

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, February 16th 2026 at 5:00 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 February 16th at 4:30 p.m. to discuss matters to come before the Council. Afterwards in a regular meeting in Town Hall at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Dollar presided as Chairman. The following members of the Council were present: Sanchez Watkins, Richard Manley, John Myers, Jason Jones, Joe Cagle, Rudy Cornelius, and Pete Sparks. Betty Jones acted as City Clerk for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Richard Manley. 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 February 2nd 2026 meeting had 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 Myers, seconded by Councilman Cornelius, and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

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

Senior Center: Reita Graham, Senior Center Director selected Annie Fennell to fill the vacant position of Senior Center Aide. This is a PT position. Ms. Fennell accepted our job offer and she started her employment today 2/16/26.

Street/Maintenance: Charlie Minor selected Daron Moore, to fill the open position of Laborer. Mr. Moore accepted our job offer and he started his employment today, 2/16/26, as a full-time employee. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Manley, and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

CDBG Hearing

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would be a public hearing to close out the CDGB Grant for repairs to the Senior Center. Mayor Dollar called upon Leslie Gray from TARCOG to hold the meeting. The project began in the spring of 2024 with the bid awarded to Carmen Construction with a cost of just under \$2,000,000.00. There were delays due to a 7-month extension but the project is now completed and TARCOG is happy to have been able to assist the City with the project.

Approve Proposed Change Order #2 - Guntersville T-Hangar Project

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to approve a change order for the T-Hangar project at the Guntersville Airport. Mayor explained that Jones Contracting is doing the work and this change order is for concrete encasement of an underground primary conduit installation. It is expected to be around \$5,000.00 depending on the amount of concrete needed and Mayor recommends putting a limit not to exceed \$7,500.00. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Sparks, seconded by Councilman Cornelius and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Application for ADEM Grant for Recycling Department

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to approve for the Recycling Department to apply for and ADEM grant. Mayor Dollar called on Recycling Supervisor Jamie Bishop to explain some of the details of the grant application. Mr. Bishop stated that he is asking for \$417,950.00 and that this is a no match grant. He stated the money would be used for a new conveyor system to replace the current bailer, for more recycling trailers, a scissor lift and some education outreach material. Councilman Manley asked if the grant would be submitted by line item and if it would be awarded as such and Mr. Bishop said yes, it would. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Myers and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Application for KAB Grant for Recycling Department

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to approve for the Recycling Department to apply for and KAB grant. Mayor Dollar again called on Recycling Supervisor Jamie Bishop for information on this application. Mr. Bishop stated this is a \$5,000.00 grant with no match and would be used for new outdoor recycling bins. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Cornelius, seconded by Councilman Jones and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve League Delegates

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to approve the voting delegates for the League of Municipalities. Those delegates are Mayor Dollar, 1st Alternate Councilman Cornelius and 2nd Alternate Councilman Watkins. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Manley and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Public Hearing for Copper Line Beverages

Mayor Dollar announced that this portion of the meeting would be a public hearing for a Package Store License for Copper Line Beverages LLC DBA Windmill Beverages for a Package Store License Located at Hwy 431, Guntersville AL 35976. No one spoke in opposition or support. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Sparks, seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed by the following roll call vote:

1. Sanchez Watkins	Yes	5. Joe Cagle	Yes
2. Richard Manley	Yes	6. Rudy Cornelius	Yes
3. John Myers	Yes	7. Pete Sparks	Yes
4. Jason Jones	Yes	8. Leigh Dollar	Yes

Gabriel Perez Escobar with Jesse Tacos & Tortas Concerning Sales Tax

Mayor Dollar called upon Ordinance Officer Cheryl Smythe and Gabriel Perez Escobar, owner of Jesse Tacos & Tortas, to discuss delinquent sales tax. Mr. Escobar did not appear at the meeting. Cheryl Smythe stated on February 3rd 2026 she hand delivered a letter to Mr. Escobar to the 12383 US Hwy 431 South location and was told the manager would not

be available for at least 3 hours, the letter was then signed for by a Jessica Perez. Ms. Smythe also mailed a noticed to come to the meeting to speak concerning the sales tax on that same day. Mr. Escobar's business license also expired on December 31st 2025 and had not yet been renewed. Councilman Manley made a motion to consult City Attorney Jim Beard as to what take remedy to take as appropriate to bring Mr. Escobar into compliance upon advice by Mr. Beard. Councilman Myers seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Home Place Container Request

Mayor Dollar asked Director of Home Place Frieda Werkeister to report on the container request made by Home Place Thrift Store. Mrs. Werkeister stated that they were relocating the store to 1211 Blount Avenue. This store helped to support their transitional housing and the containers were being used as storage for items for the store as well as furniture for the homes. She stated those containers were instrumental for their operation due to downsizing from not only the previous store but also the location they were currently using for storage. Mrs. Werkeister also stated those containers had currently been there for 12 years. Mayor Dollar called on Ordinance Officer Cheryl Smyth and Ms. Smythe stated that per the ordinance that no portable building are permitted on land without a permit or approval from Council. Mayor Dollar asked Mrs. Werkeister how long they were asking for and she responded 2 years, Councilman Sparks then replied he felt 1 year was appropriate then after that time the Council would revisit the issue. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Cagle, seconded by Councilman Sparks and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Reschedule March 16th Meeting

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to move the March 16th meeting to March 9th. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Manley, seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Announcements:

- Both the Varsity Boys and Girls basketball teams will be playing at Wallace State on Thursday for the Sweet 16 Game
- School Board Applications will be accepted until Friday, February 27th
- The Museum has an exhibit of student designed posters for Black History Month

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council at this time, the meeting on motion made by Councilman Cornelius and seconded by Councilman Jones, stood adjourned until March 2nd 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2026.

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK