

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF HARTSELLE, ALABAMA
JULY 26, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Hartselle, Alabama, met in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, inside the Assembly Room at the Hartselle Municipal Building, located at 611 Chestnut Street NW. Council President Kenny Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Dwight Tankersley gave the invocation. Council Member Chuck Gill led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present for the meeting: Council President Kenny Thompson, Council Members Dwight Tankersley, Virginia Alexander, Chuck Gill and Ken Doss. City Attorney Larry Madison and City Clerk-Controller Rita S. Lee, who also acted as Secretary for the meeting, were present for the meeting. Mayor Randy Garrison was absent from the meeting. Having a quorum present, Council President Thompson declared the proceedings open for business.

Council President Thompson called for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Tankersley seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the first item on the agenda, Ordinance 1574, revisions to sign regulations of the zoning ordinance, and called on City Planner Jeremy Griffith to discuss with the Council. Mr. Griffith explained that, if adopted, it will make minor revisions to the sign regulations of the zoning ordinance in order to address several noted gray areas and potential conflicts. Specifically, the ordinance adds address lettering to the list of permit exempt signs, adds definitions for the terms “box area” and “menu sign,” clarifies that halo-lit channel lettering is permissible in certain locations where internally illuminated signs are otherwise prohibited, clarifies that menu signs are allowed at drive-thru lanes in addition to other permitted permanent signage, and removed content-specific sign language from the provisions of the MHR (Mobile Home Rental) zone. The Planning Commission recommended approval 5-0-1. Council President Thompson declared a public hearing open for comments. No comments were made. Council Member Tankersley motioned to close the public hearing; Council Member Doss seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Council Member Doss motioned to adopt Ordinance 1574; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the next item on the agenda, Resolution 22-0726, which would authorize retirees from the City to receive a one time increase and called on HR Administrator Melee Laney to discuss with the Council. Ms. Laney explained the City would agree to provide all funds necessary to the Employees’ Retirement System to cover the cost of the one-time lump sum payment as provided for the Act for those eligible retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the City with the lump sum payment being paid in October 2022. The estimated cost is \$28,508.00 to the City and must be paid to the Employee’s Retirement System by August 30, 2022. Council Member Doss motioned to approve Resolution 22-0726; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the next item on the agenda, Resolution 22-0726A, accept/reject construction bid for a fitness court, and called on Director of Development Jeff Johnson to discuss with the Council. Mr. Johnson explained the City received one bid from Engineered Installation Solutions LLC for \$25,000.00 for the installation of the previously approved fitness court to be located at Sparkman Park. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve Resolution 22-0726A to accept the bid as presented; Council Member Doss seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson asked Mr. Johnson to address the next item on the agenda, to approve funding increase in ATRIP II project. Mr. Johnson explained the City had received word from ALDOT that the latest estimate for the ATRIP II project (Hwy 31 Access Management) has increased by \$325,669.98. This project is set to bid by ALDOT the third week in August and they would like to know if the City is still willing to go forward based on this updated estimate. The City will be responsible for paying any overruns in excess of \$1,519,381.00. Council Member Doss asked Mr. Johnson several questions about the delay on the project, but Mr. Johnson explained it was all under ALDOT's control. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve moving ahead with the project with the funding increase for ATRIP II project; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson asked Ms. Laney to address the next item on the agenda, to authorize Mayor to sign contract with Allied Universal for security at Municipal Building. Ms. Laney explained the contract was to provide armed security for the Municipal Building for an estimated 50 hours per week and also covering all meetings that required the building to be open to the public. The contract would be for three (3) years with a thirty (30) day cancellation clause for either party. She also stated the contract had been approved by City Attorney Madison who had asked for a few changes to be made by the company to his satisfaction. Council Member Gill asked about the liability coverage for the company, Mr. Madison addressed his concerns. Council Member Doss motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Allied Universal for security; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson asked Mr. Johnson to address the next item on the agenda, to consider budget transfer for Department of Development. Mr. Johnson explained he would like to make the following budget transfers: \$366.00 from Engineering Expense to Vehicles and \$1,000.00 from Engineering Expense to Office Supplies to cover shortages in both those line items. Council Member Doss motioned to approve the budget transfer for the Department of Development; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the last item on the agenda, request to approval the quarterly Safety Awards Winners. Mr. Griffith came forward to present the winners from each department. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve the Safety Award Winners as presented; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

At this time, Council President Thompson recognized Police Chief Justin Barley, who asked City Attorney Larry Madison to come forward to swear in new Police Officers Josh Boyd and Matthew Tucker. Chief Justin Barley then administered the Police Department oath of office as well and welcomed them to the force. Chief Barley announced Officer Luke Hogan had been recently promoted to Police Sergeant, he administered the police oath of office and asked Sergeant Hogan's wife to come forward to place the sergeant insignia on his uniform and congratulated him.

Council President Thompson asked for comments from the Mayor, Council Members or City Attorney. Council Members all congratulated Officers Boyd and Tucker and welcomed them to the force and recognized Sergeant Hogan for his promotion and thanked them all for their service. City Attorney Madison extended his congratulations as well as City Clerk-Controller Lee. No comments were made.

Council President Thompson asked for comments from the audience. No comments were made.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Kenny Thompson
Council President

ATTEST:

