

**THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
HELD ON AUGUST 17th 2020**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in Town Hall in said city on August 17th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. In a regular meeting in Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Leigh Dollar presided as Chairman of the meeting. The following members of the Council were present: Sanchez Watkins, Phillip Kelley, John Myers, Carson Ray, Dink Myers, Rudy Cornelius and Randy Whitaker. Betty Jones acted as City Clerk for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Randy Whitaker. Mayor Dollar welcomed visitors and declared that a quorum was present and opened the meeting for business.

Minutes

Mayor Dollar announced that copies of the minutes from the August 3rd, 2020 Regular Meeting have been distributed to the members of the Council. There being no corrections or additions the same on motion duly made and second stood approved.

Personnel Report – Mayor Dollar called on Renea Rowan to give the Personnel Report

Sanitation/Recycling: Sam Cobb conducted interviews to fill the open positions of Laborer. His selections are Joseph Poore and Marcus Lewis. Both applicants have completed all pre-hiring requirements. Renea Rowan recommended that Mr. Poore and Mr. Lewis both be hired as full- time employees with the City in the position of Laborer. (Reg. PS Grade 7, Step 1: \$11.52)

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dink Myers and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Appoint Additional Poll Workers

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1152** to appoint additional poll workers since 2 of the previous workers have dropped out and these are their replacements:

DISTRICT TWO

Don Watson

DISTRICT SIX

Charlotte Forsythe

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Sign E911 Contract

Mayor Dollar introduced **Ordinance No. 1114** to authorize the Mayor go sign the E911 contract for P25 Equipment. Mayor Dollar called on Chief Peterson and Dan Warnes to report to the Council. Chief Peterson reported that this consists of 3 tower sites that will provide coverage countywide. All public safety will use and the City will be a 1/5 owner with other cities, the Sheriff's Department and Hospital. This system should last 30 years. Councilman Kelley asked the Chief to explain why it is needed. Chief explained that now the agencies could not talk to each other and this would enable to work together. The present system is 30 years old and we do not have good coverage. E911 has invested in the towers. Councilman Cornelius asked the timeline and Chief Peterson said it would be April or May of 2021. Councilman Whitaker stated that this was needed for all to respond to medical situations when it was clockwise critical. Dan Warnes stated this authorized the Mayor to enter into the agreement on behalf of the City and that all would share the cost. Also, the system could contract with other agencies to reduce costs later. The City's share of the cost is \$455,000.00 for equipment and maintenance for 5 years.

Councilman Whitaker asked to suspended the rules for immediate consideration, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and the following roll call vote was recorded:

1.	Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5.	Donald Myers	Yes
2.	Phillip Kelley	Yes	6.	Rudy Cornelius	Yes
3.	John Myers	Yes	7.	Randy Whitaker	Yes
4.	Carson Ray	Yes	8.	Leigh Dollar	Yes

Motion to approve **Ordinance No. 1114** was made by Councilman Cornelius and seconded by Councilman Watkins and the following roll call vote was recorded with the Mayor abstaining due to a business relationship:

1.	Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5.	Donald Myers	Yes
2.	Phillip Kelley	Yes	6.	Rudy Cornelius	Yes
3.	John Myers	Yes	7.	Randy Whitaker	Yes
4.	Carson Ray	Yes	8.	Leigh Dollar	Abstain

Flood Plain Ordinance

Mayor Dollar introduced the Flood Plain Ordinance that was previously introduced. Dan Warnes reported to the Council that this follows FEMA guidelines and that no flood plain changes could be made without an ordinance passed by the Council and brought to the attention of the public. Motion to approve **Ordinance No. 1115** was made by Councilman Dink Myers and seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed by the following roll call vote:

1.	Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5.	Donald Myers	Yes
2.	Phillip Kelley	Yes	6.	Rudy Cornelius	Yes
3.	John Myers	Yes	7.	Randy Whitaker	Yes
4.	Carson Ray	Yes	8.	Leigh Dollar	Yes

Rezone Request by Mramor Services

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would serve as a Public Hearing for a rezone request made by Mramor Services Inc with the property being located at 3510 Hideaway Drive from BG-1 to BG-2. No one spoke in opposition or support. Councilman Whitaker asked that this be tabled until further investigation of how the site would be used. Councilman Dink Myers seconded. Dan Warnes advised to set a date to table or the process would have to start

over. Councilman Whitaker amended his motion to table until the 2nd meeting in September. Councilman Dink Myers seconded the amendment. Motion carried over on a voice vote.

Rod Kanter

Mayor Dollar introduced Rod Kanter who voluntarily spoke to the Council about the results of the lawsuit in which the Council was sued personally over the Harbor Development. He felt that the City was entitled to an explanation of the case since it was over. The lawsuit was first filed in District Court. Judge Riley ruled in favor of the City. He considered the complaints as if they were true and judged them against the law and determined the claims had no merit. Guntersville did it by the books. The case was thrown out and appealed to the Supreme Court by Mr. Kennamer. The Alabama Supreme Court heard, reviewed and found in favor of the City. Amendment 772 was followed. This ruling was meaningful because the Alabama Supreme Court wrote an opinion. Normally no opinion is written, just a statement of being affirmed but the court wrote a 39-page opinion, and all Justices agreed. There is usually a majority ruling, but it is hard to get all 9 Judges to agree. This was a 9-0 unanimous decision. The City got an A+, exceptional, perfect score.

Announcements:

- Last day to vote Absentee Vote is Thursday 20th
- Election Day is 25th

Public Comments:

- Paula Fant Wallace of Blount Ave asked when the 2019 Audit would be ready? A couple of weeks? Mayor stated the auditor’s husband has cancer and it is delayed, but is expected soon.
- Eddie Allen of 920 O’Brig gave a list of concerns about the Harbor Project concerning issues such as storm water run off and parking that he did not see in the plans. Mayor Dollar explained that what was available now was in concept, no plans have been approved. Mayor Dollar asked Mr. Allen to submit the list to the Building Official so they could be addressed when the plans were submitted.
- Joel Kennamer of 1217 Taylor Mill stated that the statements from Rod Kanter were an attempt to embarrass him, that the lawsuit was not frivolous, that it had standing and he did believe there was a scam. He said for a lawyer to come all the way from Birmingham a few days before the election was ludicrous and a lot of people did not like the project.

Mayor Dollar stated that the new firetruck was out front for inspection.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council at this time, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded, stood adjourned until September 8th, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

**CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK