

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 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: Police Chief Annie Ward and City Attorney Bart Boothe. 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 September 18, 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 Zane Fowler made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

MAYOR WENDEL NOLEN AMMENDED THE AGENDA BY ADDING APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023, APPROVAL OF BILLS, APPROVAL OF SARCO CONTRACT, AND INFORM THE COUNCIL ABOUT THE RSA RETIRMENT BOUNUS. Council member Zane Fowler made the for motion to amend the agenda as the Mayor stated above. Council member Paul Fondren made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – Council member Paul Fondren wanted to amend the minutes to correct that Council member Ted Thompson was listed as attending the meeting and not absent. Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Council member Paul Fondren made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM JEANNA BRANNON – Jeanna Brannon gave her six-month review of Mayor Nolen's performance, asked for updates on financial updates, and matters that she has addressed in the past.

COMMENTS FROM KIM CURENTON – Kim Curenton made comments concerning the cemetery, community center, and transparency.

RENEWAL OF 2 CD'S – First CD is for 68,362.29 and Second CD is for 421,088.32. FNB offered 4.9% for both CDs for a 6-month period. Friend Bank offered a 5% for both CDs for an 8- or 12-month period. Council member Ted Thompson made a motion to accept FNB offer of 4.9% for a 6-month period for both CDs. Council member Ron Adams made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

SELL PARCEL OF LAND AT INDUSTRIAL PARK TO COUNTY COMMISSION – Mayor Nolen read the letter from the county and explained the details to the council. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to accept the county's offer of 22,365.39, which is what the city paid for the land. Council member Ron Adams made the second to the motion. Council member Ted Thompson wanted to table the motion to gather more information. City Attorney Bart Boothe stated the council will need to vote on the motion being tabled. Mayor Nolen asked for a roll call vote, Council members voted - Melissa Clements voted Yes, Ted Thompson voted Yes, Zane Fowler voted No, Paul Fondren voted Yes, and Ron Adams voted No. The motion to table passed with a majority vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Zane Fowler made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to approve paying the bills. 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, and Ron Adams voted Yes. The motion passed with a majority vote.

APPROVAL OF SARCO CONTRACT – The SARCO contract is 11,160.00 paid over 12 months with a 7,219.00-city match annually. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the SARCO contract. Council member Ted Thompson made the second to the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote.

RSA RETIREMENT BONUS – Mayor Nolen gave each council member a letter concerning the RSA Retirement Bonus. Mayor Nolen asked the council to review the letter and we would discuss it next month.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – No comments were made.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Council member Melissa Clements thanked Vicky and Lisa for having the packet of bills for the council to review.

Council member Ted Thompson asked for the sewer project status – Mayor Nolen stated hopefully it will be completed this week. Council member Ted Thompson made comments that a beautification board would help with the cemetery and our city. Council member Thompson also added that a recreation board would help. Council member

Ted Thompson then made a motion to establish a recreation board. The motion was seconded by Council member Melissa Clements. Council member Paul Fondren explained that in the past the council had to establish a committee not a board. After discussion Council member Ted Thompson amended his motion to have a recreation committee. The motion for a recreation committee was seconded by Council member Paul Fondren and passed unanimously. Council member Ted Thompson then made a motion to have a beautification committee. The motion was seconded by Council member Paul Fondren and passed unanimously. Once both committees passed City Attorney Bart Boothe stated that both committees would be appointed by the Mayor.

Council member Paul Fondren stated he thought Mayor Nolen has done a good job during his six months. Council member Fondren thanked our police force on the job they did concerning the two incidents they were involved in (chase and fugitive).

Council member Ron Adams also thanked Mayor Nolen on the job he has been doing. Council member Adams stated that we have answered questions that we have been asked by the public numerous times and our projects are listed on the city website.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Chief Annie Ward asked about closing the streets around the square on Oct 26, 2023, for the Fall Festival. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion to close the streets around the square on Oct 26, 2023, for the Fall Festival. The was motion seconded by Council member Zane Fowler. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chief Annie Ward asked could the city trick or treat on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Council member Zane Fowler made the motion that trick or treat would be Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council member Ron Adams and passed unanimously.

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