

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting - March 10, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Municipal Building
Huntsville, Alabama

Members Present: Mr. John Meredith, President
Mr. Bill Kling
Mr. Devyn Keith
Ms. Frances Akridge

Members Absent: Dr. Jennie Robinson

Mayor: Mr. Tommy Battle
City Administrator: Mr. John Hamilton
City Attorney: Mr. Trey Riley

President Meredith called the meeting to order at the time and place noted above.

President Meredith stated that all Council members were present with the exception of Councilmember Robinson.

Pastor Chase Allen, Essential Church, led the invocation; Scout White led members of Troop 400 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Approval of the Agenda.

President Meredith asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

Councilmember Akridge moved to approve the agenda, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on February 24, 2022, were

approved as submitted.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Mayor: Special Recognitions. He stated that at this time there would be a recognition of the Finance Department as the recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

President Meredith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Penny Smith, Director of Finance, and Ms. Rachel Biggs, Assistant Director, to come forward.

Mayor Battle stated this was a big achievement for the Finance Department, that it was something everybody had worked on very hard. He asked Ms. Smith to tell everyone about the efforts that had been made on this and how everyone had worked together for it.

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Biggs to display the plaque they got a button on for their certificate of achievement. She stated this was actually the 34th year for this award, and it had taken a lot of time and effort each and every year. She continued that this was a recognition that went beyond just feeling good about the report that was put out, that it was scrutinized and looked at very carefully by a group of reviewers. She stated that the Government Finance Officers Association put the reviews together. She stated this was a great achievement for them, and it spoke for the City as well, that it was looked at by rating agencies and investors, et cetera, as a mark of excellence in financial reporting.

Mayor Battle stated this award kind of validated the idea that the numbers they were putting out were true, that they were real numbers, and people could have some transparency and know where money was being spent, and where it came from, the indebtedness they had, and all the other things. He thanked Ms. Smith and Ms. Biggs for putting all this together and helping them to make sure they were

transparent to the public.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Council: Special Recognitions and Resolutions.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Wilbert Louis Brown, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-146)

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Meredith and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Keith for the presentation.

Councilmember Keith stated it was said that no moment ever captures the soul of a man, but, rather, the souls are captured by the man himself. He asked members of Mr. Brown's family to come forward, as well as his Alpha Phi Alpha brothers.

Councilmember Keith stated that Mr. Brown had known him before he was born, that he was the principal at West Mastin Lake Elementary School, where his grandmother was a first-grade teacher for many years. He stated that Mr. Brown had impacted his life, to say the least, and he wanted to give recognition and true respect for what he had been in his life and others' lives and what his legacy would continue to be in the community.

A representative of the family stated that on behalf of the family and the Alpha Phi Alpha brothers, he wanted to thank Councilmember Keith and the City of Huntsville for recognition of a person who had meant a lot to all of them and who had done a lot in the community and continued to help improve everything about the city. He stated he was a great man.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Announcements and Presentations.

President Meredith asked that the Council members mark on their calendars a Work Session for April 20th, noting they would be discussing an effort to enable Huntsville Police when they arrested someone for a personal misdemeanor, for possession of marijuana, to issue a citation, as opposed to taking the individual into custody.

President Meredith stated that the Council would be taking item 19.d out of order on the agenda.

President Meredith stated at this time there would be a presentation by the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council, noting this was their quarterly report.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Jonathan Rossow.

Mr. Rossow stated that HPCAC had been very active over the prior three months, engaging with the public and HPD leadership, as well as conducting some of their own internal training. He stated that as to specific activities, they had hosted a public meeting in District 1, on HPD recruiting practices and HR practices, and they had more than 20 citizens attend that event, that it had been very successful. He stated they had follow-up questions and answers, all of which they had posted to their webpage, and they had also posted the slides, the presentation, so if someone had been unable to attend, they could look at the slides. He stated that, also, persons could contact them if they had follow-up questions.

Mr. Rossow stated they had hosted a public meeting the past week in District 2, on Internal Affairs Demystified, and they had seven citizens in attendance, noting that was a little lighter than what they would have liked. He stated they had about a one-to-one ratio of CAC members, HPD officers, and citizens. He continued that in the future what he would like to see on that would be a one-to-one to five. He stated they had approximately eight roundtables at these forums, and they would like to have at least five citizens for each roundtable, to engage in dialogue. He

stated the feedback he had received from the citizens who had attended was that they had really enjoyed the dialogue part because they were able to ask questions and get answers from knowledgeable people right then and there. He stated he believed this had been a pretty good format thus far.

Mr. Rossow stated they had met in executive session with HPD leadership, that they had conducted their first quarterly summary review of I.A. complaints, dating from the 1 October through 31 December 2021. He stated that was a process that was growing, that what they were looking for were patterns and trends and things where they could help the HPD, if there was some issue that might be popping up, and not necessarily looking into each report itself. He stated they had also discussed some ideas and things concerning improvements, things that might lead to recommendations they would come back before the Council concerning. He stated these were still kind of going through the system. He stated that, of course, the CAC would take a vote on such things before they would be presented to the Council.

Mr. Rossow stated they had had various members to represent the CAC in more than 10 different community organization events, participating as speakers in some cases, and also he believed one was to show up for one of the Council's town hall meetings. He stated they had been participating in interviews with WLRH, WHNT, and WAFF, discussing the CAC's new ordinance and getting the word out on their public meetings. He stated they were continuing to press on that in the media, the social media, through their website, and just their personal engagement with fellow citizens.

Mr. Rossow stated they had conducted three internal CAC training events, going above and beyond what was in the ordinance. He stated that at this time, they had had six members complete the four-hour Implicit Bias Training that officers went through. He stated they had also had a "Meet your HPD Command Leadership"

event, to get to know the Command Staff. He continued that the new members of the CAC had been able to interact with them as well. He stated they had also done the Use of Force training, which he believed he had mentioned in his previous report. He stated this was a requirement for any of the CAC members to participate on the IRB. He stated he believed they were pretty much full up in that regard and available should there be that kind of event.

Mr. Rossow stated that the upcoming CAC meeting, on April 12, would be "Data Informed Policing," in District 3, at the Sandra Moon Community Complex. He stated they were also looking at some other meeting topics, such as getting the word out on the Crisis Intervention Training the officers went through, as well as the Co-Responder units and some of the success they were seeing with that. He stated that, finally, he would just encourage anyone who was listening to sign up for the Police Ride-Along program, and sign up for the Police Citizens Academy, noting that those were great venues. He stated that persons could get to those through the City website, through the CAC's portion of the City's website. He stated if anyone had any questions on that, any CAC member would stand ready to help them with that.

Mr. Rossow thanked Ms. Kelly Schrimsher, Director of Communication, and her staff, noting they had been fantastic, and the CAC could not do what they had been doing without their help. He also thanked Captain Ware and Sgt. Wright. He stated that Captain Ware was their first presenter, for the recruitment, and Sgt. Wright was the Internal Affairs presenter at one of the recent meetings.

Mr. Rossow asked if there were any comments or feedback at this time.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Keith.

Councilmember Keith stated to Mr. Rossow he would like for the CAC to put on their schedule the Council Work Session to be held on April 20th, noting that he believed the CAC members would have a number of communications concerning this

with HPD.

Councilmember Keith asked Mr. Rossow if there were any plans for communication between the CAC and Mayor Battle or Mr. Hamilton concerning the transition of new leadership in the Police Department.

Mr. Rossow stated they certainly planned to have interaction with the leadership as they went through this transition, if he understood Councilmember Keith's question.

Councilmember Keith stated he would love to hear from the CAC as to their perspective, and giving input, obviously, to the decision made by the Mayor and the City Council, to make sure they were aware of the things the CAC members saw as important, moving forward into new leadership.

Mr. Rossow stated he believed the No. 1 thing was communication. He stated that was going to be a very important piece, that as they looked forward to who they were going to pick, strong communication skills was going to be absolutely important, and someone who was willing to advance and continue to build upon where HPD was already at.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling stated he just wanted to thank Mr. Rossow and to ask him to thank the other members for all the hours they were putting in. He stated that for some of them, this might have turned out to be a bigger task than what they had realized it would be. He stated all of them were very important to the community, and he thought this two-way communication and the fact that all of them were from throughout the community and were citizens of the city of Huntsville was a great thing to have, that they had been working well with the community, and they had worked very well with the Police Department. He stated he agreed with Mr. Rossow that the Ride-With-A-Cop program was a great thing, that it was a wonderful way of

fostering two-way understanding and communication, that the police officer got to see that citizen as a real, live person and would get to know them, and the citizen would perhaps get a better understanding of the challenges a police officer went through day in and day out on the job. He stated that the Citizens Academy had also been a great program.

Councilmember Kling stated the HPCAC was a great conduit of very positive interaction that was taking place in the community.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was going to make sure the April 12 meeting was announced in her April newsletter, and she asked the Communication Department to put that in everybody's newsletter.

Councilmember Akridge stated she had a question for Ms. Schrimsher. She stated there was a list of email subscriptions, not only to newsletters, but, for example, receiving the notice of a City Council meeting. She asked if they could add the HPCAC meetings for an email subscription list, noting it would be great if she would consider that.

Councilmember Akridge asked Mr. Rossow how he believed they could engage college students, who were hopefully going to be staying in the city, for the next workforce, to be involved with the group.

Mr. Rossow stated as they worked at where they hosted their public meetings, perhaps an event could be hosted at one of the campuses. He stated he believed that would be a good way to try to reach out and attract students.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Mr. Rossow if there was anything in the ordinance they felt should be adapted, now that they were getting on a roll and had the support they needed, they should let the Council know. She stated they had taken their best shot at that ordinance, but if it was too cumbersome, they should just let

them know.

Councilmember Akridge stated she wanted to give a personal thanks to the members for participating in the CAC, and especially to Mr. Rossow for his acceptance of the mantle of the Chairman. She stated it had been very rewarding to see how Mr. Rossow had organized the group and had been very intentional about their work. She stated that Mr. Rossow's interview on WLRH was very helpful, and she had shared it.

Mr. Rossow stated he appreciated that, noting that it was a team effort.

President Meredith thanked Mr. Rossow for the presentation.

President Meredith stated that at this time the Council would take out of order item 19.d, under Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-143, declaring one 15-passenger van as surplus and to be donated to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 400, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agency Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 400, for said donation, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-143)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Keith.

President Meredith recognized Ms. Quisha Bryant, Director of Parking and Public Transit.

Ms. Bryant stated that the ordinance before the Council was a request to first declare a Public Transit van as surplus, and then to donate it to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 400. She stated she wanted to recognize and thank this troop for their presence at this meeting and also for the great things they were doing in the community with the youth. She stated this vehicle met the requirements to be

removed from their fleet, so they could make this donate to the Boy Scouts.

Councilmember Keith stated that this said "Boy Scouts of America," but he saw girls as well, so they were going to have boys and girls. He asked if one of them would step to a microphone and introduce herself.

Ms. Xzandria Sellers appeared before the Council, stating she was the Scoutmaster for the girls. She stated a lot of people did not know they had actually started accepting girls into the Boy Scouts. She continued that this transition had been amazing, and they were now established, as of the prior August, that they had been going strong, with a total of 28 girls.

Ms. Sellers stated that a lot of the greatest lessons people learned, they were really never taught, that they just went through the process, and to stop that, they would actually stand in that gap. She stated that for young boys and young girls, this provided them the opportunity to be able to take them camping, to take them to see national landmarks, to take them to Montgomery so they could actually see what history was. She stated that too many times, history was written over but never understood. She continued that the only way to have them understand the path they were going on was to first teach them how the path was made. She stated that was their goal for all their scouts, both the boys and the girls.

Ms. Sellers stated that as they could see, present with her at this time were some of their scouts, and they had led the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated they wanted them to understand they had to grow, and to grow, they had to have experience. She stated people could say, "You need experience," but they were trying to make sure they had experience, and by the City donating this bus to them, it would allow them to be able to grow more and let them experience everything, as far as hiking, camping, skiing in Tennessee.

Ms. Sellers stated they wanted to expand their horizons, because they were

their future, and if they did not take care of their future and grasp it by the hand, they would not be able to grow. She continued that it was almost like a plant, that if they did not fertilize it, test the soil, water it, and make sure it was in the right position, they would not know where it was going to go. She stated they did not want weeds to grow up. She continued that they wanted to make sure they were nourished, and they actually had the knowledge, that they understood where they were going, because they wanted them to be productive and active citizens in the city of Huntsville.

Ms. Sellers stated that by the Council donating this bus, it gave them this opportunity, and she thanked them.

Councilmember Keith stated it was a blessing to see the scouts and to hear from their leader, and that Mr. Farrar would be so proud. He stated that being the byproduct of a Huntsville scoutmaster, he wanted to personally thank Ms. Sellers.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling stated they were going to have a seat on the Council reserved for Ms. Sellers, but hopefully not for another four years. He stated that the scouts, the boys and girls, were going to be the future of the city, noting that he had been a scout, and he had been honored to sit on the Council. He stated there was going to be a time when they were going to need some of these scouts to sit on the Council, that they were the future of the city.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Ms. Sellers they had had to postpone their walking/hiking trip out of Oak Park, and they should get that back on schedule and make sure they made a real hike of it and walked all the way up to Monte Sano State Park and camped, that they could set up camp, and then walk back the next morning. She stated she would volunteer her husband to help with this, noting that he could teach a lot of people about how to get their tents set up, and if they did not have tents,

they would figure it out.

President Meredith stated he looked forward to participating in the Eagle Scout ceremonies for the scouts in the audience.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion on the ordinance.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-143, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to be Held.

President Meredith stated the first item was a public hearing on a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the boarding and securing of certain properties

President Meredith recognized Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development.

Mr. Erwin stated that the resolution before the Council was a board-and-secure action for three properties that were in violation of City ordinances. He stated the properties were boarded and secured, and failure to make payment for this action resulted in the item coming before the Council at this time. He stated that the three properties covered totaled \$1,213.54.

President Meredith asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

President Meredith stated that seeing none, the hearing was closed.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the boarding and securing of certain properties, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-147)

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which

motion was duly seconded by President Meredith and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was a public hearing on a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost for the demolition of a public nuisance located at 2303 Poplar Ave, NW, Huntsville, AL.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Erwin.

Mr. Erwin stated the amount of this assessment was \$5,566.31, and it was for the assessment of a public nuisance at 2303 Poplar Avenue, NW. He stated that as a result of non-payment by the stipulated date, the property owners had been notified that this Council meeting would be the time and place when they would be able to present any objection to the assessed cost.

President Meredith asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

President Meredith stated that seeing none, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost for the demolition of a public nuisance located at 2303 Poplar Ave, NW, Huntsville, AL, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-148)

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on the vacation of a right-of-way along McMullen Lane, which hearing was set at the February 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Jim McGuffey, Deputy Director, Department of Urban and Economic Development.

Mr. McGuffey stated this was a request to vacate a right-of-way in McMullen Cove. He stated this was in the back of the subdivision, as the subdivision was building out, and this was an old County right-of-way that had been there for years. He stated that the property owners around it had consented to the vacation. He continued that this would help to facilitate the continued growth of the current phase of the subdivision.

President Meredith asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Council on this specific issue.

President Meredith stated that seeing none, the public hearing was closed.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Agenda Related Public Comments.

President Meredith stated that this portion of the meeting was reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on matters relating to the specific content of items on the meeting agenda. He stated that persons could sign up to speak on the Public Comments Roster prior to the meeting. He asked that when called, speakers approach a microphone and state their name, home address, and city of residence. He stated that each speaker could address the Council for three minutes, and that speakers shall refrain from entering into a dialogue with Council members or City staff and from making comments regarding the good name and character of any individual.

Dr. Chris Brown, 103 Highwood Court, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning “(7a) HPCAC report.”

President Meredith interrupted Dr. Brown, stating that if he could keep his comments focused on the quarterly report, it would be greatly appreciated.

After some discussion, Dr. Brown resumed his comments.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Mayor Comments.

President Meredith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle announced the following reappointments and appointment:

Reappointment of Peggy Richard to the Planning Commission of the City of Huntsville, for a 3-year term to expire March 13, 2025.

Reappointment of Robert Ludwig to The City of Huntsville Federal Building Authority, for a 5-year term to expire January 27, 2027.

Reappointment of Tommy Beason to The City of Huntsville Federal Building Authority, for a 5-year term to expire January 27, 2027.

Reappointment of Joe Alexander to The City of Huntsville Federal Building Authority, for a 5-year term to expire January 27, 2027.

Reappointment of James Pillsbury to The City of Huntsville Federal Building Authority, for a 5-year term to expire January 27, 2027.

Appointment of Rosalie Allen to The City of Huntsville Federal Building Authority, for a 5-year term to expire January 27, 2027.

Mayor Battle stated that each of these members of the Federal Building Authority were going to be very important, especially going into the Space Command, noting they would be helping with the building of houses for the General Command Staff, which they had done in the past, and which had been very effective in bringing federal agencies to the city.

Mayor Battle stated that during the past week, they had the fortune of going to Montgomery and meeting with the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Minority Leader Speaker of the House. He stated it was always an interesting world in Montgomery, especially during session. He stated they had been able to talk about the needs of the community and the things they were looking at for the future. He stated they were well received by all of the people he had mentioned.

Mayor Battle stated that on the prior Saturday, there had been the Kite Festival, and it was a perfect day for flying a kite, a beautiful day. He stated there were hundreds of people flying kites, that it was a great community effort, that there were citizens from the age of 2 months to 90 years flying kites and having a great time, and communities from all over the county had come in for this event.

Mayor Battle stated that Elevate the Stage gymnastics was on the prior Sunday, and there had been four college teams in the city, and there were some K-12 gymnastics that had taken place on Friday and Saturday. He stated the gymnastics tournament was one that was well received, and it had filled up just about every hotel in the city.

Mayor Battle stated they wanted to make sure everyone was weather aware for Friday night, noting that earlier in the day, it was 67 degrees, and Friday night it was supposed to be 19 degrees, and there was the possibility of snow accumulation. He asked that everyone make sure they were watching out for themselves and for their neighbors.

Mayor Battle stated that on Saturday night and Sunday morning, it was time to spring forward, so persons should turn their clocks ahead one hour.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Council Member Comments.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Keith.

Councilmember Keith stated that the trip to Montgomery had provided the opportunity to have conversations with individuals about the great city of Huntsville.

Councilmember Keith stated he would be having a Town Hall meeting on March 29 at 5:30 p.m., at the House of Hope, and they would be discussing a number of things going on in Northwest Huntsville. He continued that it was an exciting time in Northwest Huntsville, with some of the developments they had going on. He

stated they would also discuss some of the decisions they would be making in the coming years, from the Skate Park to the finalization of Johnson Legacy and the development around it to the Parkway, and the list would go on.

Councilmember Keith stated, to the point that had been stated earlier, concerning the Work Session of the Council to be held on April 20, he wanted to thank the Council President and his colleagues, as well as everyone involved in this, including Mayor Battle, stating he believed this would be a progressive step. He stated this was not something that had just happened, that they had been working on this for about five or six months internally. He stated that externally, the world had called for perspectives around criminal justice reform. He stated that many people did not know this, that it was not just politics that were local but so was reform. He stated this was taking steps to empower police officers to have a more efficient and effective time when they were out on their patrols and in their interactions with individuals inside the Huntsville community, and, also, they wanted to make sure their laws and the justice they sought was not punitive, that it was productive, that it had value, and it did not, within itself, overturn and have a polarizing effect on individuals in a certain community or of a certain background.

Councilmember Keith encouraged everyone to attend the Work Session of the Council on April 20, to hear what they had been working on in this regard. He stated to his colleagues he was aware they would have a number of questions, but he believed what was to be presented would be something for consideration for the future of Huntsville, and the effectiveness of policing citizens.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated she had a great Town Hall the previous day about traffic safety, with excellent presentations from Captain Izzo, as well as Lt. Anderson, who had reminded them of not only basic laws but how to address the

most common cause of accidents, which was simply following too close. She stated she would post some YouTube video reminding persons how to count that out, for certain conditions. She stated that Nicholas Nene had done a fantastic job of helping them understand what his office was responsible for, both for maintenance as well as traffic safety. She stated he had mentioned a smart light system, so that things could be changed as needed, without having to go back into a hardware cabinet. She stated it was a smart grid, and there was a certain type of box that was needed, and that would mean an investment for this in their budget. She stated she would be briefing her colleagues on that.

Councilmember Akridge stated that some of the questions had been about traffic capacity, and she had made it really clear they had a group called the "Metropolitan Planning Organization" that studied corridors and commuting times, and she had given those people an understanding of where to go: huntsville mpo.org.

Councilmember Akridge stated there had been some questions about making Pratt Avenue into a new Drake Avenue or a new Oakwood Avenue, as in making it a boulevard. She stated there were no plans for that, that, in fact, it was in a residential area, and the goal was to make some improvements so that people would slow down on Pratt.

Councilmember Akridge stated they had one question come in at the last minute that she knew had not been addressed, and she stated she would hand the paper to Jim McGuffey, to ask Engineering and Planning to address. She continued that one of these had to do with using Michigan left turns on 431, which she noted was a State road. She asked if Mr. McGuffey would get someone to address this concern through the State. She stated the same person was also asking about a pedestrian crossing to go over to Hays Preserve.

Councilmember Akridge stated she had read the Mill Creek plan, and she was

enthusiastic about it, that she was cautiously optimistic. She stated she was aware there would be a lot of people who were scrutinizing this, and she encouraged the public to look at it and see the opportunities they had to re-create a portion of the city to be what had previously happened all the time, mixed income, mixed races. She stated this was a wonderful opportunity to create a new village of the Mill Creek area, and she was excited about it. She stated to Councilmember Kling that she looked forward to hearing his comments about the nature of this program. She stated she was optimistic they would earn the money that was on the table and available for them to put this plan into action.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling stated that on the prior Monday, he had had a very good meeting with downtown residents, at which time the Merts reconstruction project was discussed. He stated they had carried this over from the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission meeting on February 14th so there could be more information provided to the public.

Councilmember Kling stated he would like to emphasize that the proper notification guidelines had been followed. He stated these guidelines worked for many of the issues they dealt with; however, he had not thought it was enough for a project of this magnitude. He stated the developer had followed all the guidelines he was supposed to, but this was a project that was going to impact all of downtown Huntsville, and the Commission had voted unanimously to carry it over, and there had been the meeting the prior Monday evening at the Holmes Street United Methodist Church, which had been very well received. He stated the staff had done a great job providing information and answering questions, which he believed had gone a long way in ensuring more public trust and transparency.

Councilmember Kling stated he would ask that in the future they have the

staff look at new procedures that could be set up for the Commission, to deal with these major types of public projects that would come up which would impact a large area of downtown versus a small area.

Councilmember Kling stated that Councilmember Akridge would have been in attendance at the meeting, but she was out of town because of significant family health issues, and the audience had certainly understood the circumstance.

Councilmember Kling stated he would be holding his Town Meeting on Monday, March 21, at 6 p.m., at the Public Library, and, of course, everyone was invited.

Councilmember Kling thanked Interim Chief Kirk Giles of the Police Department. He stated there had been two situations within the past week that he had contacted Chief Giles about, and in both of those situations, the people who were having a problem had their problems dealt with very fairly, and in both cases, the source of the problem was actually taken care of, and that was very much appreciated. He stated he believed the most important thing they did on the Council was when they could help people in the neighborhoods who needed help.

Councilmember Kling stated he had also been on the Montgomery trip, and he stated there was not much of anyone in Montgomery they had not heard from, that they had had the hierarchy of Montgomery, and he believed State government had heard from more than 100 citizens from the Huntsville and North Alabama area, and he believed they had stated the case for their needs in a very succinct and thorough manner.

Councilmember Kling stated he was continuing his project of walking through neighborhoods in his district, looking for things that needed to be taken care of, such as cable TV wires, clogged-up drainage inlets, potholes, broken garbage carts, et cetera. He stated this was a process where he was able to take care of a few small

problems he was able to call in. He stated he believed enough small problems could make a difference in improving a neighborhood, and he liked the process.

Councilmember Kling asked that the Fire Chief, the City Clinic doctors, and the appropriate personnel explore the possibility of giving training supplies and whatever else would be needed that would allow firefighter first responders to be supplied and trained so they could be allowed to inject the drug Narcan when the drug could be used to help citizens whom they found to have a drug overdose. He stated he did not know much about this drug or its effects, but he had been told that such injections could save lives. He stated that when someone came to him with an idea of how they could do their job better, he was interested, especially when it could potentially save lives. He stated that often a first responder would arrive at a crash site or a medical emergency before HEMSI would, and with the proper training and supplies, that responder could take crucial action. He continued that if this was the way they could potentially save lives, he would like to have it explored.

Councilmember Kling asked the Fire Chief or the appropriate person to look into this over the next two weeks, noting that they also had the City Clinic doctors and Human Resource personnel, and he stated it was possible that attorneys might be needed. He asked that they look into this and see if it would be feasible and if it would do some good, and then come back and advise the Council on this in two weeks, whether or not it would be something worth pursuing.

President Meredith stated, concerning the Narcan, it was his understanding they had actually taken action to provide funding for this, as well as authorization for them to secure it. He stated if they did not yet have it, they needed to figure out why.

President Meredith stated he was being advised that they did have this.

President Meredith thanked Mr. James Gossett, Director of Parks & Recreation, and his staff for a wonderful presentation during the last President's

Forum, noting a lot of information had been covered in a very succinct manner. He also thanked Dynetics for inviting him to speak to some of their employees during the last week of Black History Month. He stated he had thoroughly enjoyed it, and he hoped those persons who had attended thought it was a good use of their time as well.

President Meredith thanked the fifth graders at ASFL who had interviewed him regarding racial injustice recently. He stated their questions were very thoughtful, and they had all expressed themselves with a passion he could only hope and aspire to duplicate.

President Meredith stated he had had the distinct pleasure of a personal tour of the main Thrive campus, conducted by Mr. Jay Hixon. He stated he had thought he knew about the good things going on within that organization, but what he had known was only the tip of the iceberg. He stated the tour was very informative, and he looked forward to helping the organization achieve its very laudable goals.

President Meredith stated he wanted to give a special thank you to Dr. Rebecca Vaught for an excellent tour of Van Heron Labs. He stated that while he certainly knew what a jewel HudsonAlpha was to the community, he was truly amazed at the cutting-edge research conducted by this company. He stated that Huntsville was very glad the company had chosen to locate in Huntsville and not Houston, Texas.

President Meredith stated it had been a pleasure meeting with the concerned citizens of Southeast Limestone County and Southwest Huntsville, and he looked forward to working with them to advance their objectives in ensuring their part of the city was not forgotten when it came to City services that would make their quality of life comparable to any other section of the city.

President Meredith stated that, indeed, the Kite Festival was great, that the weather was close to perfect, and it was great seeing so many families out enjoying one of the annual events that made the city such a great place to live.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Finance Committee Report.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-149)

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith asked Councilmember Keith if there were any special presentations at this time.

Councilmember Keith replied in the negative.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Board Appointment Nominations.

President Meredith stated he had nominated Amanda Burns for appointment to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, Place 1, to the seat previously held by Richard Mulholland, for a 3-year term to expire April 14, 2025.

President Meredith stated that Councilmember Kling had nominated Keith Klaus for reappointment to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, Place 2 (his current seat), for a 3-year term to expire April 14, 2025.

President Meredith stated that Councilmember Kling had nominated Billy Lenox for reappointment to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, Place 3 (his current seat), for a 3-year term to expire April 14, 2025.

President Meredith stated that Councilmember Kling had nominated Harold Kemp for reappointment to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, Place 4 (his current seat), for a 3-year term to expire April 14, 2025.

President Meredith stated that Councilmember Kling had nominated

Joanne Wherley for reappointment to the Bingo Review Committee, to her current seat, for a 2-year term to expire April 8, 2024.

President Meredith stated that Councilmember Keith had nominated Fred Rodrigue for reappointment to the Bingo Review Committee, to his current seat, for a 2-year term to expire April 8, 2024.

President Meredith asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

There was no response.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Legal Department Items/Transactions.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lot 156, Hampton Ridge Subdivision, 7043 Pale Dawn Place (Martin), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-150)

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Lots 8 through 10, Friendship Commons, Phase II (Friends Forever), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-151)

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Keith and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Lots 4 and 5, Ware Park Phase 2 Subdivision, Corner of Martin Road and Zierdt Road (MLH Redstone), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-152)

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by President Meredith and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Lots 1, 2, and 3, Vinemount Commercial Subdivision (ZP 361), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-153)

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Akridge asked for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Mr. Jim McGuffey, Deputy Director of Economic and Urban Development, appeared before the Council, stating that this was located at the northwest corner of Oakwood and Research Park Boulevard, and it was a subdivision that had been resubdivided, and with the original subdivision, there were easements on the property, and as they adjusted the new property lines, the easements were still there. He continued that the development that was going in needed to vacate those easements in order to construct the development. He stated that the Planning Commission had standard rules they had put in place for each subdivision, and there were standard easements that went along the front, side, and rear property lines. He stated these were always in place, and if the development changed or the property lines changed, they had to vacate those easements in order to move on the project to the next development, and that was what they were doing in this case.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Mr. McGuffey that the Council did not usually see so many of these drainage easements all at once, and she asked him, since that was a very sensitive subject, especially for the people of District 2, if he would

confirm how this was reviewed, and that it was not just a matter of looking at a piece of paper and saying, "Oh, that's in the way." She asked if he would confirm, being that it was utilities, which was Huntsville Utilities, and the drainage, which would be City Engineering people, that they had the right to be on that property, that the City did not own it, but it was a right. She asked how they could confirm that it would be all right to let those rights of access go away, on any of these items the Council had just considered.

Mr. McGuffey stated that the process started at Utilities, and after their signatures, it came to the City of Huntsville, Engineering, Planning, Traffic Engineering, for review. He stated that on a lot of these applications, they would see that the original application date was many, many months prior to the time the Council would consider such items. He stated that as they got these, they would go and look at the site, look at the water, see what the rain would do to it, and look and see if there was power, water, sewer, gas in the easement, and review it to make sure none of those were an issue. He stated that as they went through and everybody was comfortable with it, then the staff would sign the document, and then it would be brought before the Council. He stated those easements were there, put in place by the Planning Commission, and they had taken the time to review them and make sure they no longer needed them, and then the vacation would take place.

Councilmember Akridge asked if vacating the rights for access would relieve the builder, or any of the people who had just received the vacation of these easements, of the obligation to have good drainage on that property.

Mr. McGuffey stated that they would absolutely still have to meet the City standards, from the MS4 permit, for example, for drainage. He stated that the Engineering Department would make sure they had all that in place before they would issue any permits, and certainly before they would issue any Certificate of

Occupancy for the buildings. He stated that these easements were generally existing easements that were determined to no longer be needed.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-153, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated that next on the agenda was Vacation of Rights-of-Ways.

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of Resolution No. 22-81, consenting to the vacation of a right-of-way along McMullen Lane, which resolution was introduced at the February 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-81)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Meredith and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-82, vacating a right-of-way along McMullen Lane, which ordinance was introduced at the February 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-82)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-140, amending Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan Ordinance, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-140)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling.

Mayor Battle stated this was simply a job audit that had been done, and three new positions had been added, and this was placing them in the Classification and Salary Plan.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

Councilmember Akridge asked if this was the addition of a Municipal Agenda Coordinator.

Mr. Hamilton stated there were three positions, that one was an Education Specialist for Green Team in Landscape Management; the second one was an Agenda Coordinator who would report to Belinda Sons in the Clerk-Treasurer's office and perform that administrative function; and the third position was a Digital Forms Clerk, as they were transitioning to a very robust, online digital forms process. He stated this would be administrative support within the Clerk-Treasurer's office to support that function.

Councilmember Akridge stated they were merging into another format, and she could imagine they needed help. She thanked Mr. Hamilton for explaining those three positions.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-140, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-141, amending Budget Ordinance No. 21-867, to modify the authorized strength of various departments, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-141)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated this was just the second step in the process the Council

had considered in the previous item. He stated that this ordinance added those positions to the authorization for the departments.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-141, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-142, amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Chapter 2, Administration, by adding Article XII, Electronic Records and Electronic Signatures, Section 2-2160 through 2-2163, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-142)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Meredith.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Ken Benion, City Clerk-Treasurer.

Mr. Benion stated that in the past, they had had the desire to use electronic signatures, but State law had not allowed municipalities to do this. He continued that a bill had been passed by the State Legislature allowing the use of electronic signatures, and this ordinance would amend the City ordinances to allow them to use electronic signatures and store electronic records.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-142, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-144, declaring two 15-passenger vans as surplus and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agency Agreement between the City of Huntsville and The Arc of Madison County for said donation, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-144)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Akridge.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated this was just like the ordinance they had handled at the beginning of this meeting, except in this case it was for The Arc of Madison County, to assist them in their operations in serving the community.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-144, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-145, declaring one medium-sized passenger bus as surplus and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agency Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Oakwood University for said donation, which ordinance was introduced at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-145)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling.

Mayor Battle stated they had been talking to Oakwood for a long time about a van that would help with food deserts, in some of those areas, and also with their new health clinic that was open.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-145, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

President Meredith asked if any of the Council members would like to hold any items from the consolidation.

After discussion, President Meredith stated that items 20.ab, 20.ac, 20.ad, and

20.ae would be held from the consolidation.

President Meredith moved for consolidation and adoption of the following items, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present:

Resolution authorizing travel expenses, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-154)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 21-867 by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-155)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low bidders meeting specifications as outlined in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-156)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Detention Facilities Maintenance Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Chase Creek, L.L.C., as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-157)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Building & Earth, for engineering services for the New Transit Transfer Station, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-158)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No.1 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and KPS Group, Inc., for the Sandra Moon Community Center Phase 2, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-159)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke First Bank Letter of

Credit No. 2410018310, for Villas in Greenlawn Phase 1 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-160)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke ServisFirst Bank Letter of Credit No. 41586, for The Preserve at Clayton Pond II Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-161)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke ServisFirst Bank Letter of Credit No. 16244, for The Preserve at Clayton Pond II Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-162)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bank of Frankewing Letter of Credit No. 15321700, for Monte Sano Cove Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-163)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bank Independent Letter of Credit No. 30014146, for The Preserve at Limestone Creek Phase 2A Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-164)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Center State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90570394, for Chase Creek II Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-165)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Center State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90570397, for Chase Creek II Part B Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-166)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bank of Frankewing Letter of Credit No. 15322000, for Monte Sano Cove Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-167)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bank of Frankewing Letter of Credit No. 15322100, for Monte Sano Cove Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-168)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke First National Bank Letter of Credit No. 511608500, for Lantern Pointe Phase 1 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-169)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce for the Summer Sip & Stroll, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Cummings Research Park, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-170)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Kim Brooks, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-171)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Huntsville and First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-172)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Huntsville Museum of Art Guild, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-173)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a plat entitled "Racetrac - Greenbrier," as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-174)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant award between the City of Huntsville Police Department and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), for

use by the North Alabama Multi-Agency Crime Center (NAMACC), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-175)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept an EMPG grant from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-176)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the City of Madison, for transfer of grant funds, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-177)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Jeff White Photography, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-178)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and 4Ward Media, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-179)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Amanda Elliott, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-180)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Sue Collie Campbell, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-185)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Brenda Martin, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-186)

President Meredith stated the Council would now consider the items held from the consolidation.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor

to enter into a professional services agreement between the City of Huntsville and Don Howard Studios, for the design of digital art depicting Huntsville Fire & Rescue's bicentennial history, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-181)

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Akridge.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this year was the 200th anniversary of the existence of Huntsville Fire & Rescue, and in commemoration of that, there would be some celebrations to come later in the year, but at this time they had asked for authorization to engage in this agreement with a local artist to develop art work that would help tell the story of their history. He stated the expectation was that this would be an image that would capture historically significant events and tell, in a timeline format in the picture, the history of Huntsville Fire & Rescue. He stated they had worked with this artist previously and had been pleased with the work he had done, so they were recommending him for this art work.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

Councilmember Akridge stated this would be digital, so they would not be dealing with any signage or murals, et cetera. She asked Mr. Hamilton how they had picked Don Howard Studios, as opposed to another producer.

Mr. Hamilton stated they had worked with him previously, and he had done good work in terms of the particular focus and the type of art work they were looking for. He stated the expectation was not that this would be just published digitally, that it would produce an image that would likely be installed at the Academy at some point, after the initial presentation, although the location was not totally locked in. He stated they were always bringing in new cadets and new employees, and that

art work might help tell the story of the 200-year history of that department.

Councilmember Akridge asked if there was an RFP or if this would fall under Professional Services.

Mr. Hamilton stated it was under Professional Services.

Councilmember Akridge stated that, then, they were using good judgment and relationships.

Mr. Hamilton stated that was correct.

Councilmember Keith stated that Mr. Howard had been his art teacher, and he was the one who had done the mural at the Iceplex, as well as a number of others. He stated he had been around for a good while, and he had done a lot of murals for the City of Huntsville, and this was great to see.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the question about the RFP, that while in this particular case, they did not feel that was the appropriate way to pursue this particular one, Arts Huntsville was actively engaged in a number of commissions like that, and in a lot of cases, with the money the City appropriated to them, setting aside some that was exclusive to local artists, to begin helping to build the local artist industry, they were commissioning work that exceeded the capacity of the local artists, and they might do a nationwide search, while also setting aside some exclusive to local artists as well.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-181, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to approve and submit the 2021 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for HOME & CDBG funding, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-182)

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Meredith.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development.

Mr. Erwin stated that the Council would recall that annually Community Development prepared an action plan they submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He stated they had submitted that in the middle of the prior year, and the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development had reviewed it, to make sure it was consistent with Community Development's consolidated plan, and then once approved, they would submit a grant agreement to the City of Huntsville. He stated that this resolution would authorize the Mayor to sign those grant agreements and receive that funding. He stated the total amount of the funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would be \$3,323,203.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Akridge asked if this was for the project they had been discussing.

Mr. Erwin replied in the negative, stating that was the Mill Creek Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant. He continued that what they were asking authorization for at this time was for the Mayor to sign the grant agreement for the HOME program and the CDBG funding, which would cover home ownership opportunities, new construction for affordable housing, the deferred maintenance rehabilitation program, and some public service activities that would occur in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.

Councilmember Akridge stated that, then, it was to continue to do the good work that was being done, and she thanked Mr. Erwin for this.

President Meredith stated he was glad to see that the City was doing something to address affordable housing, that it was a big thing he heard amongst his constituents, and it was good to know it was being addressed.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-182, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Habitat for Humanity of the River Valley, for the construction of two new houses, located at 6221 Maywick Drive and 6304 Menifee Drive, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-183)

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Erwin.

Mr. Erwin stated they had previously approved the action plan to accept the grant funds, and every time they had an outside agreement with an organization, that would come back before the Council. He stated that Habitat for Humanity was one of their great partners, and they had allocated funding for them to build two additional houses at the addresses in the Maywick community. H stated that the total amount, for both houses, was \$197,000. He stated this would increase affordable housing opportunities.

Mr. Erwin stated he would be glad to address any questions, but he would also like to introduce Ms. Myra Sanderson, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, if they had questions for her also.

Councilmember Keith stated to Ms. Sanderson that it went without doubt that Habitat for Humanity was absolutely leading the way in this, and they thanked them

for their partnership. He stated he wanted to apologize to her for missing a recent meeting. He stated that his questions concerned the fact that they had done something different on Meridian Street, and they were able to hit those match points with some commitments. He asked if Ms. Sanderson believed they would still be able to meet those design standards in the two homes that were being discussed at this time. He asked if with the adjustments for the construction layout and the cost of construction at this time, it was too late for the brick commitment they had made and the complete street commitment they had made. He asked if the brick design was on these two houses that were being discussed.

Ms. Sanderson stated that it was not, that these houses would be brick on the front, but the other three sides would be siding. She stated that was what was there in the community, and they were going to stay with the community.

Ms. Sanderson stated they had other funding that would be coming in, as well, if it was needed, with these funds they would receive from the City.

Councilmember Keith stated he wanted to discuss this, even if it was not related to these two houses. He stated that, however, he wanted to start with these two, and not sort of matching the standard inside the community, especially on Menifee, because he thought there was a dead-end to that. He stated if they had to find some price funding that would allow them to support three-side brick, he would like to continue that for homes in the future. He stated there had been a number of people who had gone down Meridian, and they had noted how different those homes were. He stated they had been uncertain that they were even Habitat homes. He stated he believed the aesthetics that Habit for Humanity had put on those homes, the front, even the landscaping, had made a tremendous difference, and also the garages, to say the least.

Councilmember Keith stated he would discuss this with Mr. Erwin, and he

stated that even if he had to get out there and put brick on the sides of the houses, he would love it. He stated he wanted to discuss the design standards moving forward, and what the cost analysis was. He stated that anything developed in Northwest Huntsville should elevate what was currently there, and he wanted to make sure they continued to have that increased standard. He stated he would like to discuss what that would look like for Habitat for Humanity and the support the City would have to give to make it three-side brick. He stated he believed the back sides of the ones in question abutted a ditch, so there would be no eye access on the back side.

Councilmember Keith stated he would discuss this matter with Mr. Erwin, and he asked Ms. Sanderson to discuss it with her board, moving forward. He stated they needed to discuss the new standard in Huntsville, different from the national standard.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge asked Ms. Sanderson if these addresses were also off of Meridian Street.

Ms. Sanderson replied in the negative.

Councilmember Keith stated they were off of Winchester.

Councilmember Akridge stated that Councilmember Keith had just mentioned something called "complete streets," and she stated she was aware of that for certain streets, but she asked how the topic of complete streets fit into these two sites.

Councilmember Keith stated that what they had done at Meridian was to widen and do a complete street on one side, with a five-foot sidewalk, and he believed a 15-foot setback, so it looked as integrated as any other neighborhood. He stated that where they had seen the most success in integrating into a neighborhood was that they did not want to overpopulate one area, that they did not want to saturate one area, that they wanted to find a way into neighborhoods and infill. He continued that,

also, in his opinion, and what they had agreed to as well, was that they would want to come in above the standard, that they would want to come in looking better than the neighbors, which, inherently, would motivate the market to look better. He stated they had put in sidewalks, and they had put in LED lighting, that they could discuss it as a total package, rather than just infilling vacant lots.

Councilmember Keith stated the tough part, as was stated earlier, was that attainable housing at this time was very specific, that they had a waiting list of individuals who went through classes. He stated that perhaps Ms. Sanderson could give some understanding of the process to get an individual home at this time.

Ms. Sanderson stated they had had two orientations recently, so they still had some applications they were going through. She stated they had approved 12 families in the last two months, and they were working hard on their hours. She stated they had 300 sweat equity hours they had to complete to obtain a home. She continued that those 300 hours were divided between construction hours and some classes, as well as giving back to the community. She stated the class hours were 55, and the classes included Construction 101, measure twice, cut once; and also lawn maintenance; being a good neighbor, what that looked like. She stated they also went over mortgage documents, so people would not be surprised when they went to closing, that they would be very familiar with the process. She stated the class that took the most time was they had to complete Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. She stated this was a six-week class, and they had to not only complete that class, but they had to provide all their homework, which included an overview of their budgets; and they looked at their budgets for a couple of months, making sure they were aware of penny in, penny out. She stated they told them regularly that they were not the budget police, that they just wanted them to know where they spent their money.

Ms. Sanderson stated that had been very beneficial in homeowners maintaining their current rate with their mortgage, but, more importantly, having a savings plan, an emergency savings plan, in the event of a need. She stated that with one family, after completing the class, she had asked them what was the thing that had come out of the class for them, and that for them, a married couple, they had said it was the first time they had ever had a flat tire that they did not have to borrow money to get a tire.

Ms. Sanderson stated they were proud to be making those sustainable changes in individuals' lives, that that was the thing she loved about the Habitat mission, one of many.

Councilmember Keith stated he felt it was upon them, as they had a wonderful partner in this organization, to address attainable housing, and that they also increased their standard, as a community, in the neighborhoods they went into. He stated that whether that would be for the City doing front-end or back-end lifting, to make sure of just getting bricks or whether there was a complete street, they wanted to make sure they were integrating a newer standard into the neighborhood, and not just matching it, because, inherently, again, a high tide lifted all boats. He stated he felt they should take the lead and take charge, saying that they would design a new home that looked comparable to any other homes built by a private developer, that he felt that would have tremendous value in the aesthetics of a neighborhood.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was glad to hear there were budget classes, and she thought Family Services Center did budget classes also, for people who qualified for HOME funds. She asked, however, how the Board of Directors had decided on a Dave Ramsey class for budgets, noting that she did not believe Family Services used Dave Ramsey.

Ms. Sanderson stated she did not know that they had taken that to their board,

that it was something they had seen that they knew they needed, and they had presented it, and they were okay with it, but she did not know that it was a formal vote. She stated they had been doing it for so long that she could not tell them specifically how that had happened, off the top of her head, and she would apologize for that.

Councilmember Akridge stated she had taken Dave Ramsey, and she understood the benefits of it, but it was a religious point of view, and her concern was raising public money with a religious emphasis. She stated people were going to call her a heathen, but she was asking Ms. Sanderson to ask her Board of Directors to adopt something that perhaps Family Services used that was non-religious, for budget purposes.

Councilmember Keith stated he felt it was important that they have that conversation offline, because of the assessment of their board and the mission statements they had.

Councilmember Akridge stated it was this money that was going to be sent to them.

Councilmember Keith stated he could probably show her four organizations they gave to that had a creed, and one that was still sitting there, that had alignment with some Christian views. He reiterated that he believed if they wanted to have a conversation, moving forward, with Ms. Sanderson and her board, they should probably have it offline, if possible, instead of making it accessible from the dais.

Mr. Erwin stated that any individual who received HOME-assisted HUD funding was required to go through an 8-hour certified HUD counseling class, and that was separate from what Habitat for Humanity did. He stated that if they placed someone in that, through down payment assistance, or a single-family home ownership, they would still need to complete that 8-hour class. He stated that

Family Services taught this because they were the only agency they had a contract with locally to teach that HUD-certified class.

Councilmember Keith stated to Ms. Sanderson that as the community that had the most Habitat for Humanity homes in their neighborhood, he was requesting that her board assess the value of increasing the aesthetic standard of the homes they built, and what it would take to continue on the model that was created on Meridian. He stated that once they got that assessment, he thought there would be some value in having a conversation to make sure they were increasing the standard of the homes they were putting in the neighborhoods.

Ms. Sanderson stated she wanted to make sure she understood what Councilmember Keith was saying.

Councilmember Keith stated he was saying that what they were doing over on Meridian, he wanted to know how to make sure they could do that with every home.

Ms. Sanderson asked Councilmember Keith if he was restricting the current funds.

Councilmember Keith stated there would be no restrictions, that this was a learning lesson for him, moving forward. He stated that a lot of times when people came into marginalized and lower socioeconomic communities, they looked to meet and match, and what he was saying was that the standard should be to elevate. He stated that even if they had to cut down the amount of houses they would put in, every house they built should be something everybody in the city of Huntsville should be proud to live in.

Ms. Sanderson stated that was absolutely correct, and she stated she believed their homes already on that street had improved the street.

Ms. Sanderson stated the reason she had asked about restriction of the funds was because they had volunteers chomping at the bit to start construction on the

following day, and she needed to know if they should detain that.

Councilmember Keith stated this was not a restriction on this date, that this was not a restriction on what the Council was approving, that it was in moving forward, they wanted to make sure the aesthetic standard was to increase the look of the community.

Ms. Sanderson stated she would be in touch with Councilmember Keith within the next week.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-183, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced a resolution to adjust the salaries of employees in certain positions in assigned departments, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-184)

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Meredith.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated the resolution before the Council was to adjust the step specific to a couple of employees. He stated he would talk a little bit with them about employee compensation. He stated that the Council had seen a number of these over a year or a year and a half, and there were a variety of reasons for this. He stated they might recall that a couple of years ago, they had done a significant update to the overall salary plan, and as they went through that, while it was a great plan, there were always going to be individual cases where there was some issue they would need to bring before the Council, to resolve a specific employee's compensation. He stated there had been a readjustment for a number of employees after that adjustment. He stated that an example of that was, within the Fire Department, if specific Academy

classes had lined up appropriately. He stated that in some cases, the timing had actually kind of messed up the alignment, and they had come before the Council to fix that and get them all aligned the way they needed to be.

Mr. Hamilton stated that some of this continued to be a little bit of the after-effects of that, but some of it, as with the current case, was the reflection that almost all the time when they had an employee who was selected for promotion, in a move from one position into a supervisory position, the automatic increase in their grade and step got them aligned appropriately as a supervisor over a group of employees, but sometimes, in individual cases, they would actually end up making less than the people they supervised, which obviously did not fit with the model intended, and that was the case with this particular case. He stated they wanted to make sure the crew leader was appropriately compensated relative to the people that person was leading on a daily basis.

Mr. Hamilton stated that their system did not allow them to just automatically fix this, that they had to come before the Council to fix that sort of thing.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, additionally, in the second one, it was a situation of the timing, that this employee's hiring had slightly preceded what they had seen as kind of significant inflationary pressure, that this employee was brought in at the bottom of the step, and as they reflected back on that, based on his resume and his experience, that was not an appropriate level to bring the employee in at. He stated that, again, their system did not allow them to go back and correct that, that they had to come before the Council with this. He stated that based on the employee's experience and the work he was performing relative to other employees within the department, it was more appropriate in this case that this employee would be compensated at a Step 14. He stated that was the basis of that recommendation.

Mr. Hamilton stated he would answer any questions the Council members

might have on this.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was just glad they were reminding the public how these things were assessed.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they relied heavily on department heads, to make sure they were leading and managing their workforce and identifying these types of issues. He stated they would then formally come to HR, and then ultimately to him, to review with them. He stated that his look was across the system, to make sure they were being consistent across all the departments. He stated that the department head might come to him with a recommendation that made sense for his department, but it might be inconsistent with how they had handled other cases, so they would work through that with the department head and with HR, to make sure they were handling all employee cases consistently, in these individual decisions, so that everyone would be treated fairly.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-184, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Introduction.

President Meredith read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-187, amending Chapter 12, Environmental Management, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, by adding Article VIII, concerning Maintenance Areas.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Second Roster Public Comments.

President Meredith stated this portion of the meeting was reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on matters relating to City business, whether or not such items were on the meeting agenda. He stated that persons could sign up to

speak on the Second Public Comments Roster prior to or during the meeting. He asked that when called, speakers approach a microphone and state their name, home address, and city of residence. He stated that each speaker could address the Council for three minutes, and that speakers shall refrain from entering into a dialogue with Council Members or City staff and from making comments regarding the good name and character of any individual.

Mr. LaGarette Crawford, 182 Oldwood Road, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Community Violence Intervention."

Councilmember Keith asked Mr. Crawford to send the information he had just shared to the Council staff, and he thanked him for the work he did.

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Gov't Issues."

Ms. Sarah Colletti, addressed the Council, stating that her address was listed correctly on the roster, and having signed up to speak concerning "Public transit."

President Meredith stated that concluded the Second Roster Public Comments, and he asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Kling stated that before they adjourned, he wanted to mention that Councilmember Robinson was out of town because of a significant family health issue she was dealing with; and, otherwise, she would be in attendance at the meeting.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated that anyone who would like to make recommendations about public transportation should meet directly with Quisha Bryant, Director of Parking and Public Transit. She stated that if Ms. Bryant was still in attendance at the meeting, she would ask her to meet with Ms. Colletti at her convenience.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was aware that department was involved in a new transit study, that the Council had just approved a contract to begin the transit station. She stated there was a person, who was a subject-matter expert, with a budget to improve public transit. She stated the Council members were not those people, that they would simply approve whatever recommendations they came up with.

Councilmember Akridge stated that whenever she went to another city, like she had done recently, she used public transit. She stated ridership was down across the country, and she stated that Huntsville was only at 70 percent of its pre-pandemic ridership, and this caused a big strain. She stated they were bound by the access of federal money, and Ms. Bryant was working very hard to keep that coming in. She stated she had recently read that the federal government spent a lot more on roads than they did on public transit, which was also to her chagrin, but there were a lot of factors to getting the buses optimized, for the money they had and for the people they needed to serve.

Upon motion, President Meredith stated the Council was adjourned, and he stated the next Regular Meeting of the Council would be held on March 24, 2022.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK-TREASURER

(Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on March 10, 2022.)