

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF HARTSELLE, ALABAMA
JANUARY 12, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Hartselle, Alabama, met in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, inside the Council Chambers at the Hartselle Municipal Building. Council President Pro-Tempore Tom Chappell called the meeting to order.

Noah Battles, Youth Pastor at Gum Springs Baptist Church, led the invocation.

The following were present for the meeting: Council President Pro-Tempore Tom Chappell, Council Members Billy Buckelew, Ken Doss, Mayor Bill Smelser, City Attorney Larry Madison and City Clerk – Controller Rita S. Lee, who acted as Secretary of the meeting. Council President Kenny Thompson and Council Member Mike Roberson were absent. Having a quorum present, Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell declared the proceeding open for business.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell called for the approval of the minutes from the work session held on December 22, 2015. Council Member Doss motioned to approve the minutes; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell called for the approval of the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 22, 2015. Council Member Doss motioned to approve the minutes; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell called on City Clerk-Controller, Rita S. Lee, to discuss the first item on the agenda, which was Resolution 16-0112. Ms. Lee explained to the Council that this resolution, if approved, will designate which City officials that would be authorized to execute financial documents on behalf of the City. The resolution stated the following officials would be authorized to sign checks and they will require two signatures on all checks issued: Mayor Bill Smelser, City Clerk-Controller Rita S. Lee, Council President Kenny Thompson and Council President Pro-Tempore Tom Chappell. Council Member Doss motioned to approve Resolution 16-0112; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell then asked Mayor Bill Smelser to discuss a budget adjustment request to make a contribution to the signage for Jesse Owens Parkway. Mayor Smelser explained that Alabama Highway 36 from Interstate 65 to Lawrence County had been recently designated as Jesse Owens Parkway, and that additional signage on Alabama Highway 36 will assist in leading visitors through Hartselle to the Jesse Owens museum. He also explained that he strongly supports this project, and asked for the budget adjustment to make a \$1,000.00 contribution to the signage project. Council Member Doss motioned to approve the budget adjustment of \$1,000.00 contribution to the project; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell called for the next item on the agenda. Ms. Lee explained that she had requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$12,381.96 from Insurance Expenses line items in each department to Worker's Compensation line items. Ms. Lee said that although the City's Insurance expense came in under budget \$15,550.00, the Worker's Compensation billing for 2/1/16-1/31/17 came in \$12,381.96 over budget because the City's modification rate changed and rates were increased. Ms. Lee also told the Council that the City normally has a Worker's Compensation audit later in the year and that we had received a refund after last year's audit. Council Member Doss motioned to approve the budget transfer; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell then asked David VanKoughnett, Public Works Supervisor, to step forward and discuss a request to fill positions and change a position description within the Public Works Department. Mr. VanKoughnett explained to the Council that he was requesting, on behalf of Director Daxton Maze who was absent from the meeting, to approve filling two Equipment Operator 1 positions, one immediately and one in February after a

retirement. He also said that he was requesting to adopt proposed changes to the Equipment Operator 1 position, and convert the Landfill Technician position to the Equipment Operator 1 position without changing the pay grade. Council Member Doss motioned to approve filling the positions, changing the description of the Equipment Operator 1 position, and converting the Landfill Technician position into the Equipment Operator 1 position; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell then asked Mr. VanKoughnett to discuss his request to declare items surplus. He explained to the Council that the Public Works Department had requested to declare the following equipment as surplus:

- 1) 2003 Gravely 60" mower, model 99203, serial 000618
- 2) 2005 Sterling garbage truck, VIN #49HHBVC45RU92643

Council Member Doss motioned to approve declaring the equipment surplus; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell then called on Mayor Bill Smelser to discuss the last item on the agenda, which was a budget adjustment for a S.N.A.P. grant match. Mayor Smelser explained that the S.N.A.P. project had recently been awarded an ADECA grant that would for \$50,000.00 to complete the playground. The S.N.A.P. committee had requested the City provide the match for the project, but that was not budgeted during the last budget cycle. The Mayor also informed the Council that the City was holding \$10,000.00 that was appropriated by the Morgan County Commission to go toward the grant match. Council Member Doss motioned to approve a \$40,000.00 budget adjustment; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

At this time Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell announced that the City was accepting applications for the following boards:

- 1) Cemetery Board: one (1) expired position, five (5) year term
- 2) Utilities Board: one (1) unexpired position, 20 months remaining on the term
- 3) Park & Recreation Board: one (1) expired position, five (5) year term

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall or in the City's website. The applications must be turned in to the City Clerk's office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016.

At this time, Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell called for comments from the Mayor, Council Members and the City Attorney. Mayor Smelser announced he would be out of the office for several weeks due to knee surgery that was scheduled for January 19, 2016. He stated he was confident that the Council Members and Department Heads would keep things running smoothly in his absence. Ms. Lee wished the Mayor well with his surgery and congratulated David VanKoughnett in his recent promotion to supervisor.

Council President Pro-Tempore Chappell then called for comments from the audience. None were made.

With no other business to come before the Council, Council Member Doss motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Buckelew seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Tom Chappell
Council President Pro-Tempore

ATTEST:

Rita S. Lee, City Clerk - Controller