

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, August 7th 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in the Conference Room at City Hall in said city on August 7th, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. In a regular meeting at the Guntersville 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. Betty Jones was present and acted as Clerk for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Whitaker. Mayor Dollar welcomed visitors and declared that a quorum was present and opened the meeting for business.

Mayor Dollar announced that copies of the minutes from the July 17th, 2023 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 following Personnel Report:

Street/Maintenance: Shannon Johnson, Asst. Supervisor, selected Ms. Madison Slusher to fill the position of Laborer. Ms. Slusher accepted our job offer and began her employment as a full-time employee on 7/24/23.

Police: Brock Clifton was selected by an interviewing committee to fill the position of Rookie Police Officer. Mr. Clifton accepted our job offer and began employment as a full-time employee on 7/24/23. Mr. Clifton has been accepted into Police Academy which will begin in September. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Ray and seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Lien on Property at 1726 Jordan

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No.1332** to approve lien (fixing of cost) on property located at 1726 Jordan/Williamson Street and called on Cheryl Smythe to report to the Council. Mrs. Smythe stated the Council approved the demo on May 8th and that the cost of the demo was \$6,352.69. Claude Hundley, Greg Hundley and Butch Looney had been requested to attend today's meeting, but no one had responded. Councilman Watkins asked if they had been given time to do the demo themselves and Mrs. Smythe responded that they had been given a timeframe and they defaulted on that. Because they had not complied with the timeframe and did not appear today, she asked the Council to file a lien on the property in the amount of \$6,352.69. Motion to set the lien was made by Council Russell and seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmember present.

Appeal for 2305 Luther Street/Jackie Robison

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would be a hearing for an appeal for 2305 Luther Street/Jackie Robison. Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe and Eric Self to report to the council. Mrs. Smythe sated that she, Eric Self and the Animal Control Officer went to the residence on June 13th after numerous complaints about the odor and the condition of the property. It was reported that there were 30-39 dogs living in the house. Mrs. Robison stated there were 4 dogs there, but they removed 12 and were told by neighbors that approximately 25 dogs were moved by the owner over the weekend due to the complaints. Mrs. Smythe shared pictures with the Council of the condition of the house that showed inches deep of feces on every floor, all over the bed and total wreckage of the house. There was no running water in the house other than an outside hose. Mrs. Robison has filed an appeal with the City Clerk for a 30-day delay so she can get her car fixed. Councilman Russell asked Mrs. Smythe if she felt an extension would help and she replied that she had worked on this situation for most of two years and it had not improved even after Ms. Robison had been before the Judge numerous times and had promised each time to clean up. When public comment was asked for, Victoria Henry of 6065 Al Hwy 69 stated that she works as a volunteer animal rescuer and was rescuing cats in the area. She stated that the cats and the dogs at this house were suffering in terrible conditions the environment is so bad. She stated that the Jackie Robison and Bradley Potter used a bucket for a toilet and threw the contents in the back yard. Ms. Henry stated the neighbors could not let their kids play outside due to the odor and conditions. Councilman Russell made a motion to demo the house and proceed consistent with Alabama state law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmember present.

Surplus Equipment for the Fire Department & Floating Docks

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1333** to surplus the following equipment for the Fire Department:

5-Petzel Ecrin-Roc rope helmets unknown date of mfg

5- PMI Avator full body harness mfg:2006-2007

5- 12.5mm static rescue ropes >100' each mfg: 2003-2006

Also, the and remaining pieces of the floating pier formerly at the Harbor. Councilman Russell asked the Fire Chief to make sure when the equipment was sold, that the City had no liability on the old equipment. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmember present.

Resolution to Execute Funding Agreement with ALDOT for the Holston Drive Project

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1334** to execute the funding agreement with ALDOT for the Holston Drive Project at Connors Island Industrial Park. This is to give the Mayor authority to sign agreement on City's behalf. The project is being paid for by an Industrial Access Grant. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmember present.

Special Event Ordinance

Mayor Dollar called on Kelsey to report on the Special Event Ordinance that was introduced at the last Council Meeting. Motion to approve **Ordinance No. 1139** was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Russell and passed by the following roll call vote:

1. Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5. Donald 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

Property Purchase - 12146 US Hwy 431

Mayor Dollar announced a property purchase at for property located at 12146 US Hwy 431, the old Shumate property. This is almost a 2-acre tract and the cost is \$985,000.00. The City plans to look for grants to line up the intersection in the area. Engineers have reported this is a low environmental risk after a study was done. There is one tenant that will be notified to vacate. Motion to approve purchase was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Dink Myers passed by the following roll call vote:

1. Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5. Donald 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

Board Appointment

Mayor Dollar recommended the reappointment of Brian Vaughn to Electric Board. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker and seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmember present.

Announcements:

- Rodeo at Industrial Park this weekend
- Historical Society tour of Pink House fundraiser Thursday
- WBS 50th Celebration Aug 19th
- Back to school bash at Williamson Park Saturday
- School starts Wednesday.

Public Comments:

Unique Dunston of 560Horton Chapel Road Horton read a prepared statement by the Travis Banks family. The family is stating their questions have still not been answered after two years about Mr. Banks death in the Guntersville Jail and is requesting again to see the videos. Latavia Banks of 3211 Spool Ln, Huntsville also spoke. And Vanessa Banks of 4403 Judith Lane Huntsville, Travis Banks mother stated that things were not right and asked the City to provide the video to the family to prove there was no wrong doing.

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 August 21st 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 21st DAY OF AUGUST, 2023

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK