

**THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
HELD ON FEBRUARY 6th 2023**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in City Hall in said city on February 6th 2023 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. Afterwards in a regular meeting in Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. Mayor Leigh Dollar presided as Chairman. The following members of the Council were present: Sanchez Watkins, Larry Wilson, John Myers, Carson Ray, Dink Myers, Rich Russell, 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 January 17th 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: Following an interview process, Mr. Delane Erby was selected to fill the vacant position of Communications Officer. Mr. Erby accepted our job offer and began employment with the City on 2/3/23.

Fire Department: Recently promotional testing was conducted in order to fill vacant positions. As a result of the testing process, Chief Brian Walls recommends the following promotions:

- Lieutenant Matt Driver be promoted to the position of Captain
- Engineer Matthew Lang be promoted to the position of Lieutenant
- Firefighter Jake Anderson be promoted to the position of Engineer

These promotions were effective affective 2/5/23. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Mrs. Rowan then announced the retirement of John Jones. Mr. Jones is retiring after 30 years of service to the City. He received a plaque, a small check and a standing ovation.

Ordinance Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Warrants for School Board

Mayor Dollar introduced an ordinance authorizing the issuance of the City of its \$15,630,000.00 General Obligation Warrants, Series 2023 and various other documents, agreements and instruments in connection therewith and called on Bob Young. Mr. Young stated this was to meet the overage on the cost of the High School. The rate is 4.05% on a 30-year maturity. He also reported that the City has a strong AA- rating by Standard and Poors. The closing is February 15th and this is before the next council meeting so Mr. Young recommended immediate consideration by the Council.

Mayor Dollar then called on Rod Kanter, bond counsel and he reported to the Council that this was structured much like the 2021 warrant with a funding agreement with the School System to repay the City. Mr. Kanter reported that the school debt does not affect the borrowing limit of the City and that the City has a \$36 million margin. Motion for immediate consideration was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously 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 | Yes |
| 4. Carson Ray | Yes | 8. Leigh Dollar | Yes |

Motion to approve **Ordinance No.1139** was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Watkins and unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution to Accept Bids for Trucks for Fire Department

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1294** to accept the following bids on a 2023 3500HD 4WD Truck and a 2023 2500HD 4WD Truck for the Fire Department:

- Donohoo Chevrolet with a price of \$65,946.50 for the 2500HD Truck
- Donohoo Chevrolet with a price of \$57,209.50 for the 3500HD Truck

Both of these are budgeted items. Motion to approve bid and purchase was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Surplus Mower for Horticulture Department

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1295** to surplus the following mower for the Horticulture Department to be sold on govdeals.com:

- Exmark Mower – LZS740KC604 Serial No. 312638894

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.

Resolution to Request Demolition of 1833 Rayburn Avenue

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1296** to request the demolition of 1833 Rayburn Avenue. Mayor Dollar called on Ordinance Enforcement Officer Cheryl Smythe to give a report on the structure. Mrs. Smythe reported that this property was unclean, unsafe and unsanitary and after years of disrepair caused a threat to the health, safety and welfare to the public. This is a public nuisance and impedes economic development in the area. There have been no responses from the owner of the property. Mrs. Smythe recommends it be demolished and asks that the Building Official take bids on the demo. Motion to approve demolition and the bid to do so was made by Councilman Watkins and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Request Demolition of 1737 Rayburn Avenue

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1297** to request the demolition of 1737 Rayburn Avenue. Mayor Dollar called on Ordinance Enforcement Officer Cheryl Smythe to give a report on the structure. Mrs. Smythe reported that this property was unclean, unsafe and unsanitary and after years of disrepair caused a threat to the health, safety and welfare to the public. This is a public nuisance and impedes economic development in the area. There have been no responses from the owner of the property. Mrs. Smythe recommends it be demolished and asks that the Building Official take bids on the demo. Motion to approve demolition and the bid to do so was made by Councilman Watkins and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Give Department Head the Discretion to Increase Rates

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1298** to give Department Heads the discretion to increase the rates of their departments rentals, permits, and fees on items not covered by ordinances. Many times, the fees are out of date and this will give a way to update as needed. Any increase must be jointly approved by the Department Head, Mayor and City Clerk. 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.

Special Event License for Gunters Landing Holdings

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to consider a Special Event License for Gunters Landing Holdings, LLC for a fundraiser event in Town Hall, 340 Blount Ave, March 11th 2023 for Marshall County Home Place. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously 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 | Abstain |

Set a Public Hearing for Lakeside Investment II

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for Lakeside Investment II, LLC DBA The Wake Eatery located at 2485 Paddle Wheel Drive, Guntersville, Al 35976 for a Restaurant Liquor License. Motion to set hearing was made by Councilman Dink Myers and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Library Board Appointment

Mayor Dollar recommended the reappointment of Tina Whitmore to the Library Board. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Recognition Certificates

Mayor Dollar announced the next item on the agenda was Recognition Certificates, however 2 students had withdrawn from the program and the other was unable to attend today. This will carry over.

Announcements:

- Mayor Dollar announced that the Council would leave on a field trip at the end of the meeting to visit MAVC and the Senior Center and Recreation Facilities.
- Councilman Whitaker addressed School Superintendent Dr. Jason Barnett asking that the School earmark the new 1% County tax for school infrastructure. Councilman Whitaker strongly urged the board to put this in place for future buildings.
- Councilman Wilson stated that he questioned superintendent Wiggly about the county tax being used to build an administration office instead of classrooms and she stated that she would use the state money for the administration building and the new tax for classrooms.

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 20th 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK