

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Hartford, Alabama

October 3, 2022

Attendance: Mayor, Neil Strickland; Councilman, Ted Thompson; Councilman Zane Fowler; Councilman Paul Fondren; Councilman Ron Adams; Councilwoman, Melissa Clements

Others in Attendance: Leah Jensen, Jeffery Hatcher, Jerry Sorrells, Nick Holley, Ronnie Driskell, Vernon Alford, Chief Annie Ward. See attached list.

Call to order: Mayor, Neil Strickland

Prayer: Councilman, Paul Fondren

Mayor, Neil Strickland gives a reminder that public comments will be limited to three minutes and the time limit for prior requests to be on the agenda will be limited to five minutes.

Approval of September 6, 2022, minutes: Councilwoman, Melissa Clements makes a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman, Ted Thompson seconds the motion. All are in favor thereof.

Approval of September 8, 2022, work session minutes: Councilman, Paul Fondren makes a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman, Ron Adams seconds the motion. All are in favor thereof.

Approval of September 19, 2022, minutes: Councilman, Ted Thompson makes a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman, Ron Adams seconds the motion. All are in favor thereof.

Agenda:

1. Jeanna Brannon: States that the surplus in the budget is a burden on the people and including the line of credit funds along with other CD's, is a lot for emergencies and does not approve of the unrestricted funds at the hands of the council. She mentions that she still has not seen a copy of the GIS mapping contract and there are discrepancies in the sewer outfall project and would like new numbers to be presented to the public. She would like to talk about best practices for the city. And makes mention of the new procedure to request to review information.
2. Justin Brock: Would like to see the city diversify its funds such as food truck and beer festivals and vending machines. Believes that citizens don't get involved in city business until something goes wrong.
3. Donny Adkinson: Offers praises to the city deeming it good. And offered his respects to the mayor and council positions. Mentions how his job directly relates to that of the law enforcement and acknowledged Chief Annie Wards unmatched efforts. Asks the council to amend the budget to incorporate a new officer.

Mayor approaches the council to consider amending the budget to include a new officer and patrol car when needed, as she requests it.

Councilwoman, Melissa Clements makes a motion to table amending the budget to include a new officer and patrol car. Councilman, Ted Thompson seconds the motion. All were in favor thereof.

The mayor has decided to donate a portion of his salary to the Police Department.

4. Jeffery Hatcher: ABC ask that we delay the approval of the alcohol ordinance due to some language change on their part.
5. Jerry Sorrells and Ronnie Driskell: Cost to replace the pump was grossly underestimated because old data was used in the calculation. The council would like to see what options the city has before we paid for an expensive band aid.

Mayor, Neil Strickland would like to have a town hall meeting within the next couple of weeks.

Council Comments

Councilwomen, Melissa Clements: There is money in the gas tax account that can pay for the street expenses that would free up about thirty-five thousand dollars. We could then reconsider the budget. Jeffery Hatcher noted that that gas tax money is restricted and can only be used for exactly what the law says it can.

Councilman, Ted Thompson: The council is dropping the ball on the ordinances. Wants to see this in a better position.

Councilman, Paul Fondren: Defined a "threat" and pointed out that there was an air tag found on a city utility vehicle. This tracking device didn't come with an explanation, and it is concerning for the safety of our workers and ask the citizens to step up and make calls and report any similar activity in the future.

Mayor, Neil Strickland: Any threats will be taken to the next level.

Councilman, Ron Adams: Thanks to the street crew that cleaned up Shiloh Road.

Adjournment:

Councilman, Paul Fondren made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion is seconded by Councilman, Ron Adams. All are in favor thereof.

