

## **MINUTES**

### **CITY OF HARTFORD, ALABAMA**

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 1, 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, Chief Mark Shehee. 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 WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 -** Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve minutes as read. Council member Melissa Clements seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. NO discussion.

**APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING-** Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve minutes as read. Council member Ted Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. NO discussion.

**APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2024 SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING-** Council member Paul Fondren made a motion to approve minutes as read. Council member Zane Fowler seconded the motion. Council members Ron Adams and Ted Thompson were in favor. Melissa Clements abstained from the vote. Motion carried. NO discussion

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –** Calvin Grooms stated that he had called the city and turned in work orders to have a bad spot in the road in front of 208 N 2<sup>Nd</sup> Ave repaired where it is collecting water and is a hazard. He stated that no one had been to fix it yet. Mr. Grooms also stated that he had been asking for a light pole, that belongs to his neighbor, be moved back onto the neighbor's property. He stated that no one had done anything with this request either. He asked the mayor why his concerns were not being taken care of. Mayor Nolen told Mr. Grooms that the spot in the road will have to be patched and the city will investigate it when the roads dry out. He informed Mr. Grooms that the light pole could not be moved at this time, and he would speak with him later regarding this matter.

Bobby Bailey wanted to express his concern about the city moving their dispatch to the 911 in Geneva. He stated that in his opinion, this was not a good idea . Councilman Ron

Adams stated to Mr. Bailey that the process would not be changing for emergencies. He assured Mr. Bailey and the citizens that they could continue to call the local number and that they would receive the same assistance that they were previously given, nothing would be changing.

Mayor Nolen asked for a motion to amend the agenda and remove NO. 1 Verizon Wireless telephone system as it was not ready for discussion. Motion was made by councilman Zane Fowler. Councilman Paul Fondren seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. NO discussion.

**APPOINT POLICE CHIEF-** Mayor Nolen made a recommendation to the council that we hire Pete Markow as the Hartford Police Chief with a starting date of April 15, 2024. Councilman Ron Adams asked what the salary was that was agreed upon. Mayor Nolen stated the salary was \$52,500 annually. Councilman Ted Thompson asked if the salary was already agreed upon with the candidate. Mayor Nolen stated that it was agreed. Councilman Ron Adams made a motion to appoint Pete Markow as the police chief. Councilman Paul Fondren seconded the motion. Mayor Nolen asked for a roll call vote. Melissa Rosser- nay, Ted Thompson- yay, Zane Fowler- yay, Paul Fondren- yay, Ron Adams- yay. Motion carried. NO discussion.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS-** Mayor Nolen reminded the council that a work session was scheduled for Thursday April 4, 2024 at City Hall @ 6pm. The purpose is to discuss ordinances. Mayor advised the council that he would be attending a meeting with ALDOT on April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss concerns and questions about the 4 lane of Hwy 52. On April 11<sup>th</sup> the city will have a safety meeting at the Johnny Hughes Community Center, with Schutz Insurance providing lunch. April 19<sup>th</sup> will be the public hearing for the ADEM grant at 11am – City Hall.

Council member Melissa Clements would publicly apologize for walking out of the last council meeting last Monday night. She felt that she was once again unheard and disrespected, and she was concerned with the legality of the meeting. She stated she feels her opinion is never heard without immediate opposition from other council members. She feels that partial truths have been told. She stated that she will continue to fully research anything before she makes decisions that are best for the city of Hartford. She thanked each dispatcher that has worked for the city for their service. She gave her appreciation to them. She stated that she has faith in the E911 dispatch and reminded the city that they can still call 588-2222 for utility and water outages.

Council member Zane Fowler asked how the testing with Blankenship was going and if it was finished. Mayor Nolen said that they were waiting for the weather to dry out some before they continued.

Council member Ron Adams wanted to know who would be at the Public Hearing meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Nolen stated that Ronnie, anyone from the public, and himself would be attending. Mayor Nolen stated that there is a book/packet at City Hall that the council can get for information on the Public Hearing.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS** – Fire/Rescue Chief Mark Shehee wanted to announce that the City of Hartford fire and rescue has maintained their 3 rating on the ISO inspection. He stated that the rating is very outstanding for us.

**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.

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Presiding Officer