

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF HARTSELLE, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Hartselle, Alabama, met in a regular session at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, inside the Council Chambers at the Hartselle Municipal Building. Council President Kenny Thompson called the meeting to order.

Larry Madison, City Attorney gave the invocation. Boy Scout Matthew Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present for the meeting: Council President Kenny Thompson, Council Members Chuck Gill and Virginia Alexander. Mayor Randy Garrison, City Attorney Larry Madison and City Clerk-Controller Rita S. Lee, who also acted as Secretary of the meeting. Council Member Dwight Tankersley and Ken Doss were 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, November 24, 2020. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the first item on the agenda, Resolution 20-1208, approve tax abatement for Joe Wheeler Membership Corporation through the Industrial Development Board of Decatur, and called on George Kitchens, General Manager Joe Wheeler to discuss it with the Council. Mr. Kitchens explained Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corporation has proposed to build and install a fiber optic system in the City of Hartselle to enhance the reliability and efficiency of its electric distribution system and to make fiber optic broadband communications available to the City and its residents through its subsidiary JWEMC Communications, LLC, such project having a North American Industry Classification System code of 517311. Joe Wheeler has requested and will present applications for tax abatements for property taxes for a 10-year period and construction related taxes not otherwise earmarked for educational purposes to the Industrial Development Board of Decatur and has requested that the City of Hartselle adopt a resolution authorizing the abatement of its said municipal taxes as permitted under the Tax Incentives Reform Act of 1992. Council Member Gill motioned to approve Resolution 20-1208 granting the requested abatement; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the next item on the agenda, Ordinance 1537, revision to Solid Waste Ordinance to designate a Solid Waste Officer, and called on Mayor Garrison to discuss with the Council. Mayor Garrison explained this ordinance is to designate the Director of Public Works as the Local Health Officer and Solid Waste Officer for purpose of determining exemptions from residential solid waste collection charges for residents whose sole source of income is social security benefits, as defined by Alabama statute. Council Member Gill motioned to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Ordinance 1537; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. Council President Thompson called for a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Council President Thompson: Yes
Council Member Gill: Yes
Council Member Alexander: Yes

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Council Member Alexander motioned to adopt Ordinance 1537 as presented; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson asked Mayor Garrison to address the next item on the agenda, to consider agreement with Retail Strategies, LLC, and called on Mayor Garrison to discuss the

details with the Council. The Mayor explained that the company would provide training to City elected officers and personnel on retail recruiting techniques, including research, real estate analysis, marketing materials along with a retail academy workshop. He explained the initial agreement was for the City to travel to Birmingham for training, but due to the pandemic, he was going to request the company come to Hartselle. He also mentioned the contract amount was included in this year's budget. Council Member Alexander motioned to approve the agreement with Retail Strategies, LLC and authorize the Mayor to sign; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson addressed the final item on the agenda, to consider request from Lektron to waive penalties and interest on business license, and called on Mayor Garrison and City Clerk- Controller Lee to discuss it with the Council. They explained that Lektron would like to request a refund of penalties and interest remitted for a late business license for their 2400 building on the south end of town. Lektron said an employee called the City when the building was originally purchased, around 2013, to see if a business license was needed for that location and was told that they did not need a license for the location until it opened for business. After opening the location for business approximately 2016, the company never came forward to purchase the license and the City was unaware the location was open. Recently, City officials noticed that business was being conducted there and approached the company about a license. After much discussion, they have agreed and purchased the license and paid the penalties and interest but are asking for a refund of the latter due to the misunderstanding when the location was first purchased. After a brief discussion, Council Member Gill motioned to table the request until the full Council was in attendance to make a decision; Council Member Alexander seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Thompson asked for comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and City Attorney. Mayor Garrison gave an update on the number of COVID cases involving City employees and informed the Council that the pre-bid meeting for the New City Hall renovations would be taking place on Thursday, December 10th at the building with all COVID related guidelines and restrictions in place. He also gave an update on a recent meeting with ALDOT concerning the possibility improvements to the railroad crossing on Tabernacle Road. Council Member Alexander thanked Boy Scout Matthew Reed for attending the meeting and leading the pledge. No other comments were made.

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

There being no other business to come before the Council, Council Member Alexander motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Gill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Kenny Thompson,
Council President

ATTEST:

Rita S. Lee, City Clerk-Controller