

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the
City of Guntersville, Alabama
Monday, February 2nd 2026 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 February 2nd 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, 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 John Myers. 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 January 20th 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 Cornelius, seconded by Councilman Myers, and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

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

Fire Department: Jonathan Holcomb was selected by Chief Walls, to fill the open position of Fire Marshal. Mr. Holcomb accepted our job offer and began as a full-time employee on 1/22/26. Nickelous Hill was selected by an interviewing committee, to fill the open position of Fighter/EMT. Mr. Hill accepted our job offer and he began as a full-time employee today, 2/2/26.

Street/Maintenance: Rodney Ward was selected by Charlie Minor, to fill the open position of Equipment Operator II. Mr. Ward accepted our job offer and he began as a full-time employee on 1/29/26.

Sanitation: John Recker was selected by Jamie Bishop to fill the open position of Laborer. Mr. Recker accepted our job offer and he began his full-time employment today, 2/2/26. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Jones, and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Surplus 2008 Ford F250 for the Fire Department

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1477** to surplus a 2008 Ford F250 for the Fire Department and donate this vehicle to the Alder Springs Volunteer Fire Department. There was a motion to surplus and donate was made by Councilman Sparks, 2nd by Councilman Cornelius and passed on a Voice Vote.

Resolution to Surplus Buses for Public Transportation

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1478** to surplus 2 buses for Public Transportation. Director Lori Kirkland reported the vehicles were 2017 & 2019 Ford Econolines and had been purchased on an 80/20 grant and that 80% would be returned to the State. Mrs. Kirkland stated that two new busses had already been placed in the fleet to take the place of these. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Jones, 2nd by Councilman Manley and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution for Public Transportation to Request Financial Assistance (Section 5310)

Mayor Dollar introduced **Resolution No. 1479** for Public Transportation to request annual financial assistance (Section 5310) for the Senior Center. Mrs. Kirkland explained that all guidelines were followed and that this 80/20 funded transportation at the Senior Center. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilman Cornelius and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Resolution to Approve Lien (Fixing Cost) on Property Located at 690 Veterans Way

Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe to present **Resolution No. 1480** to Approve Lien (Fixing Cost) on Property Located at 690 Veterans Way. Mrs. Smythe reported the costs of demolition, legal fees and admin was \$26,786.73 and read a description of the property to have the lien placed on. Mrs. Smythe reported on the various notices that were sent to Mr. Ward at different addresses to notify him There was a motion to approve made by resolution was made by Councilman Cagle, seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approve Contract for Professional Engineering Services for the Levee Project

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to approve a Contract for Professional Engineering Services for the Levee Project (227 Pathway) with Goodwin, Mills and Cawood in the amount of \$106,398.00. \$80,000.00 will be covered by the TAP grant and will leave the City match at \$26,398.00. This is the first of several phases of the project to enhance the walking trail from Gunter Ave to Wyeth Dr. Mayor Dollar stated that a significant number of people used this route and the people need a safe pathway and the City is excited to provide. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Cornelius and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Approval of 26A Permit for Parking beside the Levee

Mayor Dollar asked the Council permission to apply for a 26A Permit for parking beside the levee next to the Rescue Squad building. This is now a gravel area and the City wishes to pave it for additional public parking. There was a motion to approve made by Councilman Cornelius, seconded by Councilman Myers and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Jesse's Tacos and Tortas Sales Tax

Mayor Dollar called on Cheryl Smythe to report on Gabriel P. Escobar DBA as Tacos and Tortas who was to appear to discuss Delinquent Sales Tax owed the City. Mr. Escobar did not attend the meeting.

Mrs. Smythe stated that the notification letter had been accepted by him and the card returned to the City as proof. Mrs. Smythe reported that he had made a payment that caught up the filing of the taxes, however he has several returned checks that have not been repaid, and the 2026 license has not been purchased. The City Clerk reported that Mr. Escobar

owes the City 10 returned checks at present time. Councilman Manley asked the value of the 10 checks, but the Clerk stated she could not reveal. Mayor Dollar explained that the City was not allowed to reveal taxpayers tax amount in public. Councilman Manley made a motion to have Mr. Escobar deliver a certified check to cover the returned checks and for his business license within 48 hours or the Council take appropriate action. Councilman Sparks stated he is a frequent abuser and seconded the motion.

City Attorney Jim Beard advised the Council to require past payments be made before applying for a new license. Councilman Watkins stated he need to come and address the Council in person. Mr. Beard stated that we need to ascertain if the payment on the late fillings is a good payment or not. Councilman Watkins asked if he should be required to attend the next meeting. Mrs. Smythe stated that Mr. Escobar does not have a 2026 business license and his health permit expired in Sept 2025 and added that other businesses do not renew in a timely manner and pay penalties as a result. Councilman Myers stated this is a little different situation because he has a history here.

Mayor Dollar called for the question and stated that Mr. Beard will review the action just to make sure everything is in good order. The Motion carried on a voice vote.

Set a Public Hearing for Copper Line Beverages LLC

Mayor Dollar entertained a motion to set a Public Hearing for Copper Line Beverages LLC DBA Windmill Beverages for a Package Store License Located at Hwy 431, Guntersville AL 35976 for February 16th 2026 at 5 p.m. There was a motion to set hearing was made by Councilman Cagle, seconded by Councilman Watkins and passed by a voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Letter from Lady Civitans

City Clerk Betty Jones read a letter from the Lady Civitan Club informing the Council of their intent to apply for a non-profit special event ABC license for the Tablesapes Fundraiser at RSVP building on March 14, 2026. This is and ABC requirement and no action is required by the Council.

Announcements:

- Mayor Dollar was pleased to welcome the Mayor's Youth Council and had each one come to the microphone and introduce themselves.

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 Myers, stood adjourned until February 16th 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at Guntersville Town Hall

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 16th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

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

LEIGH DOLLAR, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
BETTY JONES, CITY CLERK