

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 17, 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, City Magistrate Vernon Alford, and Assistant Chief John Burton. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 3, 2023 – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Ron Adams made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM JEANNA BRANNON – Jeanna Brannon asked for updates on various projects, financial updates, and matters that she has addressed in the past.

APPROVE CITY ATTORNEY BART BOOTHE – Mayor Nolen briefed the Council concerning Attorney Bart Boothe's experience and qualifications. Mayor Nolen answered questions from Council members and stated Attorney Bart Boothe would be compensated \$1,800 per month. Council member Ron Adams made a motion to approve Bart Boothe as the city attorney along with the salary of \$1,800 per month. The motion was seconded by Council member Zane Fowler. Mayor Nolen called for a roll call vote, Mayor Wendel Nolen – Yea, Council members Melissa Clements – Yea, Ted Thompson – Abstained, Zane Fowler – Yea, Paul Fondren – Yea and Ron Adams – Yea. The motion was passed with the majority vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Sylvia Williams stated 104 Burch Street, streetlight still doesn't work.

Mr. Bobby Bailey stated concerns about homeless people in the city and wants an ordinance for this matter.

Ms. Marilyn Harris stated 9th Street and Commerce Street has a lot of holes that need to be addressed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Council member Melissa Clements made a motion for Council member Ron Adams to take the minutes for tonight's meeting. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was passed with the majority vote Mayor Nolen, Council members Melissa Clements, Ted Thompson, Zane Fowler, Paul Fondren all voted Yea; Council member Ron Adams abstained. It was agreed upon that the minute recording would be shared among the Council members. Council member Melissa Clements voiced her concern over the Fire and Resue department getting too much overtime.

Council member Ted Thompson echoed Mr. Bobby Bailey's homeless ordnance and stated he wants the Council to discuss ordnances by working on one or two. Council member Ted Thompson is concerned about lawn overgrowth. Council member Ted Thompson stated we need to be more proactive concerning grants.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Assistant Chief John Burton explained to Council member Melissa Clements that Fire and Resue is trying their best to hire new employees.

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