

**THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
HELD ON FEBRUARY 21st 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 21st 2022 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. In a regular meeting in Town Hall at 5:00 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 February 7th 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:

Sanitation: Johnathan Adams selected Mr. Donald King to fill the position of Driver. Mr. King accepted our offer of employment and began as a full-time employee on 2/14/22. This position is an addition which was approved in the FY 21-22 budget.

Fire Department: An interviewing committee selected Mr. Jonathan Palacios to fill the position of Firefighter/EMT. Mr. Palacios accepted our offer of employment and he is schedule to begin his employment as a full-time employee on 2/24/22. This is a replacement position.

Library: Mandy Broadhurst select Ms. Cassandra Brindle to fill the position of Youth Services Librarian. Ms. Brindle accepted our offer of employment and is scheduled to begin employment on 2/25/22. This is a replacement position. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Watkins and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve Cost of Demo at 1908 Brown Street

Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe to report on the cost of demolition at 1908 Brown Street. Mrs. Smythe stated that the total cost was \$8,700.00 and that a lien would be placed on the property so the City could re-coup that amount. Mrs. Smythe also stated that notice had been sent to the owner, Steve Buffington. Mayor Dollar asked if Mr. Buffington was present at the meeting and he was not. Motion to pass by **Resolution No. 1241** was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Demolition at 612 Hill Avenue

Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe concerning 612 Hill Avenue. Mrs. Smythe stated that the property was owned by Sage Lyons and that she had been working with Mr. Lyons since May of 2021 to get the property cleaned up. Since then the structure has received more damage and needs to come down. Mrs. Smythe said that Mr. Lyons had received a 45-day notice to demo the structure and nothing had been done. Dan Warnes stated he received a text from Mr. Lyons that afternoon asking that the demolition be delayed. Councilman Russell made a motion to reject the request for delay and move forward with the demolition of the structure. Councilman Whitaker seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution for Grass and Weed Removal at 1513 West Street

Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe concerning notice of hearing to contest the cost of grass and weed removal for property located at 1513 West Street owned by Brian Hayes. Mrs. Smythe stated that the total cost for the City to do the work was \$950.00. Mayor Dollar asked if Mr. Hayes was present at the meeting and he was not. Mr. Hayes was notified by both regular and certified mail with no response back and that the next step was to put a lien on the property so that the City could re-coup the cost of their work. Councilman Whitaker made a motion to approve the lien with **Resolution No. 1942** and was seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Soccer Agreement

Mayor Dollar called on Dan Warnes to explain the soccer agreement. Mr. Warnes stated that the City and Soccer Works Alabama has an agreement for the SWA to run the City's soccer program. The City has provided the land and has installed the soccer fields and continue the maintenance and also installed the lighting. The only difference in this and the current contract is that it will be a year to year lease that automatically renews. Motion to accept the agreement was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Public Hearing for The Wake Eatery

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would serve as a public hearing for a Restaurant Liquor License for The Wake Eatery LLC located at 2485 Paddle Wheel Drive. No one spoke in opposition or support. Motion to approve the license was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed 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 |

Set Public Hearing for The Hadwin House

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for an On and Off Premise Wine License for the Hadwin House LLC DBA Hadwin House, Located at 355 Gunter Ave, Suite 1, Guntersville AL for March 7th 2022. Motion to set the hearing was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Voting Delegates for League Convention

Mayor Dollar announced that Council approval was needed for the Voting Delegate Authorization for the League Convention. The names submitted are Leigh Dollar primary, Randy Whitaker 1st alternate and Carson Ray 2nd alternate. 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.

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. He said that this location would give them more foot traffic and make a good location to teach many generations history. It is a serene location, close to the eagle's nest and that they do not intend to use all of the green space. Mr. Gedling stated that the group has looked at 5 other places and this was the spot they were requesting and that they would not be going back to the County Courthouse located on Gunter Avenue. Once Mr. Gedling was done Councilman Ray asked about the footprint/size and scale of the park. Mr. Gedling said they he could email a more accurate rendering of what they were envisioning. They want this to be one of the nicest parks in North Alabama. There would be no tanks or helicopters, just monuments and flags. Councilman Ray then asked about fundraising. Mr. Gedling stated that they expected the cost to be around \$300,000.00 and that they have donors on board and will do fundraising. Councilman Dink Myers asked when the construction would start, would they have all the funds secured before starting? Mr. Gedling said they would have to funds raised before they started in initial phase. Councilman Myers then stated he did not want the project started then stopped mid construction. Councilman Whitaker then asked which monuments would be moved from the Courthouse. Mr. Gedling answered that the VFW Monument would be moved and will be updated. Councilman Whitaker then asked if the other cities in the county had Veterans Day and Memorial Day services and Mr. Gedling answered yes. Councilman Wilson stated that the Sunset Drive location had become polarizing and asked if the group had looked at other locations. Mr. Gedling said that they had looked at a lot on Worth Street, the bluff area at Lurlene B Wallace Pavilion, and Marshall County Park #1. They want to be more in the heart of Guntersville and there is no intent to harm the eagles nor take up all the green space. Councilman Watkins asked if the Confederate Monument would be moved to that location and Mr. Gedling replied that their group does not have control of that monument. Councilman Ray asked who maintains the monuments at the Courthouse and Mr. Gedling said that they maintained the monuments and flags. Councilman Wilson asked if they would be willing to negotiate other places and Mr. Gedling answered that he cannot speak for the group but that there are already other places located in the County. Councilman Wilson asked if Albertville had a memorial and Mr. Gedling answered a small one behind the library. Councilman Wilson asked if they had their reply to the document that the Council had submitted to them and Mr. Gedling answered that the group needed to get to that and get it back to the Council. Councilman Ray asked what was the County's stance and Chairman Hutchenson answered from the crowd that the County has not been involved in any talks with the group. Councilman Whitaker asked if anyone from the group had met with the County and Mr. Gedling said that Mr. Bodine met with the Chairman and Chairman Hutchenson replied that had not had a sit-down meeting with anyone but may have talked to someone in passing.

The following spoke in support of the monument being located at the Sunset Drive area:

William Brennan – 55 Mountain Laurel Dr, Guntersville
Randall Watts – Grant
Kay Gedling – Arab
Pat Federico – 2041 Buck Island Dr, Guntersville
Jerry Messenger – Arab
Iris Smane – 76 Mount Carmel Dr, Guntersville
Sharon George – 2301 Kirkland Cir, Guntersville
Steve Connolly – 3785 Turnpike Rd, Albertville
David Baswell – Arab
Linda Harber – 3018 Woodvue Rd, Guntersville
Robert Hurst – 98 Bryan Rd, Guntersville
Pete Sparks – O'Brig Ave, Guntersville
Bill Hudgins – Sardis
Patrick Shaw – Foster Landing Rd
Philip Mayer – 1100 Hillwood Dr, Guntersville
Deb Douglas – 461 Douglas Dr, Guntersville
Kenneth Cook – Arab
Mike Conner – 225 Rockhill Rd, Guntersville
Jan Langley – 1904 Forrest Dr, Guntersville

The following spoke in opposition to the monuments being located at the Sunset Drive area:

Mary Brewer – 18990 US Hwy 431, Guntersville
Angie Wright – 323 Panorama Way, Guntersville

Joe Smith of Arab addressed the Council about whether the Confederate Monument would be moved to the proposed location as well. He said he had not heard any mention of it being moved and that was something that needed to be considered also.

Mayor Dollar said that she appreciated everyone's feedback and that she loved to see people interested in what was going on in the City.

Councilman Whitaker said that his dad was a veteran and that he appreciated all those who served.

Councilman Russell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and that he is a veteran himself. He appreciated the veterans and their sacrifices and believes they need a solemn place to pay their respect.

Announcements

- The Girls and Boys soccer teams went to Foley and won their tournaments
- The Girls and Boys basketball teams are playing in the Elite 8 on Tuesday
- Mayor invites everyone to run with her in the Wild Irish Run
- Next Council Meeting will be 3/7 at 12:00 p.m.

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 March 7th 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 7th DAY OF MARCH, 2022

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
SHELLY THOMAS, ACTING CITY CLERK