

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

JOHNNY HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER COURTROOM, 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: Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke and Utilities Superintendent Jerry Sorrells. 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.

MAYOR WENDEL NOLEN – Asked for a Council member to volunteer to take the minutes for the November 6, 2023, meeting. Council member Ron Adams volunteered. Council member Paul Fondren made the for motion for Council member Ron Adams to take the minutes. Council member Ted Thompson made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023 – Council member Ron Adams made a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Ted Thompson made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENTS – Debra Dunn from the Geneva County Farm City Committee read a proclamation and gave updates on the Farm City committee activities and accomplishments. Also, mentioned the upcoming Farm City Banquet to be held at Ketchum's to recognize the farmer and business of the year.

Donny Adkinson thanked the council for appointing Zac Cooke as our Interim police Chief. He also gave Republican party updates.

TYLER DUNNAWAY (CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM) GAVE FINANCIAL AUDIT/UPDATE OF THE CITY FOR 2022 – Mr. Dunnaway thanked the cities employees for assisting in getting all the required information together which assisted in completion of the audit. He stated the city was in good shape. He stated the city needed to have 3 to 6 months

expenses left over and the city had 5 months which was in range. He then highlighted various areas of the report. He stated the cities rates for utilities and water was low compared to other cities in this area. He stated the final report will be given to the city soon. He offered to answer any questions that the council or Mayor might have.

APPOINT CITY CLERK – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to hire Melissa Rosser as the city clerk. The motion was seconded by Council member Ron Adams. Mayor Wendel Nolen called for a roll call vote. Council members Melissa Clements – Abstained, Ted Thompson – No, Zane Fowler – Yes, Paul Fondren – Yes, Ron Adams – Yes and Mayor Wendel Nolen – Yes. The motion passed by majority vote.

APPOINT FIRE/RESCUE CHIEF – Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to hire Mark Shehee as the Fire/Rescue Chief. The motion was seconded by Council member Zane Fowler. Mayor Wendel Nolen called for a roll call vote. Council members Melissa Clements – Yes, Ted Thompson – Yes, Zane Fowler – Yes, Paul Fondren – Yes, Ron Adams – Yes and Mayor Wendel Nolen – Yes. The motion was passed unanimously.

SALE OF THE CITIES LOT AT THE INDUSTRIAL PARK BACK THE GENEVA COUNTY COMMISSION – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to sale the cities lot back to the Geneva County Commission. Council member Ron Adams made the second to the motion. Council members Melissa Clements and Ted Thompson abstained, Council members Zane Fowler, Paul Fondren, Ron Adams and Mayor Wendel Nolen voted Yes. The motion passed with a majority vote.

JOHNNY HUGHES CENTER REGULATOR PROJECT – Utilities Superintendent Jerry Sorrells explained why the city needed to add regulators to the lines running out to the cotton gin. He stated when the cotton gin runs that we have low voltage at 3rd Ave, Carol St, and the high school areas and out to the cotton gin area. He stated the cost would range from \$47,000 to \$50,000 dollars for the regulators and the city would do the install/work of the project. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to do the Cotton Gin regulator project and use the money from the sale of the lot at the Industrial Park to help fund the project. Council member Paul Fondren made the second to the motion. Mayor Wendel Nolen called for a roll call vote. Council members voted - Melissa Clements voted Yes, Ted Thompson voted Yes, Zane Fowler voted Yes, Paul Fondren voted Yes, Ron Adams voted Yes, and Mayor Wendel Nolen voted Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS – Mayor Wendel Nolen stated he was glad that the city made the new hires tonight. He also mentioned that this is Litchfield week and discussed some activities of the week.

Council member Melissa Clements stated that the Fall Festival was a success. She asked Jerry about the Pike Electric trucks in our area. Jerry said they are supporting Alabama Power, and they are working on the transmission lines for Alabama Power.

Council member Ted Thompson asked Mayor Nolen to get a letter from Toby Seay that if we wanted to buy lots at the industrial park that we could. Mayor Nolen said he would ask.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Utilities Superintendent Jerry Sorrells stated the Sewer Project was still underway and the company said they are planning on staying until the project was complete. He stated ADEM came and inspected our lagoon, hurricane creek area, and the cities paperwork and everything was good with no issues. He also stated that they were changing out bad poles in the city.

Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke stated they had received helicopter noise complaints from Peacock Rd. He asked Council member Ron Adams if he knew the phone number to call in complaints. Council member Ron Adams said he would text the number to him in the morning. He then gave a status update from the police department.

ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion which was seconded by Council member Zane Fowler. The motion was passed unanimously.



Presiding Officer

