

**THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
HELD ON DECEMBER 12th 2022**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in City Hall in said city on December 12th 2022 at 4:30 p.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: Larry Wilson, John Myers, Carson Ray, Dink Myers and Rich Russell, Randy Whitaker. Sanchez Watkins was absent. 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 December 5th 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 upon Renea Rowan to give the Personnel Report:

Police Department

Chief Jim Peterson recommends that Sgt. Mark Fortune be awarded the position of Investigator. Following a committee interviewing process, Sgt. Fortune was the top selection of the committee. Chief Peterson concurred with the committees' recommendation. This change will be a lateral transfer for Sgt. Fortune. The exact date of the transfer has not yet been confirmed but will take place in January.

Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Walls has been appointed as Fire Chief effective 1/1/23. Upon his appointment effective date of 1/1/23, he has chosen Captain Jared Baker as his Deputy Chief. Motion to accept promotions was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present. Chief Walls asked Assistant Chief Baker's wife to pin his badge on him.

Resolution to Approve Fixing Cost of 1721 Williamson St

Mayor Dollar announced that the resolution to approve fixing cost of 1721 Williamson Street is to be considered at the next meeting.

Resolution to Approve Nuisance Abatement for 3605 Smith Street

Mayor Dollar introduced a resolution to approve nuisance abatement for 3605 Smith Street and asked the Council to decide to do repairs to the property or demo it. Mayor Dollar called on Barry Jones and owner Marc Beyers to explain what they proposed to do to the Council. Mr. Jones stated that they had a list of 8 things that would take up to 120 days to complete and the vinyl siding would take another 2 more months. After that the property would be rented or sold, but would definitely be an improvement for the community. Kelsey Yoste stated an agreement was in the works, but the City reserved the right to demo if the deadlines were not met, but also was willing to come to the council for extension if certain circumstances caused delays. Mayor Dollar entertained a motion for repairs or demo. Councilman Russell made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 1290** for repairs on the recommendation of the City Attorney after an agreement had been reached. Councilman Whitaker seconded and it was passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve Hiring Frazier Lanier and Bradley to Begin the Bond Process for GHS

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion for **Resolution No.1291** to approve hiring Frazier Lanier and Bradley to begin the bond process for GHS. The additional amount needed is approximately \$16,000,000.00 and this will have a funding agreement with the school board to mirror the last bond issue for the school. Motion to approve the hiring was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Guntersville Park Project Phase 2 Revised Proposal – Barge Designs

Mayor Dollar introduced the Guntersville Park Project Phase 2 revised proposal. This will include some redesign, bid services, a part time RPR and more at a cost of \$415,000.00.00 from Barge Designs. This has been reviewed by City Attorney Dan Warnes. 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.

Barge Designs – Veterans Park Site Analysis

Mayor Dollar stated that Barge Designs' Veterans Park Site Analysis had considered 4 sites and given the City the pros and cons of each site and recommended the site to the left of the Farmers Market as the best site. Councilman Dink Myers stated that he felt the City needed to stick with the green space that the Veterans has requested. William Brennan of 55 Mountain Laurel Drive spoke agreeing with Anthony's article in the Gleam and stated that if the Veterans could not get what they need, then they need to get the next best thing and he thought that was the site west of the Farmers Market and that it was a good location.

Councilman Ray stated that the council had had talked to the Veterans many times, had toured locations across north Alabama, listened to both sides, done our due diligence and he proposed that the location be not the Veterans site, the concerned citizens site or the City site, but the site the Barge had determined was the best site. Councilman Whitaker seconded stating that he agreed with having a professional opinion of the best site and felt good about the site. Mayor Dollar stated that this is the selected site, but a design would have to be done for this site and a committee will be selected for input.

Randy Vissers 5159 Al Hwy 227 asked to share a story. He told about a young man who wanted to make a difference and joined the marines and went to Afghanistan and was wounded and did not survive his injuries saving others. He was flown home and did he make a difference? What if that was your son? Why are the veterans being given second best when they give their best?

Councilman Russell also asked to share a story. It’s Christmas Eve and you get called to prepare to go to Somalia and leave immediately. At the end of the mission you will be taken overland to Kenya and use your credit card to buy a ticket home and you will be reimbursed. I asked can I leave after Christmas? The response was sometime you get to pick, this is not one of those times. You may have heard of Black Hawk Down. The guy that got told to do that was me. There is no record of me going, but there was a mission to be done. In my 36 years I rarely got to pick, but I ask that we do this together and it will be first class and we will all be proud of it.

Mayor Dollar asked for the vote on the proposed location that Barge Designs had recommended and the following vote was recorded:

1. Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5. Dink Myers	No
2. Larry Wilson	Yes	6. Rich Russell	Yes
3. John Myers	Yes	7. Randy Whitaker	Yes
4. Carson Ray	Yes	8. Leigh Dollar	Yes

Set a Public Hearing for Moody Brews Coffee & Lounge

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for Moody Brews Coffee & Lounge LLC DBA Moody Brews Coffee & Lounge for a On and Off Premise Beer and Wine License located at 385 Gunter Ave, Guntersville AL. Motion to set the hearing was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Set a Public Hearing for David Busha

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for David Busha DBA Bucks Lounge for a Lounge Liquor License Located 12470 US Hwy 431, Guntersville AL. Motion to set hearing was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Announcements:

- City will be closed December 23rd and 26th and January 2nd for the Christmas and New Years holidays.
- The January 2nd Council meeting will be held January 3rd at the Library Auditorium at 12:00 noon due to the floors in Town Hall being redone.
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Public Comments

Buddy Bunch of 5024 Neely Ave addressed the Council reading a statement about the recent firing of his daughter in law, Natalie Bunch by the Guntersville School board.

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 January 3rd 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Library Auditorium.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2023

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK