

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, December 2nd 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**

There Council went into Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting to discuss possible litigation.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Guntersville, Alabama met in a pre-meeting in City Hall in said city on December 2nd 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, John Myers, Larry Wilson, 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 November 18th 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 Russell and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

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

Street/Maintenance Department: Charlie Minor and Shannon Johnson selected Codey Sims and Jaspen Rowell to fill the open positions of Laborer. Both accepted our job offer and began their employment as a full-time employees on 11/25/24. Cody Terrell was selected to fill the open position of Small Engine Mechanic. Mr. Terrell accepted our job offer and began his employment in this full-time position today, 12/2/24.

Fire Department: Following approval from Mayor Dollar, Chief Brian Walls select Dylan Wheaton to fill the temporary vacancy of Firefighter. Mr. Wheaton has accepted our contingent job offer. Mr. Wheaton is a certified firefighter. There was a motion to accept made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Chief Walls reported Hayden Mann had been promoted to Engineer in the Fire Department and called his family to the front for his wife to pin his new badge. Engineer Mann received a standing ovation.

Approve Change Order for Senior Center

Mayor Dollar called on Parks & Rec Director Matt Bryant to report to the Council on a change order at the Senior Center. Mr. Bryant reported that 2 new wall hydrants would be installed and 2 existing wall hydrants would be relocated. This change would include the spickets, piping, insulation and labor to freeze proof at a cost of \$1983.75. 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.

License Issue – Mike Dendy/Dendy Investment Group LLC

Mayor Dollar called on Dan Warnes to report to the Council on a license issue with Mike Dendy of Dendy Investment Group LLC. Attorney Warnes stated based on the information received he recommended the City Council set a public hearing to be held December 16th to consider the revocation of Mr. Dendy's 2025 business license. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Councilman Russell made a motion that the license clerks be instructed not to issue any permits of any kind or a business license to Mr. Dendy or to any businesses that he had an interest in of any kind such an officer, partner or investor pending the hearing on December 16th. Councilman Whitaker seconded and the motion and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Lease for Leadership Center

Mayor Dollar announced that the Leadership Center Lease with the Housing Authority had expired in July and was up for renewal. Councilman Whitaker asked that the Council discuss the duplication of services before they acted on this.

Councilman Ray stated that the Council were charged with being good stewards of taxpayer money. Councilman Russell stated that the Council must responsibly to take care of school children when an entity where the duties were the primary function and consider changes as the City did with the closing of the jail.

Councilman Whitaker asked Dr. Barnett if the school system could handle the number of kids currently at their programs at the schools. Dr. Barnett stated he felt sure the system could accommodate the children who wish to come. Mr. Barnett stated the Heart of the Valley YMCA does the after school programs at the Elementary and Cherokee Schools and at the Middle School the system does it. Mr. Barnett stated Mrs. Covington is the coordinator. Councilman Whitaker asked what the program is. Mr. Barnett stated it starts with snacks, then work on homework and includes recreational time and some arts and crafts. It is educationally beneficial with teacher and support staff consisting of teachers, some contracted to work, some retired teachers, all qualified and vetted. It is age appropriate.

Councilman Russell asked if the school system needed more financial help than the city is giving now to this program, and Dr. Barnett stated he thought the program could absorb these, but it would depend on the numbers.

Councilman Watkins asked if there was a summer program and Dr. Barnett stated there was the Power Scholars program and that the buses ran in the summer.

Councilman Whitaker asked Housing Authority Head Wayne Bryant if the lease were not renewed, could this space be used for housing and Mr. Bryant stated there was a long list. He went over the long list of different programs that had been at the Housing project and stated that he felt the school system program will be a better scenario from the reports he had received from his personnel.

Councilman Whitaker made a motion not to renew the lease due to the duplicate services, the snacks would be nutritious, teachers would be certified and due to the different programs in each school it would be age appropriate. Councilman Russell seconded. Mayor Dollar stated that the center could close at Christmas and the children could start the new system when school started in January. The motion and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Building Official to Report on Plan for 1532 Rayburn Avenue

Mayor Dollar called on Building Official Eric Self to Report on Plan for 1532 Rayburn Avenue. Mr. Self stated that this was tabled last council meeting for a plan to be presented to the City and no plan had been received by phone, mail or email. Other deadlines in the past had not been met either. Motion to move forward with the demo by **Resolution No. 1417** was made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

IDP Presentation

Mayor Dollar called on Craig Woodward for an IDB Presentation. Mr. Woodward stated the he was pleased to make this important announcement after a long process of work to bring this together. Mr. Woodward stated that the park is not near rail or an interstate but that the board has been patient in the process. Mr. Woodward introduced Phillip Mosley of JST to give a report on the company. Mr. Mosley shared that JST currently has 6300 employees with \$1.6 Billion in sales from 17 factories throughout the world. The company makes connectors used in appliances, cars, radios, etc. This newest extremely environmental friendly facility will employ 80 more in a 300,000 sq ft factory with a 10,000 sq ft office on 220 acres in Park West. There is also a plan for a farm area and a farm to table restaurant. There will be nature trails, walking trails and preservation of the current cross country trail used by the High School. The opening target date is June 2028. David Jones and Matt Arnold shared the history of the IDB board and stated now that all but 40 acres are sold at Connors Island Park they needed to be looking for more land. Matt Arnold stated that this project has been Phillip Mosley’s dream and if it weren’t for his vision, this would not have happened. This will be an amazing project for Guntersville’s future.

Announcements:

- Christmas Tree Lighting Tuesday 5:30pm
- Night Before Christmas Saturday December 7th
- Christmas Parade Saturday December 14th at 5:00pm
- Harbor Boat Parade December 14th at 6:00pm
- City Christmas Employee Lunch December 17th at 11:00am
- Remember to Shop Local

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 December 16th 2024 at 5:00p.m. at Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 16th DAY OF DECEMBER 2024.

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK