

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DECEMBER 4, 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:** Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke, Utility Superintendent Jerry Sorrells, and Chief Mark Shehee. See Attachment for others present.

**CALL TO ORDER-** The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE-** Councilmember Paul Fondren led the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2023** – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Ted Thompson made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2023** – Mayor Wendel Nolen stated that a correction needed to be made to change the wording in the minutes for the “emergency meeting” to “special called” meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Council member Zane Fowler made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** –Mr. Darryl Terry made comments about how there are cones in the roadways where road work had been done and he was appreciative of that. He also stated that on Alvin Ave they were working on the road and there were not cones to mark the area. He commented that the trash workers last week were working and had on their safety vests, but underneath their jackets.

**COMMENTS FROM JEANNA BRANNON** – Jeanna Brannon addressed the transparency and financial status of the city. She gave suggestions on various ways the city needs to handle the proposed grant and the project management.

**COMMENTS FROM MAYOR WENDEL NOLEN** – Mayor Nolen asked to amend the agenda and add (5) the purchase of CT and PT Meters from MEAG and (6) the purchase of the substation meters. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to

amend the agenda and add the item. Council member Ron Adams made a second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**SWEAR IN CITY CLERK-** Mayor Nolen swore in Melissa Rosser as City Clerk.

**LIBRARY BOARD-** Mayor Nolen read the request for Julia Todd's term on the library board be renewed through December 31, 2027. Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to renew the term. Council member Paul Fondren seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**STREET SWEEPER LEASE-** Mayor Nolen explained that the street sweeper was on a lease for 3 years and was up for renewal. He suggested that we renew the lease and instead of yearly payments, that we go with the monthly installments. Council member Ron Adams made a motion to accept the lease agreement. Council member Paul Fondren seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Purchase of the CTS & PTS from MEAG-** Mayor Wendel Nolen stated that we need to purchase the CTs and PTs from MEAG. Mayor Nolen stated that this was per the advice of Stewart Engineering, INC. He asked Jerry Sorrells to explain to the council the functions of the CTs and PTs. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to purchase the CTs and PTs from MEAG. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

**SUBSTATION METERS-** Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to pay for the substation meters. The cost is \$24,919.00. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to pay for the meters. Council member Ron Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Mayor Wendel Nolen stated that the City's Christmas luncheon would be on December 15, 2023 at the Community Center. He hopes to see everyone there. He would like to thank everyone that came out for Annie Ward's ceremony and commented that the turn out was great.

Council member Melissa Clements wants to thank businesses and citizens who contributed to Annie's retirement party. She hates that Hometown Holiday was cancelled. She requested that the council go into an executive session to discuss the good name and character of a city employee.

Council member Ted Thompson asked for an update on the status of the ongoing project on the sewer system. Jerry Sorrells stated that it was being worked on and that we should be nearing the end soon.

Council member Ron Adams wants to thank Janie Fondren for all of her hard work for organizing and planning Hometown Holiday. He wants to thank Melissa and Zach for their help with Annie's retirement party.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS** – Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke gave report of 454 calls, 86 tickets written, 26 reports and 10 warrants issued for the month. Zac stated that First Assembly Church of God was having a gathering and asked that the

police department block off the road between Burch Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue on December 10 from 4-6pm. Council member Paul Fondren made the motion. Council member Melissa Clements seconded the motion. Motion carried. Interim Zac also reminded everyone that the police department still had appx 50 angels left on their angel tree to be adopted for Christmas and that December 18 was the deadline for those.

Fire Chief Mark Shehee reported that the department has hired 3 part time employees and has 3 new volunteers. He reported 18 fire calls, and 145 EMS calls last month.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Council member Melissa Clements made a motion that the council go into executive session. A second was made by Paul Fondren. NO action was taken in the executive session. NO votes were taken in the executive session. A motion was made by Paul Fondren to leave the executive session. A second was made by Zane Fowler.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Ted Thompson made the motion which was seconded by Council member Ron Adams. The motion was passed unanimously.



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Presiding Officer