

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, December 4th 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
AGENDA**

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 December 4th, 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 November 20th 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 Whitaker, seconded by Councilman John Myers passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Personnel Report: Mayor Dollar called on Renea Rowan who presented the following Personnel Report:

Fire Department: Mr. Jose Carreno has been selected by an interviewing committee to fill the position of Firefight. He will be required to attend the Alabama Fire College to become certified. He is scheduled to begin as a full-time employee on 12/7/2023.

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

Annual Half Cent Sales Tax Report by the City and School Board

Mayor Dollar presented the City's ½ cent report noting that the City received \$2,067,658.07 and spent the money on paving and the Recreation Center improvements.

Mayor Dollar called on Superintendent Jason Barnett to give the School Board's annual half cent sales tax report. Dr. Barnett reported that they too had received \$2,067,658.07 and combined with other money spent \$1,099,487.08 on GMS The Park upgrades and \$1,900,080.00 on GHS construction along with many other projects. Dr. Barnett reported receiving one million dollars from the Lt. Governor Grant that will be spent on the GHS construction and reported that all scores for the schools had improved. Councilman John Myers thanked the board for good leadership as did Councilman Russell for their diligence and judicious spending. Councilman Whitaker asked about the security upgrades at the schools and Dr. Barnett reported that all are constantly being improved to control the perimeters. Mayor Dollar thanked the board for a great working relationship.

IROL Agreement/Fire Department

Mayor Dollar called on Deputy Fire Chief Baker who reported on the IROL Agreement with the Fire Department. Chief Baker reported that this was for annual fire inspections and was no cost to the City, but would cost each business \$19.95 per inspection. The Fire Marshall will continue to inspect new construction and new businesses. This is a 3-year agreement. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Lexipol Agreement/Police Department

Mayor Dollar called on Captain John East to report on the Lexipol Agreement with the Police Department. This agreement cost \$16,111.75 to implement and has a yearly cost of \$13,754.70. This is bid out by the Sourcewell purchasing group. Capt. East reported that this will look at policies and recommend improvements, keep the department up on mandates and in compliance. This also has a training component. Mayor Dollar reported that this is a budgeted item. Assistant Chief Ryan Darnell commented that the department lives and dies by its policies. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Russell, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution Regarding Old Post Office

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1356** to Approve a Covenant Against Encumbrances and Due Diligence Agreement Regarding the Old Post Office (Amendment 772) and called on Rod Kanter and T. J. Maloney to report on the agreement. Mr. Kanter stated the agreement was necessary for the Latham Development to do its due diligence. The agreement is that the City will not rent or sell the building during the next 10 months and the City will collect \$1,000.00 per month. At the end of that time Latham will have 150 days to reach an agreement with the City and the Latham plan. If no agreement is made, each party goes its own way. Mr. Malone spoke to the Council stating that he loved Guntersville and this would be a good investment involving the hospitality industry to update the Post Office building and would involve new construction also. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed unanimously by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Annexation Request by Anthony and Jane Owens

Mayor Dollar announced that this is second reading of **Ordinance No. 1147** request for annexation by Anthony F. Owens and Jane S. Owens for Property Located at 805 Buck Island Drive to be Zoned RS-1. Mayor Dollar read a portion of the description with the remainder to be incorporated as if set out in full. This annexation has been recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion to annex was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Ray and passed by 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 Yes |
| 4. Carson Ray Yes | 8. Leigh Dollar Yes |

Annexation Request by the City of Guntersville

Mayor Dollar introduced **Ordinance No. 1148** to request annexation from the City of Guntersville for 56.5 Acres located Between Robert Circle and Highway 79, to be Zoned I-1 This is the additional land purchased by the City for the landfill and has been recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion to approve the annexation was made by Councilman Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Dink Myers and passed by 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 Yes |
| 4. Carson Ray Yes | 8. Leigh Dollar Yes |

Public Hearing for Jax Bar & Grill

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would be a public hearing for DML Enterprises DBA Jax Bar & Grill located at 2140 Gunter Avenue for a Lounge Liquor License. This is a change of location. No one spoke in opposition or support. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Dink Myers and seconded by Councilman John Myers and passed by 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 Yes |

Announcements:

- Christmas parade will be Saturday at 4 pm
- The Festival of Trees is continuing at the Museum
- Councilman Wilson complimented the Horticulture Department and the Downtown Merchants on the beauty of Downtown

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 18th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 18th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK