

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

MAY 8, 2025 AGENDA WORKSHOP

The City Council met in an **agenda workshop** on **Thursday, May 8, 2025**, at 5 pm to review the proposed agenda for its next regular session. Council President Ben Short presided over the meeting and Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

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

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

The City Council determined the order of consideration. Property owner Charles Kessler and Tessa commercial realtor Libby Lassiter gave a presentation on their rezoning proposals for Kessler family properties, next door to the Publix-anchored shopping center on Gadsden Highway, which are currently zoned Q-C-2. They are seeking Q-R-4 for the backside of the properties and Q-C-2 with different qualifiers for the parts adjacent to US Highway 11. The Council listened and asked a few questions. With nothing left to review, President Short adjourned the workshop around 5:34 pm.

MAY 15, 2025 REGULAR SESSION

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in **regular session** on **Thursday, April 15, 2025**, at 6 pm at the City Hall Annex, with Council President Ben Short presiding and Dan Weinrib serving as recording secretary.

President Short called the meeting to order. Councilor Taylor led the prayer; Councilor Anderson led the pledge.

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

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

They reviewed the minutes from the April 22 agenda workshop & regular session. Councilor Bright moved & Councilor Taylor seconded the motion to approve the minutes. **UNANIMOUS**

President Short then introduced the consent agenda & regular agenda. Councilor Taylor moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion to approve the one-item consent agenda. **UNANIMOUS** Councilor Bright moved & Councilor Anderson seconded the motion to approve the regular agenda. **UNANIMOUS**

During public comments, Raymond Foushee (4281 Lexie Circle) asked the mayor and council various budget questions. Mayor Choat answered. Former councilor George Glenn Jr. (134 Dogwood Lane) spoke out against the sales tax incentives the city has negotiated with various businesses over the years. James Mathews (107 Oak Street) expressed appreciation of the city and its leaders, then asked questions about the City's intention to surplus Glendale Farms. He indicated his own interest in buying the farm property for his family's own use. Mayor Choat answered his questions, indicating that the City has already received an offer but has not accepted it yet.

Under the regular agenda, Councilor Bright introduced a proposed proclamation honoring four local high school students recognized as National Merit Scholars. Lilyana Johnson & Noah Touchton were named as Commended Students; Lillianne Campbell & Conrad Jones, as Finalists. **She moved & Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. UNANIMOUS Proclamation No. 2025-12** After a brief recess for group pictures, President Short resumed the meeting.

Councilor Bright then introduced a proposed proclamation honoring the HTMS & HTHS mountain bike teams. Both teams went undefeated. The middle school claimed its third straight state championship, in its third season of existence. The high school team took its sixth state championship overall. **She moved**

& Councilor Taylor seconded the motion for approval. UNANIMOUS Proclamation No. 2025-13
After a brief recess for group pictures, President Short resumed the meeting.

Councilor Taylor then moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to bring a proposed ordinance up for immediate consideration. Councilor Bright seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed ordinance to declare the 230 acres on Glendale Farms Road as surplus. **He moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion.** Councilor Cook asked whether the sale included property annexed by the City (Ordinance No. 2024-015-ANX) last summer. *Answer – no* **Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2025-007-ADM**

Councilor Cook then moved for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to bring a proposed ordinance up for immediate consideration. Councilor Bright seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Councilor Cook then introduced a proposed ordinance to annex the property located at 3101 Mary Taylor Road into the city. Councilor Short explained that there are numerous stipulated requirements for the owners of the subject property to perform, before the City would record the annexation at Probate. **Councilor Cook moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approval. Upon roll call vote, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2025-008-ANX**

Councilor Anderson then introduced a proposed resolution to approve a geosciences agreement with Bhate in connection with the Loop Road Project. **She moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approval. UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2025-19**

Councilor Taylor then introduced a proposed resolution to approve a lease agreement with the city board of education. The school system is relocating its bus servicing depot to Public Works' former facility, behind the library. **He moved & Councilor Bright second the motion for approval. UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2025-20**

President Short then convened a public hearing on a proposed vacation of a certain public street & related rights-of-way. Since nobody spoke up, President Short adjourned the hearing.

Councilor Cook then introduced a proposed resolution to vacate Willow Street, formerly known as Underwood Street, and related rights-of-way. Located close to the Loop Road Project, the street is sandwiched by properties which Trussville First Baptist Church own. **He moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approval. UNANIMOUS, except for Councilor Taylor, who abstained since the church is his employer. Resolution No. 2025-21**

Councilor Cook then introduced a proposed resolution to approve a sidewalk construction contract with Absolute Concrete. The new sidewalk will connect the Cahaba Project to the Fallen Warriors Memorial area; the estimated costs are well below the \$100,000 threshold, which would require formal bidding under the State Public Works Bid Law. **He moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion for approval. UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2025-22**

During committee reports, Councilor Anderson promoted the annual Memorial Day ceremony, taking place at 11 am. She acknowledged Veterans Committee member Jim Miller, who briefly spoke about the event. Also, the Library is having its annual summer reading contest kickoff event at 5:30 pm on May 30. Also, the city museum will be open on June 7. She acknowledged and thanked Ray Foushee for his service on the Historical Committee. John Arnold was appointed as his successor.

Councilor Bright reported the school board will meet on May 19. The next day, high school seniors will graduate. School ends on May 22. She acknowledged school board member Sherrye Tolbert. Also, Public Works has been busy with post-storm clean-up of fallen limbs, downed trees and clogged drains. Assistant Director Justin Ferguson thanked the City Council for keeping his department well equipped and staffed.

Councilor Cook reported that, thanks to the Dog Park Auxiliary, the city dog park will get some needed improvements. Meanwhile, the city baseball program remains busy. He acknowledged Park & Recreation board member Tandi Glenn Smith.

Councilor Taylor shared the Utilities General Manager Mike Strength's reminder to the public that before anchoring signs into the ground, they should verify the location of utilities lines. Also, the Public Safety committee is reviewing traffic studies. Also, the Chamber had an interesting science-oriented program by the McWane Center. Amerex, which is a McWane subsidiary, sponsored the luncheon. Also, Leadership Trussville will take applications throughout the month of June for its fourth class.

Councilor Short reported that the Active Transportation Committee is putting the final additions to their proposed citywide sidewalks plan for the Greater Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, with the hope of obtaining a matching grant. Also, Design Review will meet on May 19. He also summarized Planning & Rezoning Commission's recent recommendations.

Mayor Choat acknowledged this day as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. He thanked our chiefs and their officers for their continued service. He introduced incoming Finance Director Joseph Calvert, whose first day will be June 1. He updated the public on the Loop Road Project. He also defended the City's tax incentives, stating that we replaced vacant storefronts with new businesses, brought Courtesy GMC into our city limits, and consequently attracted other new businesses, like Hero Donuts & Rodney Scott's BBQ, thus expanding the tax base. He mentioned Moody's recent \$100 million deal with Stan Pate on a shopping center development. He also addressed the city's finances, expressing confidence that despite the current budget numbers, Trussville will finish FY2025 with a balanced budget. Councilors Cook, Short, Bright & Taylor too defended the city's tax incentives. Councilor Taylor acknowledged Calvert & thanked accountant/consultant Brian Barksdale for his assistance to the City.

During audience comments, James Mathews (107 Oak Street) asked questions about the City's plans for Glendale Farms, particularly about the intent to sell. Mayor Choat answered. Councilors Bright, Short, Taylor & Anderson also commented. He reiterated his family's interest in purchasing it. Bonnie Hicks (5284 Lakeside Terrace) expressed support for rezoning Glendale Farms to agriculture. She questioned how Trussville will market the property and obtain the highest possible price. Councilor Short answered. Raymond Foushee (4281 Lexie Circle) rhetorically asked "where all this traffic comes from?" in complaining about congestion along US Highway 11. Councilors Bright & Anderson answered. Prospective city council candidate Jim Miller (517 Ryding Circle) asked follow-up questions about the possible sale and rezoning of Glendale Farms. Mayor Choat answered. University of Alabama undergraduate John Patrick Campbell asked about the availability of Trussville's latest audits. The mayor committed to updating the city's website with FY2022 & FY2023 reports. Tree Commission member Ralph Mitchell (510 Rockridge Avenue) thanked the council for its support of the Cherokee Drive sidewalk project, then suggested relocating an historical light post back into the Cahaba Project area, replacing a damaged one near a traffic light intersection. Kristi Jones (102 Pine Street) complained about parked cars blocking the dedicated bike lanes throughout the Sports Complex. Councilor Taylor praised Parks & Recreation for the improved ballfields.

With nothing else to review, President Short adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



City Clerk Dan Weinrib CMC