

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, August 5th 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in City Hall in said city on August 5th 2024 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 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.

Mayor Dollar announced that copies of the minutes from the July 15th Regular Meeting have been distributed to the members of the Council. There being no corrections or additions to the minutes, there was a motion to approve made by Councilman Dink Myers, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Personnel Report: Mayor Dollar read the following Personnel Report:

Police Department: Chief Ryan Darnell has selected applicant John Mader to fill the vacant position of Rookie Police Officer. Mr. Mader will be required to successfully complete APOST academy which will begin in this month. Mr. Mader began his employment as a full-time employee on July 22, 2024.

Municipal Court: Angela White selected applicant Caitlyn Jennings to fill the open position of Magistrate. Ms. Jennings has accepted our job offer and is scheduled to begin as a full-time employee on 8/19/24.

Sanitation: Jamie Bishop selected Lenard Lippert to fill the open position of Laborer. Mr. Lippert has been working with the City as a temporary employee. He began as a full-time employee on 7/22/24. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Ray, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Surplus Items for Police Department

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No.1390** to Surplus Items for the Fire Department: a 1999 Pierce Pumper Fire Truck to be sold on GovDeals and various old clothes to be donated to volunteer departments. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve 3rd Party Transportation Services for Public Works

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1391** to Approve Public Transportation to Provide 3rd Party Services to Mountain Lakes. This is an annual resolution, however this will be a 2 year agreement to provide transportation for the patients. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve an Agreement with CDG Inc to Provide CEI Services

Mayor Dollar introduced an agreement with CDG Inc to Provide Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for the Holston Drive Roadway Extension Project. Matt Haws of CDG explained that the grant of \$799,000.00 would cover the \$99,135.00 engineering cost and the bid for paving from Rogers in the amount of \$661,750.00. There was a motion to approve the agreement made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Wilson and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Application for an ADEM Grant for Sanitation/Recycling

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1392** to apply for an ADEM grant for the Sanitation/Recycling Department. This will be for a glass crusher for \$84,979.00 and trailers for \$52,800.00 for a total of \$137,779.00, there is no match. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Parks & Rec Change Order

Mayor Dollars called on Emmett Smith to explain to the Council the breakdown of the Parks & Rec Change Order No.1 for the L. B. Wallace, Rotary Cabin and Senior Center Projects as follows:

- L B Wallace Pavilion Rock removal \$6,000.00 and unsuitable Soil \$10,305.00
- Rotary Cabin removal of tank lid \$5,175.00
- Senior Center structural changes \$15,031.79 and patch flooring \$3,599.50

All for a total of \$40,111.29. There was a motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Change in Construction Requirements for the Recycle Building

Mayor Dollar asked for Council to approve a change in construction requirements for the Recycle Building. This is simply relocating the HVAC is at no additional cost. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Dink Myers, seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve Demo of 3619 Pearson Circle

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1393** to approve the demo of 3619 Pearson Circle. Mayor called on Ordinance Officer Cheryl Smythe and Building Official Eric Self who explained visited the residence on June 13th and determined that the house was unfit for humans due to a fire in May 2024. The disrepair is a threat to health and safety and presents a public nuisance. A notice was sent June 14th and they were given time to appeal that ran out on July 29th, no appeal was filed. There is a lot of debris on the property that also will be removed. There was a motion to proceed with the demolition process made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Request to Approve the Following Properties to have the Weeds/Grass Cut by Public Works

Cheryl Smythe made a request for the City's Public Works Department to cut the weeds/grass on the following properties (notices were sent out, no responses):

- 2212 Hickory Hills Drive, Lynn Miller (Certified Mail): Mrs. Smythe reported that 2212 Hickory Hills was overgrown with grass over 3 feet tall and so much growth you can hardly see the house from the street. Once the properties are cleaned up by Public Works there will be a lien placed against them for the cost. There was a motion made to approve the requests by Councilman John Myers, seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

- 1417 Mc Coy Street Terry Morton, Estate (Certified Mail): Mrs. Smythe reported on 1717 Williamson Street on overgrown weeds that were unsightly and unsafe and that she had had no response from the owners. Councilman Watkins stated that both the father and son were disabled. Pending advice from legal counsel, there was a motion made by Councilman Russell to proceed with the cleanup and lien, seconded by Councilman Whitaker and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.
- 1717 Williamson Street Bridgett Croom, (Certified Mail): Mrs. Smythe reported on 1417 McCoy Street on the overgrown weeds, this property is in an estate and no one picked up the mail. Pending approval of legal counsel contacting the estate, Mrs. Smythe asked that the Public Works clean up the property and put a lien on the property for the work. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

2016 Richardson Street Condemnation

Cheryl Smythe reported on the appeal by Tama Nunelley in reference to the 2106 Richardson Street (blue house) condemnation. Mrs. Nunelley wants to get an opinion of a structural engineer before moving forward. Mrs. Smythe stated the Mrs. Nunelley had refused to let Eric Self go inside the home. Mrs. Smythe and Mr. Self asked the Council to permit them to send her a letter requesting the professional report on the home to prove the inside was structurally sound and a plan to repair the outside of the building. Mrs. Smythe needed permission from the Council to meet the ordinance timelines to send the letter. There was a motion to approve sending the letter made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Wilson and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Jail Agreement

Mayor Dollar asked the Council to approve the jail agreement with between the City of Guntersville and Marshall County. This would be a charge of \$40.00 per day per prisoner for misdemeanor charges (The felony charges are currently already taken to the County). There was a motion to approve the agreement made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Wilson and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

River Tree Systems Agreement

Mayor Dollar introduced the River Tree System agreement. This is an auditing firm at no cost to city that charges a fee when money is found for the City. Mayor Dollar stated she talked to other cities that were happy with this service. There was a motion to approve made by C. Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Marshall County Tourism & Sports HydroFest Report

Mayor Dollar called on Katy Norton of Marshall County Tourism & Sports who reported to the Council that the Tourism had to pay \$80,000.00 out of savings for the shortfall in Hydrofest this year. Mrs. Norton reported that 12,000 attended and it had a \$2 Million dollar impact. However, sponsorships and attendance were down this year. Mrs. Norton reported that she was in conversation with a company out of Washington to help with sponsors and was looking at moving the date to earlier in June hoping that the weather would be better and get it away from the Fourth of July weekend. She requested that the City pay \$40,000.00 of the loss out of tourism funds. There was a motion to make the payment made by Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Set Public Hearing

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for a Restaurant Liquor License for Southern Fare Ventures LLC DBA The Glover located at 524 Gunter Avenue, Guntersville AL. There was a motion to set hearing made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Announcements:

- State of the City address will be held August 14th at the Woods Hanger at the Guntersville Airport
- School Starts this week in Guntersville
- The Aqua Cats came in fourth in the State Tournament

Councilman Whitaker asked that the City research a way that new businesses could not go into business until the sales taxes were paid in full on the previous business. Mayor Dollar stated she would get with a lawyer to see how it could be handled.

Mayor Dollar stated that Attorney Jim Beard had advised the Council that there was a need for discussion of negotiations concerning a property purchase that if held in public would have a detrimental effect upon the competitive position of the City and asked for a motion to go into executive session in order to discuss. Councilman Ray made the motion, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and a roll call vote was taken by the clerk at 12:49 of all yeas.

No further action was taken by the Council. The Executive session was adjourned at 1:05 on a motion by Councilman Dink Myers, seconded by Councilman Whitaker 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	Yes
4. Carson Ray	Yes	8. Leigh Dollar	Yes

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 12th 2024 at 5:00p.m. at Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 12th DAY OF AUGUST 2024.

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK