

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 15, 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 Assistant Chief John Burton, 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-** Council member Ted Thompson led the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 1, 2023 MEETING-** Council member Clements noted that she abstained on the vote of the change in the money for the Senior Center van coming from the General Fund. Also, she stated that her name was misspelled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page. A motion was made to correct these issues by Council member Clements. A second was provided by Council member Adams. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT** -Mayor Nolen said that he had received the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual report. Council member Clements asked to view the report. Mayor Nolen gave it to her. She looked through it then passed it to Council member Thompson. The report circulated throughout all the council. Council member Thompson asked about the report being made available to the citizens. Mayor Nolen explained that the report is printed in the local newspaper every year and will be made available to citizens in that format. A motion to approve the report was made by Council member Fondren. A second was given by Zane Fowler. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESCUE SQUAD'S WORK SCHEDULE TO OVERTIME AFTER 40 HOURS** -Assistant Chief Burton addressed the council and requested for the Rescue Squad to a work schedule of overtime after 40 hours accrued as opposed to the system under the 7K program. Council member Ron Adams added that he had received information from Chief Herring which determined that our rescue squad did not qualify for the 7K program. Assistant Chief Burton concurred. Council member Ron Adams made the motion to change the rescue squad back to a work schedule of overtime after 40 hours accrued. Council member Fondren made the second. Council member Thompson abstained, and Council member Clements voted against the motion. All others voted in approving the motion. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF LINE OF CREDIT EXPENSES-** Mayor Nolen asked the council to approve 2 expenditures for the line of credit. The first was a pump (\$7039.50) which is line item #03-5200-0335. The second was a Well Diagnostic (\$8000) which was line item #03-5300-0335.

The motion to approve these expenditures from the line of credit was made by Council member Fondren. Council member Fowler offered the second. Council member Clements voted against the motion with all others in favor. The motion carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF JESSE QUILLEN, WIREGRASS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-** Mayor Nolen introduced Jesse Quillen of the Wiregrass Economic Development. Mr. Quillen extended an offer of help from Wiregrass Economic Development to the council.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** -Mr. Bobby Bailey came forward and said he understands that the city is having financial issues and encouraged the council to be straight with the citizens.

A resident at 218 Hillcrest stated that she is having issues with animals in her yard, such as pigs, chickens and goats. None of these animals belong to her.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Mayor Nolen said he was happy to announce that the sewer project is coming to completion.

Council member Melissa Clements offered congratulations to the GCHS Graduates of 2023. Next, she asked about a trailer in her district which had graffiti on it. Police Chief Ward said that this was done by the homeowner who went through the legal process of evicting the resident. She added that the resident is now in a drug treatment program. Council member Clements asked Mayor Nolen about an update on the smart meters. She asked about the status of the contract on the sim cards needed for the smart meters. Mayor Nolen said that he will have to check on that.

Council member Ted Thompson said that the zoning board will be meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. He invited the council to be present. He said that a nuisance ordinance is needed. Next, Council member Thompson asked about the search for a city attorney. He expressed concerns about meeting without an attorney present.

Council member Ron Adams commended the utility crew and police department on the handling of a power outage on the previous Saturday night. He said it was well handled and power was quickly restored.

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

**COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS –**

Police Chief Annie Ward said that her department is getting more and more complaints about dogs. She asked for the council to consider a leash ordinance.

There were no comments by department heads.

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

  
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Presiding Officer