

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 6, 2023

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

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Neil Strickland, Councilmember Melissa Clements, Councilmember Ted Thompson, Councilmember Zane Fowler, Councilmember Paul Fondren, Councilmember Ron Adams

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Phillip Herring, Nick Holley, Jeffery Hatcher, Annie Ward, Vernon Alford, Leah Jensen

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Strickland

START TIME: 6:00pm

PRAYER AND PLEDGE: Councilmember Fondren

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2023- A motion was made by Councilmember Fondren to table the minutes from February 21, 2023, to correct the motion made to award the bid for Well #2 repairs based on Ronnie Driskell's recommendation, and to pay for the repairs from the Wastewater fund. The motion to table was seconded by Councilmember Adams. All were in favor thereof.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES- Mr. Hatcher informed the Council that they should approve expenditures every month. It is their duty to verify the expenditures are made according to statute. Mr. Hatcher also advised the city clerk to resign if the Council refuses to approve the expenditures of the city. The mayor and the clerk's job are to write checks and they need their expenditures approved. It is the law. A motion was made by Councilmember Clements to table the approval of the expenditures until it can be looked into further. The motion to table was seconded by Councilmember Thompson. All were in favor thereof.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Citizen has concerns about the placement of the American flag in the courtroom. He believes that it is on the wrong side. Mr. Alford will look into it.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Jeanna Brannon offered her concerns about the utility department and associated projects and also expressed her desire to have the city take over the live streaming of the council meetings.

B. Jeffery Hatcher increased the amounts of the bid law limits to be in line with the state bid law but did not change the process and procedure set forth in the purchase

order policy. The council was asked to consider having a work session to discuss the purchase order policy. They elected to check their schedule.

C. Mayor gave an update on the potential cost overruns of the smart meter upgrades. City clerk informed the council what the cost of the addition of the SIM cards will be and presented a copy of the agreement from Tantalus for the use of the SIM cards. Mr. Hatcher offered that there needs to be more clarity on the complete costs of this project and the council cannot sign the agreement with Tantalus for the use of SIM cards because the agreement would bind the city to regulations that would directly oppose state statute.

NEW BUSINESS

A. OPEN SEALED BIDS FOR UTILITY VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT NO LONGER NEEDED.

- a. Two bids were opened for the 2007 Ford Pick-Up, VIN # ending in 34319. 1. Greenwood at \$1,200.00 2. Gibson at \$1,001.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to award the bid to Greenwood for \$1,200.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Thompson. All were in favor thereof.
- b. Three bids were opened for the 2004 Ford Pick-Up, VIN # ending in 03682. 1. Lisenby at \$700.00. 2. Tingle at \$500.00. 3. Gibson at \$1,501.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson to award the bid to Gibson at \$1501.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams. All were in favor thereof.
- c. Three bids were opened for the 2001 Ford Pick-Up, VIN # ending in 48831. 1. Lisenby at \$800.00. 2. Tingle at \$500.00. 3. Gibson at \$1,501.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to award the bid to Gibson at \$1,501.00 The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fondren. All were in favor thereof.
- d. Four bids were opened for a bush hog. Serial No.806602. 1. Sasser at \$700.00. 2. Leavens at \$1,060.00. 3. Hudson at \$3,000.00. Peterson at \$2,750.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Clements to award the bid to Hudson for \$3,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Thompson. All were in favor thereof.

B. APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF HARTFORD'S MILLAGE RATE FOR CURRENT YEAR 2023- A motion was made by Councilmember Fondren to stay with the same 6.8% rate for the year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Adams. All were in favor thereof.

C. BRIAN SMITH, GENEVA COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR-Gave an update on the sirens in Hartford. They were donated to Hartford many years ago by Fort Rucker. They are obsolete. Therefore, no replacement parts can be purchased. The county has a program called "Hyper Reach" that everyone can sign up to receive phone call or text alerts to receive warnings before

inclement weather. You can register a land line as well. The alerts come from the National Weather Service.

- D. **RESOLUTION FOR THE CONDITIONAL ALLOCATION FO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORT SERVICES PROGRAM-** the resolution was presented to the Council for their inspection. They thought it a good idea for the mayor speak with the other mayors in the county about the impacts of the resolution.
- E. **DISCUSS THE COUNTY PURCHASING A LOT AT THE INDUSTRIAL PARK.** Mr. Hatcher suggest that there be more research done and it took requesting an Attorney General's opinion to purchase the property years ago from the county.
- F. **APPROVAL OF THE WHOLESALE POWER VENDOR FOR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 2024-** Mayor discussed the two quotes proposed to the city for the cost of electricity. The council wants to read the proposals and speak with Stewart Engineering regarding the process of obtaining proposals before making a decision.
- G. **TODD WALZ, ENTECH-** discussed what services are provided to the city and what they have done so far. He provided the council with a packet.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

-Mayor thanked the police department for the protection during the Winston Howell 5K race.

-Councilmember Thompson was approached by a citizen living on 3rd Avenue whose water was red. Mayor said he sent Marty out there to check on it but would contact him again to check on it.

-Councilmember Adams echoed what the mayor said regarding the Winston Howell race over the weekend. The police were vigilant in dealing with problems.

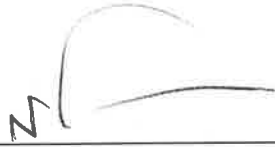
DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

-Nick Holley expresses his concerns with not updating the recreation park. It has been neglected and wants to know when the city can bring improvements to the park.

-Phillip Herring explains that the fire department needs a two acre track for fire training. The track can be used for other things at any time in the year, but the council needs to designate a specific two acre track for this training.

-Attorney Jeff Hatcher suggest that the repairs to be done on Well #2 cannot be paid for from Wastewater funds. It would be a violation of the ordinance implementing the wastewater impact fee. Councilmember Adams made a motion to make a lateral transfer of \$63,150.00 from the Wastewater funds to reimburse the line of credit funds for the Slocomb Road lift station project. And to pay for the repairs for Well #2 from the line of credit funds in the amount of \$63,150.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fondren. All were in favor thereof.

ADJOURNMENT-The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Fowler which was seconded by Councilmember Thompson. All were in favor thereof. The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a large, sweeping arch and a horizontal line.

Presiding Officer