

**MINUTES
CITY OF HARTFORD
May 19, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Hartford, Alabama, met in the conference room in city hall at 6:00 pm on May 19, 2022. The following members were present: Mayor Neil Strickland, Councilwoman Melissa Clements, Councilman Ted Thompson, Councilman Zane Fowler, and Councilman Ron Adams.

Others in attendance: Vicky Marsh, Jerry Sorrells, Chief Annie Ward, Vernon Alford, Jackie Dillard, Anabelle Ricardo, Brandon Watford, Jeff Hatcher, Wendy Strickland, Kim Curenton, Rich Brannon, Jo Brannon, Zac Cooke, Paul Blount, Wendel Nolen, Heather Bradshaw, Collier Bradshaw, Phillip Herring, Donnie Adkinson, Gloria Graddy, Darren Batchelor, Allen Langford, Lindsay Langford, Darrell Terry, Wanda Dorriety, Dennis Dorriety, Terry Jackson, Sandy Dalton, Susan Bailey, Rickey Stokes News, Khris Ballard, Sylvia Williams and Alfreda Hilliard.

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

MAY 2, 2022, Minutes – Motion to approve by Councilman Fowler, seconded by Councilman Adams. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

●Darrell Terry - I live on Azalea; I have noticed police cars sitting over there for months and months. Does city have its own gas tank to fill city vehicles? Jerry Sorrells stated no. Some streets have blue reflectors for fire hydrants, noticed only on one street. I think both corners should have them where the fire hydrants are. Two and a half years ago I spoke with three different individuals on city council about getting sign from Slocomb trimmed. It is a beautiful sign, but you cannot see it. Some streets need paving they are pretty bad. Last meeting it was mentioned that about \$600,000 plus was being paid to Taylor to come in and put-up power poles, why could not city do it. Public comments should be at the end not at the beginning because once you go through agenda, we have no recourse to speak until the next meeting. Inquired about having an electrical box put on shed and was told it would be a \$125.00 deposit. Granted I have only lived here about two and a half years, but I have never been late, always pay early and pay more. Individual should not have to pay another deposit to have a second meter. Some corners in town you have to pull out in street to be able to see because of trees or bushes.

●Kim Curenton - Back when I quit was the job description for the Johnny Hughes Community Center Director changed? Mayor replied no. Was the person hired required to sit at the Johnny Hughes Community Center for a couple of hours a day? No because she was still teaching. Is the new director booking events? No Khris is booking the events. Calendar is at city hall.

AGENDA:

- 1. FILL DISTRICT 4 SEAT VACANCY** – Councilman Thompson made a motion to set a work session as soon as possible, to discuss candidates, which motion was seconded by

May 19, 2022

Councilwoman Clements. Roll call Mayor Strickland nay, Councilwoman Clements yea, Councilman Thompson yea, Councilman Fowler nay, and Councilman Adams nay. Councilwoman Clements made a motion to appoint Rich Brannon to fill District 4 seat. Motion died for lack of second. Councilman Thompson made a motion to appoint Heather Bradshaw to fill District 4 seat, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Clements. Roll call Mayor Strickland nay, Councilwoman Clements yea, Councilman Thompson yea, Councilman Fowler nay, and Councilman Adams nay. Councilman Fowler made a motion to appoint Paul Fondren to fill District 4 seat, which motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. Roll call Mayor Strickland yea, Councilwoman Clements nay, Councilman Thompson abstained, Councilman Fowler yea, and Councilman Adams yea. Motion passed.

2. **UTILITY RATE INCREASE RECOMMENDATION-** Jerry Sorrells talked about proposed rate increase for electric, water and sewer. He also stated that the wholesale power cost will increase 6%.
3. **AUTHORITY TO SIGN MEAG CONTRACT** – Councilman Fowler made a motion to give Mayor Strickland authority to sign MEAG contract, which motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.
4. **MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION RESOLUTION** – Councilwoman Melissa Clements made a motion to adopt Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.
5. **INTERIM RECREATION DIRECTOR** – Councilman Fowler made a motion to appoint Micah Turner interim recreation director at \$15.00 an hour and Mayor to limit his hours to 19 per week, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Clements. Roll call Mayor yea, Councilwoman Clements yea, Councilman Thompson yea, Councilman Fowler yea, and Councilman Adams abstained. Motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

•Councilman Thompson

- City wide clean up again for the month of June. Put a dumpster on city property and have it open to the public.
- Asked Chief Ward can we abate propane area? Mr. Hatcher suggested write him a nuisance summons and have property owner come to court.
- Asked Jerry about traffic cones in district two around the potholes. Jerry stated they are working on them.

Councilman Fowler

- Councilman Fowler made a motion to go into executive session after the regular meeting, to discuss someone's good name and character, which motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. Roll call Mayor Strickland yea, Councilwoman Clements yea, Councilman Thompson yea, Councilman Fowler yea, and Councilman Adams yea. Motion passed

Wanda Dorriety

- Discussed grant to get senior center a new transit van. It will be 80/20 funding. City paying 20% of the grant. Estimated cost is \$65,000.00. Mayor Strickland made a motion to apply for grant through Regional Planning, which motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

May 19, 2022

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Vicky Marsh

- Presented mayor and council with her letter of retirement with her last day being June 30, 2022.

Council went into executive session at 7:30 p.m. No minutes are recorded in executive session. Councilman Fowler made a motion to return to regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. The council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilwoman Clements. Motion carried.



Presiding Officer