

**THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
HELD ON FEBRUARY 7th 2022**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in City Hall in said city on February 7th 2022 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. In a regular meeting in Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. Mayor Leigh Dollar presided as Chairman of the meeting. The following members of the Council were present: Sanchez Watkins, Larry Wilson, John Myers, Carson Ray, Dink Myers, Rich Russell and Randy Whitaker. Shelly Thomas 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 January 18th 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 following Personnel Report:

Public Works: Charlie Minor and Shannon Johnson selected Shannon Brewer to fill the open position of Laborer. Mr. Brewer accepted our offer and began his employment as a full-time employee today 2/7/2022. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Accept Recreation Center Bid

Mayor Dollar called on Matt Bryant to speak about the current Recreation Center bid which includes remodeling existing gymnasium, re-roofing of five adjacent pool structures, and construction of four new restrooms along Sunset Drive. Emmett Smith & Associates are the architects on the project and there were 2 bids submitted. There were base bid amounts then allowances were included because of the unknown condition of the gym once the tear down process begins due to the fact that there are no current existing plans from when the gym was built. Those allowances include:

- Covering for the gym floor
- Tearing down the spiral staircase that leads to the 2nd story and replace with gated access
- Replacing the Senior Center roof, will be done to match the pool structures
- Using natural stone to match what has already been used in Phase I
- Upgrades to the front entrance of the gym

The low bidder was Brindley Construction with a bid of \$4,611,600.00 which includes the amounts for the allowances. Councilman Wilson asked if the restrooms by the beach were going to be demoed and if the dumpsters would be enclosed and Matt said that yes there would be enclosures around those dumpsters. Councilman Whitaker asked if the Senior Center already leaked and if this work included replacing any tiles that might be stained and Matt answered that yes, the ceiling is leaking but that the work would only cover the roof replacement and not replacing any tiles. Motion to approve **Resolution No. 1238** accepting the bid with the allowances was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Accept Dumpster/Lid Bid for Sanitation/Recycling Department

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1239** to accept a bid for Dumpsters/Lids for the Sanitation/Recycling Department. This bid is for 32 dumpsters and the low bidder was Wastequip with a total overall bid of \$46,578.00 for the dumpsters only. Due to sizing issues with the lids those bids were rejected. Councilman Wilson asked if there would be a challenge in finding lids for the dumpsters and Jonathan Adams said no, that these dumpsters included their own lids and the bid was for lids to replace existing dumpsters and he has been in touch with some companies that could supply them. Motion to accept the bid was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution for Engineering Work Authorization at the Airport

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1240** for engineering work authorization at the Airport. The engineering services are funded by the grant in the amount of \$184,399.00 for Barge Engineering services. Councilman Wilson asked if there was a ceiling on this amount and Mayor Dollar stated that it would take all of the amount for the work. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

CDL Agreement

Mayor Dollar called on Renea Rowan to discuss the CDL Agreement. Mrs. Rowan explained that the Federal Motor Carrier Act has been updated and requires more training for the employees, and has more than tripled in cost. The City has always paid for its employees to take the classes and exam. With this new CDL agreement if an employee leaves before a 5-year period of time the City will be able to recoup some of the cost. Councilman Ray asked what happens if the employee fails the exam and Mrs. Rowan stated they have to pay the amount back. Dan Warnes also stated that this was in no way a guarantee of employment, that this was just an agreement regarding the CDL license itself. Councilman Whitaker asked what if the City terminates the employee and Mr. Warnes answered then the employee is obligated to pay the City back. Mrs. Rowan stated that once the employee obtains their CDL license then it is theirs. Motion to approve the agreement was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Set Public Hearing for The Wake Eatery

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for a Restaurant Liquor License for The Wake Eatery LLC located at 2485 Paddle Wheel Drive on February 21st 2022. Motion to set the hearing was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Special Event License for Gunters Landing

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would serve as a public hearing for a Special Event Liquor License for Gunters Landing Holdings LLC for the Lake Guntersville Chamber Banquet. This will be held at City Harbor located at 301 Scott Street, Guntersville Alabama. Motion to approve the license was made by Councilman Dink Myers and seconded by Councilman Ray and passed by the following roll call vote:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Sanchez Watkins | Yes | 5. Dink Myers | Yes |
| 2. Larry Wilson | Yes | 6. Rich Russell | Yes |
| 3. John Myers | Yes | 7. Randy Whitaker | Abstain |
| 4. Carson Ray | Yes | 8. Leigh Dollar | Yes |

Board Appointment

Mayor Dollar made the following recommendations for reappointments:

Water Board - Rick Richter

Library Board - Latayna Rhines

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

Veteran's Park Presentation

Mayor Called on Scott Gedling to give a presentation on behalf of the Marshall County Veterans Memorial group. The group is made up of Veterans from across Marshall County and they are asking to place a Veterans Memorial on an open spot of land off Sunset Drive by the Rotary Cabin. He stated that they were requesting this location because of its proximity to the walking trail and hoped it would make it more interactive to folks already visiting the area. Once Mr. Gedling was done Councilman Wilson asked if they had spoken to the County about a location and was a recommendation made by them and Mr. Gedling stated that they had been very good to them but the group feels like the location at County Park #1 is out of the way and not convenient to casual foot traffic. Councilman Ray asked if the other memorials in other counties were city/county owned or private and Mr. Gedling said that the city/counties own most or they are leased to the Veterans groups. Councilman Whitaker then asked if the County offered them the spot and Mr. Gedling said that they did not go into great detail about the location but again they felt like County Park #1 was too far out of the way and they would like a more central location. Councilman Whitaker asked if there would ever be a 21 Gun Salute and Mr. Gedling said yes there would be but that it would be more in the background and not close to the eagle's nest. Councilman Whitaker asked who would be responsible for maintaining the memorial and Mr. Gedling stated they would ask the City to maintain the area and be responsible for the utilities because other cities did that. Councilman Ray then asked if there was a budget and Mr. Gedling answered the budget they were looking at was \$300,000.00 and that the group would do fundraisers for that and have some donors lined up. Councilman John Myers asked what the size would be and Mr. Gedling stated originally it would be 100 feet wide but now it would possibly be smaller, 50 – 60 feet wide, due to placing the flags closer. City Attorney Dan Warnes mentioned to Mr. Gedling that the Council had submitted tentative terms to the group and could they submit their response back in writing before the next Council meeting and Mr. Gedling stated yes.

The following spoke in support of the monument being located at the Sunset Drive area with the following topics being addressed: The monument area would be small and plenty of green space would be left. The monuments need to be in that location so they are more visible to cars passing by and foot traffic. The eagles would not be bothered by the activity. The merchants would be upset because of the visitors they would miss if the monument was not located here. There are plenty of other green spaces, like the beach area. Does the fireworks and boat races not bother the eagles? The citizens do not own Guntersville, it is the County Seat therefore the monument should be there.

Pete Sparks – O'Brig Ave, Guntersville

Barbara Wolf – Spring Creek Drive, Guntersville

Nancy Mason – O'Brig Ave, Guntersville

Larry Bodine – Brashers Chapel Rd, County

Melanie Gaugh – Baker Mtn. Rd, County

The following spoke in opposition to the monuments being located at the Sunset Drive area with the following topics being addressed: There is already an existing memorial at the Marshall County Courthouse downtown. This is one of the last open green spaces on the lake in the city limits. Need to preserve the few green spaces we have left. Need to maintain that space as an open area because it is currently a multi-use space that hosts events of all types and the eagles have chosen that area for their nest and they need to be protected. The Council and the group need to work together to find a more appropriate location. Would be better suited located somewhere in the city and not the green space. Can a city use public land for private organization use? This would be located within 75 – 100 feet from the eagle's nest and attracts many visitors from all over the southeast and they do not need to be disturbed.

Judy Manning – Sunset Drive, Guntersville

Chris Wright – Forrest Drive, Guntersville

Sara Martin – Hill Ave, Guntersville

Ruth Buchanan – Morrow St, Guntersville

Linda Reynolds – Morrow Street, Guntersville

Linda Harber of Woodvue Rd, Guntersville asked questions to Mr. Gedling about the layout the group had brought to the presentation. She asked about the arch and he stated it would be about 50 feet wide and 12 – 15 feet from the flag poles. She also asked about other items on the layout and Mr. Gedling stated that it was not to scale and should take up less space than shown. Mrs. Harber stated that she did not have an opinion on the location yet but would like to meet with members of the group and have the layout of the monuments explained better than what was laid out on the drawings. That just because someone has a different opinion did not mean that they are not patriotic it just means they may support an alternate location.

Councilman Wilson asked if the bridge located on Highway 431 North was not named the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Mayor Dollar answered that we would find out the exact name and when it was dedicated. Mayor Dollar then stated that the Veterans Group would be at the next Council Meeting on February 21st and they would also take comments then as well.

Announcements

- The next Council Meeting will be held February 21st at 5:00 p.m.
- The Wild Irish Run is March 12th and the Mayor challenged the Council to sign up
- Councilman John Myers mention the current Woodturning Display at Mountain Valley Arts Council
- Basketball teams are currently in the Area Tournament
- Spring sports registration is currently open at the Recreation Center

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 February 21st 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
SHELLY THOMAS, ACTING CITY CLERK