

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AGENDA WORKSHOP

The City Council met in an **agenda workshop** on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, at 5:53 pm to review the proposed agenda for its next regular session. Normally it would start at 5:30 pm. However, the 4:30 pm meeting, where Committee of the Whole reviewed the proposed FY2027 budget with Mayor Short, Finance Director Joseph Calvert & all department heads, ran just over an hour, forcing the delayed start to workshop. Council President Jaime Melton Anderson presided over the meeting and City Clerk Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows:	Council President Jaime Melton Anderson Councilor Kimberly Farr Councilor Ben Horton Councilor Jim Miller
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Others present in their official capacity:	Mayor Ben Short City Attorney Rick Stotser City Clerk Dan Weinrib
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Those absent:	Councilor Brian Jackson
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The City Council reviewed the proposed four-item consent agenda, as well as the regular agenda. They did discuss moving three Blackwater Real Estate resolutions to consent; ultimately, they did not.

For discussion, attorney Johnny Amari briefed the council on the ongoing nuisance issue at 220 Snake Hill Road. During the prior administration, the council passed two resolutions - in December 2020, to abate the nuisance; in September 2021, to initiate demolition proceedings. Subsequently, the property owner negotiated a deal with the city to bring his residence up to code. Since then, he has not abided by its terms, and he has virtually disappeared from the community. Amari asked the council for a resolution to seek in circuit court a declaratory judgment against the absent owner for his breach of agreement. Amari would also file a Lis Pendens in Probate so that all prospective property purchasers would know about the City's pending actions. The council seemed agreeable to his idea.

Also, Councilor Horton briefed his colleagues on the idea of imposing a temporary moratorium on residential demolitions within the Cahaba Project. The city's law firm started drafting a proposal for council's consideration. Discussion ensued. Horton stated that he does not want to infringe on individual's property rights. "It's about getting control of the build back," he said. Horton mentioned the idea of an 180-day moratorium; Mayor Short countered with a 90-day moratorium, with the possibility of extensions. It may come back for consideration on September 22.

Mayor is reviewing the councilors' feedback on the proposed Cahaba Project Overlay District & Design Review Committee ordinances before re-referring them to Planning & Zoning for consideration in October.

President Anderson reminded the council and public that in 2027, the council will go through the formal appointment process for the next school board appointment, regardless of whether incumbent Dr. Steve Ward seeks another term.

Councilor Miller announced he arranged for a replacement halyard and new flags for the City Hall Annex flagpole.

With nothing left to review, President Anderson adjourned the workshop at 6:19 pm.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 REGULAR SESSION

The City Council met in **regular session** on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, at 6:20 pm. Council President Jaime Melton Anderson presided over the meeting and City Clerk Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows:	Council President Jaime Melton Anderson Councilor Kimberly Farr Councilor Ben Horton Councilor Jim Miller
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Others present in their official capacity:	Mayor Ben Short
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Those absent:

City Attorney Rick Stotser
City Clerk Dan Weinrib
Councilor Brian Jackson

Councilor Horton led the prayer. Councilor Farr led the pledge.

President Anderson introduced the minutes from the previous council meeting. Councilor Miller pointed out a date typo in the minutes, which the clerk noted. Councilor Miller then moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion to approve the minutes, with the correction noted. **UNANIMOUS**

President Anderson then introduced the four-item consent agenda. Councilor Farr moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. **UNANIMOUS**

President Anderson then introduced the regular agenda. Councilor Horton moved & Councilor Farr seconded the motion to approve the regular agenda. **UNANIMOUS**

During public comments, Sarah Reagan (206 Ashton Avenue) spoke at length against the City's decision to close its pool. She also mentioned that the city playground was padlocked during a recent visit there. She then answered Councilor Miller's questions about the free pool assessment offer. She also stated she had not yet formed a 501(c)3 for taking it over since she needs more information.

Tree Commission Chairman Ralph Mitchell Jr. (510 Rockridge Avenue) thanked the council for increasing its allocation to the Commission by 50%. He commended Mayor Short, Finance Director Joseph Calvert & the council for the job they did in crafting the budget.

Under the regular agenda, Councilor Miller introduced a proclamation honoring retired US Army Capt. Gary M. Rose. **He moved & Councilors Farr seconded the motion. UNANIMOUS Proclamation No. 2026-23**

Next Councilor Miller introduced a proclamation commemorating September 11th as a day of remembrance. The following Friday marks 25 years since the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil. **After a moment of silence, he moved & Councilors Horton seconded the motion. UNANIMOUS Proclamation No. 2026-24**

Next, Mayor Short introduced the proposed FY2027 budget to the public. He quickly summarized how the City has already publicized it. He committed to posting it on the City's home webpage soon after the meeting, so that the public could review it prior to the Council's consideration at its September 22nd meeting. *Clerk's note – the city home page featured a link to FY2027 by 8:15 am the next day.*

Next, President Anderson convened a public hearing on the proposed rezoning of five properties located on Alabama Boulevard & Anniston Avenue, below the Magnolia South neighborhood. Property owner Alison Jennings briefly introduced herself & stated her intentions. Since nobody in the audience spoke up, President Anderson promptly closed the public hearing.

Next, Councilor Horton then introduced a proposed ordinance to rezone the properties located at 604 & 612 Alabama Boulevard, as well as 611, 617 & 619 Anniston Avenue to R-2 (Single Family) from R-6 (Mobile Home Residential), with a stipulation prohibiting replacement manufactured or mobile homes. Councilor Horton moved to suspend the rules and bring an ordinance up for immediate consideration. Councilor Farr seconded the motion. **Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS. He moved & Councilor Farr seconded the motion for approval. Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2026-027-PZ**

Next, President Anderson convened a public hearing on a proposed vacation of recorded sewer easement rights of way. John Abernathy of Blackwater Development introduced himself. He explained that the Town of Trussville had recorded these sewer easements back in the 1950s when it & Utilities had their own sewer system. They haven't had their own in decades & Central Alabama Water – formerly Birmingham Water Works – has its own elsewhere. In fact, Abernathy stated that their own surveyor cannot even locate the former sewer easements from the old legal descriptions. Councilor Horton made comments, indicating his support. Councilor Miller then expressed his desire to table the resolution until the existence of the old easements are confirmed. Mayor Short disagreed with Miller's idea, stating that tabling it would postpone the property closing. When Councilor Horton asked, Abernathy also disagreed with the idea of tabling. Sarah Reagan (206 Ashton Avenue) spoke up, "I feel like this is being rushed," then asked rhetorically, "Would it hurt us financially?" Councilor Horton commented. Abernathy replied to Reagan, reiterating that these are unused easements that are not plottable. Councilor Miller engaged Abernathy further on the subject easements, as well as his own past experiences with other easements issues. At one point, Abernathy reiterated that his surveyor were unable to plot the old easements; consequently, Blackwater does not know exactly where they are. Miller wanted to delay action until the

next council meeting; President Anderson disagreed with Councilor Miller's idea to delay. Since nobody else spoke up, President Anderson closed the public hearing.

Next, Councilor Horton introduced a proposed resolution to vacate recorded sewer easements. **He made the motion to approve the resolution, contingent upon the Trussville Utilities' satisfaction about the old easements from its own survey. Councilor Farr seconded the motion.** During discussion, Mayor Short answered Councilor Miller's follow-up questions about the incoming easements. Councilor Miller announced his intent to oppose. **APPROVED 3-1 (Miller dissenting) Resolution No. 2026-57**

Next, Councilor Horton introduced a proposed resolution to authorize a new easement agreement with BRE Main Street LLC. **He moved & Councilor Farr seconded the motion for approval. APPROVED 3-1 (Miller dissenting) Resolution No. 2026-58**

Next, Councilor Farr introduced a proposed resolution to authorize an agreement regarding project work with BRE Main Street LLC. **She moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion for approval.** During discussion, Councilor Miller asked what the appraisal value is for the subject parcel. Mayor Short answered there was no appraisal. **APPROVED 3-1 (Miller dissenting) Resolution No. 2026-59**

Next, Councilor Farr introduced a proposed resolution to authorize a license agreement with BRE Main Street LLC. **She moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion for approval.** During discussion, Mayor Short answered Councilor Miller's question about the terms of the easement agreement. **UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2026-60**

During committee reports, Councilor Horton reported that Public Safety is conducting traffic studies in various city neighborhoods, to consider installing new speed bumps.

Councilor Miller promoted ACTA's upcoming productions *Elvis Has Left The Building & The Lightning Thief*. Also, the Veterans Committee met to discuss Patriotic Military Night. Also, he summarized upcoming Historical Board activities, including the City Museum being open to the public on September 26 & Leadership Trussville's museum visit on October 8.

Councilor Farr thanked Public Works for its ongoing work throughout the city. Also, she reported, fall sports are already underway, keeping Parks & Recreation busy. Also, some members of the Seniors Center are touring Canada. Also, the next two Chamber lunches are Public Safety Update on September 17 & the Mayor's Annual State of the City address on October 15. Also, she promoted the monthly series *Sit, Stay & Read* with Hand in Paw, where kids can read to therapy dogs. Also, IDA will have its annual fall luncheon at Amerex on September 24.

Councilor Anderson announced the Cemetery Authority's partnership with Wreaths Across America. Also, the fifth Leadership Trussville class has its opening retreat. Former Mayor Buddy Choat will join them. After acknowledging school board member Sherrye Tolbert, Anderson reported that the high school is adding Air Force Junior ROTC next year; already, over 50 students have expressed interest in it. She also thanked Mayor Short & Finance Director Calvert for their work on the new budget, as well as department heads for their financial stewardship.

Mayor Short thanked school resource officers for their quick response at Paine Elementary, following a gunshot at a neighboring property. Students were never in danger. He acknowledged that the city did shut down its playground for a day, because the safety padding needed 24 hours to cure. He also reported that Public Works took down two rotten trees on Lake Street; the city is also monitoring a pecan tree. Also, the City will soon put street paving & vending & concessions contracts out for bid. When asked by President Anderson, Mayor Short stated that the city is still waiting for the federal government's decision on a \$1 million matching park grants; also, he will cover his intentions for the City Pool during his State of the City address next month. Mayor Short also answered Councilor Miller's budget questions regarding the pool.

During audience comments, Tree Commission Chairman Ralph Mitchell pled with the public to water their trees. He & fellow members are assembling the next list of requests. Sarah Reagan (206 Ashton Avenue) thanked the council for the clarifications.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Weinrib MMC
City Clerk