

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, November 6th 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 November 6th, 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: Larry Wilson, John Myers, Carson Ray, Dink Myers, Rich Russell and Randy Whitaker. Sanchez Watkins was absent. Betty Jones was present and acted as 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 October 16th Regular Meeting have been distributed to the members of the Council. There being no corrections or additions to the minutes, motion to approve was made by Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Personnel Report: Mayor Dollar called upon Renea Rowan to give the following Personnel Report:

Fire Department: Logan Abernathy was selected by an interviewing committee to fill the position of Firefighter/EMT. Logan began his employment today, 11/6/23, as a full-time employee. He will be required to attend the AL Fire College to become a certified firefighter.

Police Department: Lt. Roy Brown selected Mr. Matthew Buchanan to fill the position of Detention Officer. Mr. Buchanan began his employment today, 11/6/23.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve the Application of ALDOT Permits

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1354** to approve the application of permits from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for an Asphalt Walking Trail and Rip-Rap Bank Expansion. This permits the Mayor to act on City's behalf to execute documents and City agrees to maintain trail and bank. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

2023/2024 Budget

Mayor Dollar introduced the 2023/2024 Budget. Mayor Dollar explained the increases in income expected and went over a list of expenses and projects in the budget, stating that she had met with all department heads on the needs of each department. Councilman Wilson made a motion to table the budget until he can go over it more to understand what was in and out of the budget and meet with the department committees. Councilman Whitaker stated he would second the motion if Councilman Wilson agreed that it would be considered at the next meeting and the committee meetings take place within the next two weeks. Councilman Wilson agreed and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Tourism Update from Katy Norton

Mayor Dollar called on Katy Norton to give the Tourism Update from Marshall County Tourism and Sports. Mrs. Norton reported a very successful year with lodging tax of \$1.2 million with a 27% increase. The two highest reporters were the Lake Guntersville State Park and AirB&B. Mrs. Norton reported that Guntersville provides over 70% of the surcharge money and explained that 52% was spent on water driven events, 36% on Sports and 12% on Festivals. Two thirds of money were spent on bids and one third on advertising. The Council thanked Mrs. Norton for her leadership.

Public Hearing for Braxton, LLC

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting will serve as a Public Hearing for Braxton, LLC DBA The Brewers Cooperative located at 299 Scott Street, Guntersville, AL 35976 for a Restaurant Liquor License. This is due to a change of ownership. No one spoke in opposition or support. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dink Myers, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed on the following roll call vote:

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|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Sanchez Watkins | Absent | 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 Public Hearing for Hampton Inn Guntersville LLC

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to Set a Public Hearing for Hampton Inn Guntersville LLC DBA Hampton Inn Lake Guntersville located at 14451 Hwy 431 South for a On and Off Premise Beer and Wine License. Motion to set hearing for November 20th was made by Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman Wilson and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Set a Public Hearing for DML Enterprises

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to Set a Public Hearing for DML Enterprises DBA Jax Bar & Grill Located at 2140 Gunter Avenue for a Restaurant Liquor License (Jax is moving business to Wyndham Garden). Motion to set hearing for November 20th was made by Councilman Dink Myers, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Announcements:

- Ribbon Cutting at 1:00 p.m. at the Walking Trail for the new birding signs at the trail.
- Mayor Dollar announced that Guntersville was featured on the cover of Business Alabama.
- Councilman Ray stated that he had received many calls concerning outages on Spring Creek on Spectrum Services.
- Councilman Whitaker asked to speak out to ALDOT concerning all the wrecks on Hwy 227 and ask for lighted speed signs.
- The Wounded Warriors will be at the Harbor 3:30 next Thursday, November 9th. The public is urged to attend and support.

Public Comments:

- Billy Ray Todd 1519 Willow Beach Road reported a complaint against Councilman Sanchez. He stated that the NAACP was holding meetings here and that he got calls from Councilman Sanchez on Oct 3 and Nov 2 demanding that Mr. Todd not attend the meetings or he would have him arrested. Mr. Todd stated he was threatened and that something must be done.
- Sandy Todd 1519 Willow Beach Road stated the racism was made up and Sanchez was involved. Mrs. Todd stated her husband was fighting for the teachers and did not want their lives destroyed.
- Bo Pendergraft of 1510 Gunter Ave stated he had ongoing problems with his neighbor behind him. Mr. Pendergraft stated that he owns four lots on Gunter and this neighbor was located behind him at 1505 O'Brig. The neighbor's property is in disrepair, has trash, broken down vehicles and vicious dogs. He stated that he had called the police 6 times. He asked that the City act.

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 November 20th 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Guntersville Town Hall

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

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK