

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

MAY 27, 2025 AGENDA WORKSHOP

The City Council met in a **special agenda workshop** on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**, at 6 pm to review the proposed agenda for its special 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
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Others present in their official capacity:	Mayor Buddy Choat City Attorney Rick Stotser City Clerk Dan Weinrib
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The City Council determined the order of consideration. With nothing left to review, President Short adjourned the workshop around 6:01 pm.

MAY 27, 2025 SPECIAL SESSION

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in **special session** on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**, at 6:01 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.

Those members present were as follows:	Council President Ben Short Councilor Jaime Anderson Councilor Lisa Bright Councilor Perry Cook Councilor Alan Taylor
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Others present in their official capacity:	Mayor Buddy Choat City Attorney Rick Stotser City Clerk Dan Weinrib
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President Short then introduced the consent agenda & regular agenda. Councilor Bright moved & Councilor Taylor seconded the motion to approve the three-item consent agenda. **UNANIMOUS** Councilor Taylor moved & Councilor Bright seconded the motion to approve the regular agenda. **APPROVED 4-1 (Councilor Cook dissented)**

Before public comments, President Short recognized Mayor Choat, who gave the public a lengthy briefing on city garbage services. Councilor Cook added his own remarks.

President Short then opened the public hearing.

Brian Jackson (8210 Carrington Drive), who asked for access to the original garbage services contract with AmWaste. He expressed concerns about the 10-year contract term, the costs of future fuel surcharges and inflation adjustments, as well as vendor accountability for missed pick-ups.

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. If it were his decision, he would cancel all current incentive deals, to balance the budget. He would also invite the state examiners to audit the city's books. Mayor Choat responded, defending those decisions.

Raymond Foushee (4281 Lexie Circle) asked the mayor and council various budget questions, including debt service. Outside accountant Brian Barksdale answered.

Ralph Mitchell (510 Rockridge Avenue) made a statement about how the City would use proceeds from the prospective sale of Glendale Farms. Mayor Choat confirmed that the City would first have to pay off the related warrants; any overage would then go to the General Fund.

Samuel Winbush (416 Pineview Road) asked why the City bought Glendale Farms. Mayor Choat answered, giving the full background behind that purchase.

Prospective city council candidate Jim Miller (517 Ryding Circle) asked questions about the current budget shortfall, current debt service, garbage service contract & related vendor performance, and prospective exemptions & cost breaks for seniors and other residents on fixed incomes. Mayor Choat answered.

Mandy Eads (3114 Cahaba Park Drive) asked questions about the garbage services under this contract. Mayor Choat answered.

Deborah Wallace (8012 North Lake Drive) commented on the City's other big-ticket capital expenditures, such as the Sheepdog building and the new Gymnastics & Cheer Center. She commented that the City should buckle up its spending, instead of imposing garbage fees.

Recognized for the second time, Miller then commented on garbage fees, asked for public records on the highest city revenue producers, and asked about the maximum number of residential units in the Longmeadow and Tapestry Village neighborhoods. President Short answered.

Carolyn Knight (6040 Mountain View Trace) asked the council to clear up a myth concerning increases in city salaries. President Short answered.

Recognized for the second time, Winbush asked the council whether there was a cap on garbage fees. Mayor Choat answered.

Recognized for the second time, Mitchell brought up the idea of imposing a half-cent sales tax. Councilor Taylor answered, reminding Mitchell and the audience about a consequence from the last sales tax increase.

Since nobody else spoke up, President Short closed the public hearing.

Under the regular agenda, **Councilor Taylor moved and Councilor Bright seconded the motion to approve the proposed resolution, approving and authorizing the execution of the second amendment to the current garbage services agreement.** Councilor Taylor offered his comments. Councilor Bright then offered her comments. Councilor Anderson used her time to ask the mayor and her colleagues for a review once again of the matters contained in the proposed second amendment, so that the public could understand exactly what the council was considering; the mayor and her colleagues did exactly that. She then offered her own comments. When asked by Councilor Taylor, Mayor Choat listed the other cities that also belong to the Cahaba Solid Waste Disposal Authority. Councilor Cook then offered his comments. Councilor Short then offered his comments, stating costs breaks and other consumer savings he wants to see at the next council workshop. Councilor Cook asked for clarification of the purpose of the proposed resolution. **APPROVED 4-1 (Councilor Cook dissented) Resolution No. 2025-23**

With nothing else to review, President Short adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



City Clerk Dan Weinrib CMC