

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 AGENDA WORKSHOP

The City Council met in an **agenda workshop** on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, at 5:30 pm to review the proposed agenda for its next regular session. Council President Pro Tem Brian Jackson presided over the meeting and City Clerk Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows:	Council President Pro Tem Brian Jackson Councilor Ben Horton Councilor Jim Miller
Others present in their official capacity:	City Attorney Rick Stotser City Clerk Dan Weinrib
Those absent:	Mayor Ben Short Councilor Jaime Melton Anderson Councilor Kimberly Farr

The City Council reviewed the proposed one-item consent agenda and decided to keep it as presented. They then reviewed the regular agenda & mutually decided to keep one proclamation, two ordinances and three resolutions on the regular agenda.

The council spent the bulk of workshop on the proposed FY2027 budget & cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to the public safety, firefighter and city pay scales.

Regarding the budget, Councilor Miller sought to delay consideration until the next meeting, since two councilors were absent and – according to Miller - the Alabama League of Municipalities recommend cities take a month to decide its budget. His colleagues on the dais did not agree with his viewpoint. Miller then questioned how his two colleagues could support the budget without knowing the details behind the City’s overtime. The FY2027 budget proposes \$695,200 in overtime for all city departments; of that amount, \$575,000 is for Police, a \$20,000 reduction from FY2026. That \$695,200 comprises 1.63% of total operating expenses. Discussion ensued. Jackson countered that he & Mayor Short had spent enough time with Finance Director Joseph Calvert developing this budget to his own satisfaction. Jackson then turned to Calvert, who provided further insights. It prompted follow-up comments from Councilor Miller. Councilor Horton added his own insights, directed more for his colleague Miller’s benefit than anybody else’s. Councilor Miller opined that the City spends too much money on overtime and he wanted to know why. Human Resources Director Mandy Dixon volunteered to explain the reasons & circumstances -- investigations, answering calls, training for public safety, etc. -- for Police overtime. She also answered Jackson’s questions about management controls. Despite his stated trust for Dixon, Calvert & others, Miller made it known why he was voting no on the budget resolution. President Jackson cut him off, prompting a testy exchange between the two. Councilor Horton said he was ready to vote on the budget. President Jackson stated again his support for the proposed budget. He commended Mayor Short for his efforts to rebuild reserves and Calvert for his monthly financial briefings. At Councilor Horton’s prompt, Calvert also explained the Ambulance Bad Debt Fund line item. Councilors Jackson & Miller also commented. In the future, Calvert wants it moved to another section of the budget, since it does not affect the Fire Department’s operations. For auditing reasons, it must still be accounted for. Calvert also answered Councilor Miller’s question about sales tax to his satisfaction.

Councilor Horton then posed a finance question to Calvert about COLAs. Calvert gave an educated guess that it amounted to 1% or about \$135,000. Calvert deferred Miller’s follow-up questions about the three pay scales to Dixon, who provided her explanation. Councilor Miller asked Calvert for follow-up, the necessity for a COLA resolution, when it was already budgeted. Calvert started to answer. The city clerk briefly joined in and referred it to Dixon. Once again, Dixon approached the public podium to answer. When Trussville belonged to the Personnel Board of Jefferson County, the PBJC required an enacted resolution before adjusting the City’s pay scales. After forming its own civil service board, Trussville committed to doing things the same way.

There were two ordinances up for introductory first readings. At Councilor Horton’s request, they pulled one of those two from the agenda. With nothing left to review, President Jackson adjourned the workshop at 5:55 pm.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 REGULAR SESSION

The City Council met in **regular session** on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**, at 6 pm. Council President Pro Tem Brian Jackson presided over the meeting and City Clerk Dan Weinrib served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows:	Council President Pro Tem Brian Jackson Councilor Ben Horton Councilor Jim Miller
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Others present in their official capacity:

City Attorney Rick Stotser
City Clerk Dan Weinrib

Those absent:

Mayor Ben Short
Councilor Jaime Melton Anderson
Councilor Kimberly Farr

President Jackson led the prayer. Councilor Miller led the pledge.

President Jackson introduced the minutes from the previous council meeting. Councilor Horton then moved & Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes. **UNANIMOUS**

President Jackson then introduced the one-item consent agenda. Councilor Horton moved & Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. **APPROVED 2-1 (Miller dissenting)**

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

There were no public comments.

Under the regular agenda, Councilor Horton introduced a proclamation declaring October 18 as Dr. Derrick D. Jordan Day, honoring the founder of Hope Everlasting Ministry. **He moved & Councilor Miller seconded the motion. UNANIMOUS Proclamation No. 2026-25** Since Dr. Jordan was not in attendance, a few of his congregants accepted the framed proclamation on his behalf.

President Jackson exercised privilege to introduce a proposed ordinance to rename City Hall Drive as Arthur Payne Drive. Payne was in attendance, along with his wife Debbie, family and friends. State Representative Danny Garrett invited Payne to join him at the public podium, then gave warm generous remarks about his predecessor & family. Payne then addressed the audience, expressing his appreciation for his community. He said the greatest honor of his life was to represent his hometown for 36 years in the State House. He was moved, especially when he mentioned his late mother, Venie Lee Payne. **Councilor Horton moved to suspend the rules & bring an ordinance up for immediate consideration; Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS Councilor Horton then moved & Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the proposed ordinance. Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2026-028-ADM**

After a brief recess for group pictures, State Representative Danny Garrett briefly addressed the audience, acknowledging Payne's family & special guests. He then presented a \$15,000 check earmarked for city greenways. It is a grant from the Jefferson County Community Service Fund; earlier that day, the non-profit CAWACO RC&D Council announced its \$20,000 grant for city greenways.

Next, Councilor Miller introduced a proposed resolution to authorize outside counsel to enforce a settlement agreement against the property owner regarding 220 Snake Hill Drive. **He moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion to approve. UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2026-61**

Next, Councilor Horton introduced a proposed resolution to adopt the City's FY2027 budget. **He moved & President Jackson seconded the motion. Upon roll call, APPROVED 2-1 (Miller dissenting) Resolution No. 2026-62**

Next, Councilor Miller introduced a proposed resolution to grant 2.5% COLAs to employees compensated on Public Safety & Firefighter pay scales, as well as 2.0% COLAs to all other employees, who are compensated on the city pay scale. **He moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion to approve. Councilors Horton & Miller offered comments. UNANIMOUS Resolution No. 2026-63**

Next, Councilor Miller introduced a proposed ordinance to annex undeveloped property located at 5085 Branchville Road. **Councilor Miller moved to suspend the rules & bring an ordinance up for immediate consideration; Councilor Horton seconded the motion. Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS Councilor Miller then moved & Councilor Horton seconded the motion to approve the proposed ordinance. Upon roll call, UNANIMOUS Ordinance No. 2026-029-ANX**

Next, President Jackson introduced a proposed ordinance to declare certain city property located at 525 Main Street as surplus then authorize the mayor a purchase-&-sale agreement with TDG Development Company, LLC. The city will have received an updated appraisal before the city council takes the ordinance up for consideration next month.

Next, Finance Director Joseph Calvert summarized the City's financial performance over August. The General Fund has \$11.9 million, compared to \$10.1 million twelve months before. Spending over August exceeded revenue by more than \$694,000. The city had previously estimated a \$556,000 net-deficit for August, but some large July purchases created a larger gap. Despite August, as well as September's anticipated operating deficit, the city remains on track to finish FY2026 with a far larger overall surplus than the \$1

million estimate in its original budget. The city collected over \$2.7 million in sales taxes, exceeding its initial projection by \$142,000. Overall, the City's sales taxes are \$1.3 million ahead of what had been budgeted. Capital outlay, debt service, transfers & other sources remain substantially lower, compared to August 2025. The city reaped an additional \$21,000 in money market sweeps after moving its business accounts to PNC Bank.

During committee reports, Councilor Horton reported for the Tree Commission that the City agreed to trim tree limbs so that pecans won't fall on a neighboring resident's yard. The Commission intends to plant cherry blossoms in the West Mall, reminiscent of the same trees on the Mall in Washington DC. The Tree Commission is seeking private donations. Also, he promoted the Mayor's Annual State of the City address, which is the Chamber of Commerce's annual October luncheon. Trussville Utilities is sponsoring it.

On behalf of Councilor Farr, Horton promoted the Library's upcoming Bookin' It 5K run on October 8. He congratulated Assistant Library Director Ann Sargent on getting awarded the 2026 Jason Baker Leadership Award by the Jefferson County Library Cooperative. This is extra meaningful since she worked closely with Jason Baker here at the city library. The library board's next meeting occurs on October 27. Also, Amerex is hosting the annual IDA lunch on September 24. He deferred the Parks & Recreation report to Director Chris Mills, who stated that both Civic Center & Parks & Recreation have new hires. Mills complimented Seniors Center director Wendy Greer & staff for the work they do. Fall sports are in full swing; lightning has affected games at times. He recognized the Chamber of Commerce staff in attendance, who in turn reminded the audience about the State of the City luncheon next month. Also, he thanked Public Works & Director Justin Ferguson for their ongoing tree removal & street gutter cleaning.

Councilor Miller reported that Veterans could not meet on September 21 due to a lack of quorum. Also, he reported that ACTA production *Elvis Has Left The Building* had indeed left the building. He promoted *The Lightning Thief & It's a Wonderful Life*. There are four acting workshops underway. Also, he mentioned that on September 26, the City Museum is hosting Auburn University at Montgomery history professor & book author Ben Severance. The Historical Board's next business meeting occurs on Monday, October 5.

Councilor Jackson reported that next month, Planning & Zoning will finalize its recommendations on proposed subdivision regulations. Also, Planning & Zoning approved a new Trussville Springs subdivision plat reducing the number of residential lots within a neighborhood to 17 from 25. He also took time to explain to the public why Trussville is not a desirable location for data centers with Tier 3 or Tier 4 certification. Also, Active Transportation welcomed new members Adam Russell & Luke Searcey. They're working on new branding for the city trails system, as well as designing a connector between Longmeadow & the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School. The just-announced \$20,000 & \$15,000 grants will be put to good use. Also, the Redevelopment Authority is working on a new connector between Kay & Maple avenues. Also, he, Mayor Short & others from Trussville just returned from an economic development summit at Auburn, where they learned some useful lessons and built relationships.

On behalf of Councilor Anderson, Jackson reported that Leadership Trussville Class 5 had a great overnight retreat. Also, regarding the city school system, Horton reported that the school board took up a proposal to start the JROTC next fall at the high school. He acknowledged school board president, Dr. Steve Ward, while announcing that three Hewitt-Trussville High School students are National Merit Scholar semi-finalists. He also mentioned the new Cahaba Valley Innovation Center. The State Legislature is granting \$12 million to create this career & technical training academy for Pinson Valley, Clay-Chalkville & Hewitt-Trussville high school students.

During audience comments, Preston Pendergraft (6225 Jonathan's Way) discouraged city government operations from using artificial intelligence. He also spoke out against the prospective moratorium on residential demolitions within the Cahaba Project. Jean Thrasher (404 Cherokee Drive) posed questions about the prospective seniors community, that would be located at 525 Main Street. President Jackson assured her that the city would share that information with the public as soon as it becomes available. Former councilor Jef Freeman (318 Woodward Road) complimented city leaders on their updating the public on the state of city finances, as well as for the Arthur Payne street renaming. He too wants to know more about the proposed senior community development.

With nothing left on the agenda, President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Weinrib MMC
City Clerk