

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 18, 2024

JOHNNY HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER OF HARTFORD ALABAMA 405 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE, HARTFORD, ALABAMA 36344

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Wendel Nolen, Councilmembers Melissa Clements, Ted Thompson, Zane Fowler, Paul Fondren and Ron Adams.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: City Clerk Melissa Rosser, Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke, Chief Mark Shehee. See attachment for others present.

CALL TO ORDER- The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE- Councilmember Paul Fondren led the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 4, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING- Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve minutes as read. Council member Ron Adams seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – No comments.

CD RENEWAL- Mayor Nolen opened the bids on the current CD's. First National Bank submitted a bid in the amount of 5.1% for 6 months on \$427,387.34. Mayor Nolen asked if both CD bids were sent to First National because there wasn't a second bid on the other CD amount. City Clerk Melissa Rosser stated that she would go back and check, but that to her knowledge, it was sent. Mayor Nolen opened the Friend Bank bids. Friend Bank bid 5% for 6 months on \$69384.91 and 5% for 6 months on \$427,387.34. Council member Fondren stated that the bids would expire before the next council meeting and that a decision should be made. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to accept the bid from First National Bank at 5.1%. Council Member Fowler seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. No discussion. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to accept the bid from Friend Bank at 5.0% interest for 6 months on \$69384.91. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

WIREGRASS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- Jesse Quillen with WED presented a business intelligence package of information to the council. This packet of information consisted of studies relating to population statistics. Jesse Quillen stated that this information could be used for perspective business opportunities that may come to the city. David Norwood with Alabama Power made comments and explanations throughout the presentation.

RESOLUTION 03-18-24-1 ADEM GRANT AUTHORIZATION- Mayor Nolen called on Ronnie Driskell to explain the resolution to the council. Ronnie stated that this resolution is to authorize Mayor Nolen to be the contact and signer for the ADEM grant that we are currently applying for. Ron Adams made a motion to adopt resolution 03-18-24-1. Councilman Paul Fondren seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to Amend the Agenda and go into executive session. Ron Adams made a motion. Zane Fowler seconded. Attorney Bart Boothe advised that we suspend the rules and vote to go into executive session without amending the agenda. Rules were suspended by Zane Fowler. Seconded by Paul Fondren. All were in favor. Motion carried. Bart Booth explained to the public and council the executive session rules as well as referencing the Sunshine Law. He explained that executive sessions could be used to discuss the general reputation and character of someone and that he authorized the reason for executive session. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion that we enter into executive session. Council member Paul Fondren seconded the motion. Mayor asked for a roll call vote. Ron Adams- yay, Paul Fondren- yay, Zane Fowler- yay, Ted Thompson- yay, Melissa Clements- yay. Motion carried. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken in the executive session.

Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to move out of the executive session. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. Mayor Nolen asked for a roll call vote. Ron Adams- yay, Paul Fondren- yay, Zane Fowler- yay, Ted Thompson- yay, Melissa Clements- yay. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS- Mayor Nolen advised the council that there was a letter in their packet about a student at the school who will be attending Honor Band and if they would like to donate, they can do so as stated on the letter.

Council member Melissa Clements would like to congratulate all of the new Hartford queens on their new reigns. She stated that they will represent Hartford well.

Council member Ted Thompson stated that he wanted to remind the council about the Ordinances meeting on April 4th at 6pm at City Hall conference room.

Council member Zane Fowler asked Ronnie Driskell how the testing on the new lines with Blankenship construction was going. Ronnie stated that they had some equipment malfunctions and have not returned for the testing.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Interim Chief Zac Cooke stated that Lisa Jones and Ashley Bass had turned in resignation notices as dispatchers. Zac stated that he has had a meeting with Jeremy @ 911 central dispatch. Central will take over Hartford dispatching as of April 1, 2024. Council members asked that we be sure that this information is posted in as many locations as possible to notify citizens. Council member Clements asked for the reason for dissolving the dispatch positions. After discussion, the decision was made due to resignation and/or retirement of all dispatch

employees. Council member Paul Fondren asked who the citizens would contact for utility emergencies and other issues that normally is handled by the department. This will be discussed and decided before posted. Council member Adams asked if we could post this information on utility bills as well as all other avenues available.

ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to adjourn. Council member Ron Adams seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.



Presiding Officer