complained numerous times to police and city hall about noise from the Entertainment District stage disrupting his peace and quiet.* By his own admission, he was unaware of the Pizzeria's alcohol application. He mistakenly claimed he lives within 100 yards of both establishments. (Per online City Zoning Map, his property is roughly 700 feet from Maple Avenue Coffee House, 1300-1400 feet from the Entertainment District boundary and over 5000 feet from Capella Pizzeria) While keeping his language clean, he angrily opposed issuing any alcohol license to the two businesses and within downtown Trussville in general. He made clear his resentment towards city leaders for building the Entertainment District ("the drunk district") & its music stage. "You made me so angry, I can't even stand it!" he concluded. To his credit, he did apologize for his factual mistake regarding Capella. Since nobody else spoke up, President Short closed the public hearing.

Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed resolution issuing beer and wine licenses to Capella Pizzeria. She moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-21**

President Short then convened a public hearing regarding beer and wine licensing for Maple Avenue Coffee House. Owner Tracy Delaney introduced herself. Her coffee shop has already been open for six months and appears to be thriving. She intends to expand her operating hours only to either 6 pm or 7 pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. She envisions serving alcohol only in the early evening hours and during private events. She will use ABC's Responsible Vendor program for employee training. She had no teenage employees. Her answers to questions satisfied the council.

In sum, Beckie Nash (414 Linden Street) made known her opposition to this alcohol application. She questioned the appropriateness for a license, not knowing that the City already rezoned 110 Maple Avenue to C-2 General Commercial from R-2 Single Family Residential. She expressed concern for the safety of children living nearby. She concluded by wondering aloud why any business that was already doing well would want an alcohol license. Since nobody else spoke up, President Short closed the public hearing.

Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed resolution issuing beer and wine licenses to Maple Avenue Coffee House. She moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-22**

Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed resolution approving the replacement fire alarm system for municipal court, jail, police station and Fire Station No. 1, under the public safety exception of

the Competitive Bid Law. He moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-23**

Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed resolution approving an unpaid leave of absence to allow a new city employee to go on vacation that had already been planned prior to hiring. She moved and Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2024-24**

During committee reports, Councilor Bright acknowledged school board member Dr. Steven Ward. She summarized the Huskies' latest athletics successes. Earlier that afternoon, the Lady Huskies softball team clinched its fourth state championship in six years with a dramatic 1-0 win in the bottom of the 9th inning. The new softball complex groundbreaking occurs on May 17; graduation, on May 21. The school board moved its May meeting time to 4:30 pm. She summarized Public Works' current activities, such as filling potholes and removing fallen trees.

Councilor Taylor announced Leadership Trussville executive director Kristi Bradford will be next Chamber luncheon speaker. Also, Leadership Trussville's second class graduated on May 9.

Councilor Short summarized the annexation and three rezoning applications, which got favorable recommendations from Planning & Zoning gave favorable recommendations. He briefly mentioned one rezoning that the Commission gave a negative recommendation on.

Mayor Choat updated the public on ALDOT's I-59 lane expansion project. Regional Director DeJarvis Leonard described to Choat the current plans. ALDOT will accept bids sometime mid-summer. Construction will begin on southbound I-59 around Labor Day and continue for eight months; then, northbound construction will consume the subsequent eight months. Argo & Deerfoot Parkway accesses will always remain open; Chalkville Road/Chalkville Mountain Road will temporarily close. Also, Mayor Choat spoke at length about high school choir director Allen Gillespie, generously praising him for his 50 years of dedicated service to education. He is retiring at the end of this month. Former students, alumni and the school community filled up the auditorium to honor him.

During audience comments, Richard Epstein petitioned the City to repair parts of Trussville-Clay Road (County's – not city's – responsibility) and re-stripe sections of Chalkville Road around I-59.

With nothing left on the agenda, President Short promptly adjourned the meeting around 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Weinrib CMC
City Clerk