

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 1, 2023**

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Wendel Nolan, Council members Ron Adams, Melissa Clements, Ted Thompson, Zane Fowler and Paul Fondren

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Fire and Rescue Chief Phillip Herring, Police Chief Annie Ward, City Magistrate Vernon Alford 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 APRIL 17, 2023 MEETING-** Council member Zane Fowler noticed a discrepancy in the minutes. In approving Janie Fondren to take the minutes of the council meetings, Council member Zane Fowler had been incorrectly identified as the person who made the second. It was Council Member Ted Thompson who made the second on the motion. To make that correction, Council Member Fowler made the motion to approve the minutes. Ron Adams made the second on the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Council Member Fowler made the motion to approve the minutes. Ron Adams made the second on the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**APPROVED AMENDING THE AGENDA –** Mayor Nolen explained to the council that the agenda had to be amended to add Public Comments back. He explained that, since it was listed in an ordinance for the city, Public Comments needed to be added due to being advised by the League of Municipalities. Council Member Paul Fondren made the motion. Council Member Zane Fowler made the second to the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF CORRECTING THE MATCHING FUNDS FOR SENIOR CENTER VAN PURCHASE –** Mayor Nolen informed the council that he had incorrectly identified the Senior Center account as the account from which the matching funds for the new Senior Center van would come. These funds need to come from the General Fund, instead. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion to approve the matching funds for the Senior Center Van. Council member Ron Adams provided the second to the motion. The motion was approved, with Council member Clements abstaining.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH PARSONS AND ASSOCIATES –** Mayor Nolen brought before the council the need to contract with Parsons and Associates, a CPA

firm which specializes in municipalities accounting. He stated that this is needed to help straighten out the city's financial records. He said that the length of time of the contract has not been specified but warned that this will still be needed for some time after a new city clerk has been hired. Council Member Ron Adams questioned from where funding for this contract will come. He suggested that the clerk's salary which is not being used currently may help offset the expense, along with use of the line of credit. Council Member Melissa Clements asked if a line item in the budget will have to be amended. Mayor Nolen said yes. Council Member Ted Thompson asked how long this service will be needed. Mayor Nolen said it will depend on when a city clerk can be hired and that clerk coming on board. Council Member Ron Adams asked if the services can be evaluated month to month. Mayor Nolen said it is hard to determine what can be done until everything is caught up. He explained that the city accounts are behind by several months with bills not being paid. He said that this service is a necessity. Council Member Ron Adams made a motion to approve this contract. Council Member Paul Fondren gave the second. Mayor Nolen called for a roll call vote with him voting yes. Council Members Melissa Clements and Ted Thompson abstained. Council Member Zane Fowler voted yes. Council Member Paul Fondren voted yes. Council Member Ron Adams voted yes. The motion was approved.

**COMMENTS FROM JOSHUA THURSTON** - Joshua Thurston with Rapid Wireless addressed his invoices to the city for services rendered. He questioned the city's policy of nonpayment of utility bills and compared his invoices to the city's policy. Mayor Nolen told Mr. Thurston that his payment has been mailed.

**COMMENTS FROM JEANNA BRANNON** - Jeanna Brannon was listed on the agenda as per her request. However, she was not present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** -Mr. Bobby Bailey asked if the city is broke. Mayor Nolen assured him that it was not.

Ms. Jo Robinson asked about getting trash pickup on a house that she had demolished. Mayor Nolen asked her if she paid a contractor to demolish the house and she said that she did. He explained that the city does not pick up that type of trash, especially if she had a contractor to demolish the house. She asked about the price the city charges for dumpsters. Mayor Nolen explained that the city does not rent out dumpsters. Ms. Robinson said that she was told by an Amber at Hartford that they had dumpsters. Mayor Nolen assured her that the city does not do a dumpster service.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Council member Melissa Clements said she is happy to have Public Comments back on the agenda. Also, she said a Mother-Son dance will be held at the Johnny Hughes Community Center later this month.

Council member Ted Thompson said that the city needs some new ordinances in regard to garbage pick to help the residents. He said new ordinances will help in the beatification of the city.

There were no other remarks by any of the council members.

**COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS –**

There were no comments by department heads.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Mayor Nolan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion which was seconded by Council member Ron Adams. The vote was unanimous in approving the adjournment.

 \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Officer