

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023

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

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Wendel Nolen, Councilmembers Melissa Clements, Ted Thompson, 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 DECEMBER 4, 2023 – Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve the minutes. Council member Ron Adams made the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

CITY CLERK REPORT- City Clerk Melissa Rosser gave report that the financials for the city are up to date as of November 31, 2023. Melissa stated that there was a need to purchase an additional module for the Cougar Mountain software that was not originally purchased. The AR software will allow us to do receipting through the program instead of having paper receipts. The Cougar Mountain software installation and conversion has been initiated and is in progress. This will take several months to complete but will hopefully be live by April 1, 2024. Vicky and Melissa have also begun some budget preparations and will update as progress is made.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –No comments.

WAIVING WAITING PERIOD FOR MELISSA ROSSER'S HEALTH INSURANCE- Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to wave the waiting period for the insurance. Council member Ted Thompson made a second to the motion. Motion passed.

RONNIE DRISKEL- \$2.9 ADEM GRANT- Ronnie Driskell gave notice that he had received some information regarding the grant that was discussed in the previous meeting. He stated that the funding for the grant was no longer going to require the city to front the funds for reimbursement, and that the funds would be drawn from an

account set up for the grant. He informed the council that it was important that we begin the application process for the grant to meet deadlines. Council member Ron Adams asked if by completing the application process, does this bind us in any way to accepting the grant. Ronnie stated that it did not. It is simply a process that we have to go through in order to be approved for the grant. There are stipulations that still have to be met in order to execute the funding. He stated that ADEM will begin their processing for the funding once the application is submitted. Council member Ron Adams made a motion that we proceed with the application process for the ADEM grant. Council member Paul Fondren seconded the motion. Mayor Nolen called for a roll call vote. Melissa Clements- yes Ted Thompson- yes. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

RONNIE DRISKELL- FUNDING FOR MOVING UTILITIES FOR HWY 52 PROJECT- Ronnie Driskell stated that DOT is deeming the city responsible for the cost of moving the utilities off the right of way for the project to be done. He stated that this could cost over one million dollars for the city to be able to move everything that would need to be moved. He informed the council that the city will apply for pauper status, and this will allow us to receive funding to move the utilities. More updates will come as available.

MEETING DATE CHANGES FOR JANUARY- Mayor Wendel Nolen stated that we need to change the meeting dates for January due to holidays. He stated that the meeting for January 1st (New Years) needs to be moved to January 2nd and the meeting scheduled for January 15th will need to be moved the January 16th. Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to move the dates of the January council meetings. Council member Ted Thompson made a second to the motion. Motion passed. No discussion.

SEALED CD BIDS- Mayor Nolen opened the sealed bids for the CD's. Friend Bank- 6/mo 5.5% - First National 6/mo 5.6% Council member Ron Adams made a motion that we accept First National's bid at 5.6%. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

COUGAR MOUNTAIN AR MODULE PURCHASE- Mayor Nolen asked that the council approve the city to purchase an accounts receivable module for the new accounting software program. Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to purchase the additional module. Council member Ron Adams made a second. Motion passed. No discussion.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR WENDEL NOLEN – Mayor Nolen informed the council that Jessie Quillen with Wiregrass Economic Development requested a work session in the month of January. Council members agreed that January 11 at 6pm would be a good date. Mayor Nolen will contact Mr.Quillen and advise. Mayor Nolen wanted to thank everyone for their help with the city lunch and he is looking forward to the new year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Council member Melissa Clements would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Council member Ted Thompson would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He asked that the council agree to discuss some ordinances that need to be addressed in the work session that will be scheduled.

Council member Ron Adams wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated that he is looking forward to the new year with all the new things and people that we have on board. He would like to say that the Christmas lunch was a success and he appreciated everyone's help.

Council member Paul Fondren would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas to everyone and looking forward to 2024.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke asked that the council approve an exception for an employee who is still within the probation period to be able to use 12 hours of his PTO time for a shift that he missed due to sickness. Council member Melissa Clements made a motion to allow this employee to use his PTO time. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Zac stated that the angel tree deliveries would be made the following day and that they had a good turnout. The angel tree was able to give 156 kids Christmas. He appreciates everyone that helped.

Jerry Sorrels would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Fire Chief Mark Shehee reported that they have had a large increase of calls. He said that the rescue will be sponsoring the Winston Howell 5K Race on March 2, 2024. He would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

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



Presiding Officer