

MINUTES

CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 20, 2024

JOHNNY HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER OF HARTFORD ALABAMA 405 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE, HARTFORD, ALABAMA 36344

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Wendel Nolen, Councilmembers Melissa Clements, Ted Thompson, Zane Fowler, Paul Fondren and Ron Adams.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: City Clerk Melissa Rosser, Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke, Chief Mark Shehee, Jerry Sorrells. See attachment for others present.

CALL TO ORDER- The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE- Councilmember Paul Fondren led the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING- Council member Melissa Clements stated that Ted Thompsons name was typed incorrectly in the minutes on page 4. Mayor Nolen asked the clerk to correct. Councilman Ron Adams made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Councilman Paul Fondren seconded the motion. All were in favor, no discussion. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING- Council member Melissa Clements stated that she was not present for the Public Hearing and asked her name be removed from attendance. Mayor asked clerk to make corrections. Councilman Paul Fondren made a motion to approve with corrections. Councilman Zane Fowler seconded the motion. All were in favor, no discussion. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2024 WORK SESSION- Councilwoman Melissa Clements made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Councilman Ted Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor, no discussion. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Alfreda Hilliard stated that she would like to make the council aware that the basketball league held a basketball tournament and that she was disappointed in the city for not providing trophies or medals for the participants. Mayor Nolen stated that the matter was not brought up. Alfreda stated that she was told that it was and was not approved. Mayor Nolen stated that he was not notified. She asked that the city do something for the recreation league in the future.

Stanley Tindell stated that he wanted to say how blessed Hartford as a city is. He stated that he had lived here his whole life and he was so blessed. Stanley wanted to say how blessed Hartford is to have Shane Fowler and his staff at the Vet clinic. He stated that there was a shortage of vets and that he was very appreciative of having them in Hartford. He would like to say that Hartford needs more restaurants and asked when more would be coming. He also stated that Hwy 167 and HWY 52 are good areas to make something happen. Stanley stated that possibly adding a couple dollars to utility bills might be a way for citizens to say that they would like to see new things in Hartford. Stanley also wanted to bring to the attention that farmers use a lot of fuel and he would like to see the old gas station come back to Hartford for another option for off road fuel. Mayor Nolen stated that the city is in touch with several franchises and that the numbers determine when and where franchises are brought in. Stanley stated that Slocomb has Jacks, Wicksburg has a lot of new things and is doing well. He would like to see some new things for Hartford.

AMEND AGENDA- Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to amend the agenda and remove item number 5 from the agenda. He stated that the zoning would be handled through the zoning board directly. Motion was made by Paul Fondren and seconded by Melissa Clements. All were in favor. Motion carried.

FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE 2024-02-20- Mayor Nolen stated that the Flood Plain Ordinance had to be updated. City Clerk Melissa Rosser stated that ADECA sent an updated version to be adopted. Councilman Ron Adams made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-02-20. Council member Paul Fondren asked for clarification that the city does not chose the flood areas. City Clerk Melissa Rosser stated that there is a flood map that shows flood areas. Council member Ted Clements seconded the motion. All were in favor. No discussion. Motion carried.

SEWER INSPECTION AIR TESTING- Mayor Nolen asked Ronnie Driskell to explain this matter to the council. Ronnie stated that the sewer project is complete and the contractor is asking for final payment. He stated that the week before Christmas, we had an issue with and lift station. After investigation, it was determined that there was an issue with the repairs at this site. The contractors came back and re videoed the lines and they are saying the repairs are correct. Ronnie stated that he would be more comfortable if the council would allow him to have Blankenship Contractors to come in and do some air testing on the lines before final payment is authorized. Ronnie stated that the project is \$60,000 under budget and that the cost for this testing is \$7,000.00 or \$3,800/day. He stated that if we find issues with the work done, he would be able to then call the contractor back and have them make repairs. Ronnie stated that the only confirmation that he had for the lines being repaired correctly was video footage from the contractor showing the lines. Council member Ron Adams asked Ronnie if he had seen videos of the repairs. He stated that from those videos, he had no reason to believe the repairs weren't done correctly but after he seen the issue with the line, he was concerned and that from a simple air test, we could be sure. Ronnie stated that we

currently owe the contractor \$180,000 and before he felt confident in authorizing payment, he again recommended the testing be done. Ronnie stated that we should do this while we still have access to the contractor's bond. Council member Zane Fowler asked what the total cost is for the testing. Ronnie stated \$3800/day. Council member Ronnie stated that the repairs would be done, and the lines would be repaired correctly because of the testing if something was found. Ron asked if the funds were set aside for this project. Council member Zane Fowler made a motion to approve air testing. Council member Ted Clements seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Council member Melissa Clements asked if the repairs would be done at no cost to us if they were found. Ronnie stated that the repairs would be done and possibly get the cost back for the testing. Mayor Nolen stated that he feels this is the best solution to be sure of what is going on and have repairs made if necessary.

EMERGENCY OVERTIME POLICY-Mayor Nolen stated that the Emergency pay policy was brought to our attention due to the excessive overtime. Our attorney recommended that we adopt this policy. Council member Zane Fowler asked if this policy covered any employee. Mayor Nolen stated yes. Motion was made to approve the Emergency Overtime Policy by Zane Fowler. Motion was seconded by Paul Fondren. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COUGAR MOUNTAIN ANNUAL RENEWAL- Mayor Nolen stated that the annual renewal for Cougar Mountain is due March 31st in the amount of \$2185.00. City Clerk Melissa Rosser stated that this is the yearly fee that the city agreed to pay when Cougar Mountain was paid for. Even though the city hasn't started using it, the annual fee has to be paid. She stated that April 1st is the date that we should begin using it. Mayor Nolen entertained a motion to pay the Cougar Mountain. Motion was made by Ron Adams. Council member Paul Fondren asked for clarification that we would be up and running by April 1. Confirmed by Melissa Rosser. Second made by Paul Fondren. All were in favor. No discussion. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS-

Mayor Nolen would like to let council members be aware of a luncheon on Wednesday February 28 with the Wiregrass Economic Development. He asked that the council RSVP to him as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Melissa Clements stated that she wanted to bring up the manhole cover at the school. She stated that there was another cone over it and just wanted everyone to be aware that the cover was ordered and we are just waiting for it per Jerry and Marty.

Melissa Clements stated that the rec has 140 kids that played basketball and she asked that the council approve them to purchase end of the season medals for each kid. She stated that the cost would be approximately \$3.00 each. Melissa Clements made a motion to approve the purchase of the medals for the rec department. Seconded by Ted Thompson. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Melissa Clements wanted to talk about the Winston Howell Race on March 2nd. Mayor Nolen stated that Winston isn't doing well, and he asked the people to support this race.

Councilman Paul Fondren stated that the Father Daughter Dance will be held March 9th. He asked that everyone support the event. Councilman Ron Adams asked if help was needed. Paul said yes.

Councilman Ron Adams stated that he received an email from Toby Seay's office regarding some funding and grant opportunities available. He stated that he would be glad to help fill out paperwork if needed but he feels like we should at least apply for the funding. He stated that he would forward the email to Ronnie Driskell if he would please assist us.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS – Interim Police Chief Zac Cooke stated that he wanted to recognize Stephanie Riley for the work that she has put into the Winston Howell Race and how he commended her for taking care of Winston the past couple of weeks.

Chief Mark Shehee gave report that he had hired 1 full time employee and converted one part time employee to full time. Salaries for the department YTD are \$177,474 compared to \$254,158 for previous year. He wanted to remind the city that the Winston Howell Race registration will begin at 7 am @ the fire station on March 2nd. He will need the police department to assist with traffic and will need assistance marking the course the week before. Chief Shehee stated that he would try to have some information on the ambulance financing in the next week or so. He stated that we are moving forward with the billing and it will be implemented within 60-90 days.

ADJOURNMENT- Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to adjourn. Council member Ron Adams seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wanda Nolen", is written over a horizontal line.

Presiding Officer

EMERGENCY OVERTIME POLICY

Under special circumstances, non-public safety, non-exempt personnel can be considered for overtime at one and one-half times the rate of pay, although they do not meet the minimum hours required for overtime accrual, if called into work outside the normal and expected scheduled hours for the time necessary to address a direct and immediate threat to public safety and/or public health. These special circumstances should be of the type that are infrequent and unforeseeable. For example, a special circumstance would arise from a damaged/blocked street made impassable for emergency responders.

Overtime pay under this policy must be approved by the Mayor in consultation with the department head.

CITY OF HARTFORD
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Please **Print** Name

Shirley Colell

Jeanna Brannon

Bobby Bailey

Anabelle Richards (Beaper)

Alfreda Hillard

Jeff Churchill

Sue Ellen Thompson