

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

APRIL 17, 2023

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

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

OTHERS IF ATTENDANCE: Fire and Rescue Chief Phillip Herring, Police Chief Annie Ward, City Magistrate Vernon Alford, Public Works Supervisor 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Council member Clements stated that she had researched the issue of who takes the minutes of the meeting if the city clerk position is vacant. She cited the League of Municipalities regulations. She made a motion to allow Jane Fondren, current Community Events coordinator for the city, to take the minutes. Council member Ted Thompson provided the second to the motion. The motion passed with approval from all except for Council member Paul Fondren who abstained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 4/3/23 MEETING - The council reviewed the minutes from the April 3, 2023, meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion to approve the minutes. Council member Zane Fowler provided the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 4/10/23 MEETING - The council reviewed the minutes from the special called April 10, 2023, meeting. Council member Ron Adams made the motion to approve the minutes. Council member Zane Fowler provided the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion.

APPROVAL OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR SENIOR CENTER VAN PURCHASE – Mayor Nolen informed the council of the need for matching funds for the pending purchase of a van for the Senior Center. Council member Adams asked about the account from which the funds will come if approved. Mayor Nolen said the funds will come from the Senior Center account. Council member Ron Adams made the motion to approve the matching funds for the Senior Center Van. Council member Zane Fowler provided the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion.

APPROVAL OF REMOVAL OF FORMER MAYOR AND FORMER CITY CLERK TO CITY ACCOUNTS – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to remove Neil Strickland and Leah Jenson from the city banking accounts. The motion received a

second by Council member Zane Fowler. The vote was unanimous in approval for the motion.

APPROVAL TO OPT OUT OF SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF AND REVITALIZATION ACT - Mayor Nolen directed the council to look in their packets for information of the need to opt out of the Small Business Relief and Revitalization Act. The city will receive funds from the county by opting out. Council member Zane Fowler made the motion to opt out of the Small Business Relief and Revitalization act. Council member Ron Adams provided the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion except for Council member Clements who abstained.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Council member Melissa Clements raised a question about who was on the city accounts and able to sign checks. She indicated that Clerk Jackie Dillard is not comfortable signing checks that may fall outside the line and scope of her position as payroll clerk. Also, Council member Clements said she is not in agreement with not having Public Comments on the City Council meeting agenda. Mayor Nolen said that, until such time as a city lawyer is hired and present at the meetings, he has been advised by the League of Municipalities to forgo public comments at the council meetings.

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

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS – Fire and Rescue Chief Phillip Herring indicated that he has lost a few employees due to current pay and lack of ability for his department to schedule overtime. He said he just wanted to make the council aware.

Police Chief Annie Ward asked the council for approval to close the section of 3rd Avenue that borders the town square and First National Bank on Friday May 12th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of the Geneva County High School Band's Spring Concert. The street will be reopened at the conclusion of the concert. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion to approve this matter. Council member Zane Fowler provided the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous in approving the motion.

There were no other comments by department heads.

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



Presiding Officer