

**MINUTES
CITY OF HARTFORD
APRIL 4, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Hartford, Alabama, met in the conference room in city hall at 6:00 pm on April 4, 2022. The following members were present: Mayor Neil Strickland, Councilwoman Melissa Clements, Councilman Ted Thompson, Councilman Zane Fowler, Councilman Paul Blount, and Councilman Ron Adams.

Others in attendance: Vicky Marsh, Jerry Sorrells, Chief Annie Ward, Vernon Alford, Jackie Dillard, Rich Brannon, Jo Brannon, Anabelle Ricardo, Jimmy Bottoms, Chief Phillip Herring, Brandon Watford, Kim Curenton, William Gibbs, Jeff Hatcher, Allen Langford, and Hayden Blount.

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order, and Councilman Adams opened with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MARCH 21, 2022, Minutes – Motion to approve by Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Fowler. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- William Gibbs requested issue with lawn mowers and minibikes be addressed again. Chief Ward will get with Mr. Gibbs to find out who was on minibike and talk with them.
- Jimmy Bottoms said city cemetery was a disgrace. May need to change the way round up is being sprayed.

AGENDA:

1. **JACOB HOLMES – POLY INC.** – Mr. Holmes was unable to attend but will be at April 18th meeting.
2. **ORDINANCE 03-21-22 – RESONE TATE PROPERTY SECOND READING** – Moved from agenda item #4 to agenda item #2. Councilman Adams made a motion to adopt ordinance 03-21-22, which motion was seconded by Mayor Strickland. The vote was recorded as follows: Mayor Strickland yea, Councilwoman Clements yea, Councilman Thompson yea, Councilman Fowler yea, Councilman Blount abstained, and Councilman Adams yea. Mayor Strickland declared the motion carried.
3. **APPOINT MEMBERS TO PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS** – Councilwoman Clements made a motion to appoint Rich Brannon to the planning commission and Alfreda Hilliard to the board of adjustments, which motion was seconded by Councilman Blount. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.
4. **AVENU INSIGHTS CONTRACT RENEWAL** – Mr. Hatcher stated paragraph 8 needs to be removed before signing. Councilman Fowler made a motion to renew contract with Avenu and give Mayor Strickland authority to sign contract with changes, which motion was seconded by Councilman Blount. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Strickland

- Alabama One is interested in talking to employees about bank services they offer. Mr. Hatcher stated they could not meet in city facility but could meet off sight and on employee's time.
- Winston Howell Race made \$1152.00.
- Ronnie Driskell has submitted applications for SRF Loans.
- Status on armory. Mr. Weeks contacted Councilman Adams to see if city was still interested in purchasing property. Councilman Adams drafted new letter and re-submitted to Mr. Weeks.
- Update on landfill. Three to four weeks out to do soil boing and surveying.
- Shirley Sorrells contacted him about donating property next to Dundee Building to city if city is interested.
- Warren Beck Youth Leadership and Wiregrass Electric Operation Round Up charitable golf tournaments looking for city to contribute. Mr. Hatcher stated city can not contribute but council could contribute personally.

Councilwoman Clements

- Earl Scott property on Highway 123 has been sold and new owners are cleaning property up.

Councilman Thompson

- Asked if project on Railroad Avenue is still on schedule. Jerry replied it was.

Councilman Adams

- Brought copy of letter that was submitted to Mr. Weeks about purchase of armory.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Chief Phillip Herring

- Application for \$10,000 from the state was approved and should receive funding information in the next few weeks.
- Contacted Mr. Hatcher about fire billing. Mr. Hatcher stated city will have to pass a resolution to do fire billing.
- Sent Mayor Strickland a document last week on county runs. No way to tell if runs are in city limits or in county. Pulled logbooks from October, November, December, and January money billed for outside city limits was \$25,939.29 but no way to tell how much profit was.

Vicky Marsh

- Town of Taylor sent invitation to Taylor Made Festival this Saturday. If interested in going call to let them know and name will be put on dignitary list.
- Talked to Mayor about replacing computers. We don't have any money and I hate to ask but we need new computers. General Fund is below 100,000 and utility fund is below 200,000. The finances are not good, but we have got to have new computers. It takes my computer at least 20 minutes to come up before I can log in. We did have issues after Entech came in, it slowed them down a lot. We had to call them every day the first week they came and added their software and we had to call every day last week except Monday and Friday. We could not get into our software programs until 10:00 am or 11:00 am. One reason they are so slow is because they are old so if we have to borrow money, we have got to have computers. Councilman Blount asked if Entech could do the server for us. I told him we must bid it out Entech is only doing the IT. They are supposed to be getting me a list of specs for the computers. Councilman Adams asked

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me how much we have budgeted for the computers. I said I think we have around 30,000 but going from \$400 per month to 3,000 per month will eat up all the budget.

- City may have to change utility billing company when Jerry gets smart meters. Not sure ETA will be able to support smart meters.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Thompson. Motion carried.



Presiding Officer