

## HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting - December 18, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, City Hall  
Huntsville, Alabama

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Dr. Jennie Robinson</b> <b>Mr. Bill Kling</b> <b>Mr. David Little</b> <b>Mr. John Meredith</b> <b>Ms. Michelle Watkins</b>
<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Mr. Tommy Battle</b>
<b>City Administrator:</b>	<b>Mr. John Hamilton</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>Mr. Trey Riley</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Ms. Shaundrika Edwards</b>

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

The invocation was offered by **Public Safety Chaplain Nancy Smith**; **Councilmember Meredith** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

**President Robinson** said item 19.d on the agenda had been withdrawn by the sponsor, and the Administration had requested that items 21.d and 21.e be considered at this meeting, which would require unanimous consent of the Council.

President Robinson asked if there were any other changes to the agenda.

**The agenda was approved as corrected.**

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

**President Robinson** said the Council members had been provided minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held on December 4, 2025, and she asked if there were any changes or additions to be made.

**The minutes were approved as submitted.**

**COUNCIL: SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.**

**Special Recognitions.**

**Presentation in recognition of a valued community partner and successful family bakery, L'Etoile Patisserie.**

**President Robinson** presented a certificate to Kevin Zurmuehlen, owner of L'Etoile Patisserie, saying she was honored to be able to present this certificate to a truly remarkable individual and small business owner and to celebrate the inspiring journey that had led to the creation of a beloved local treasure, and she commented on Mr. Zurmuehlen's outstanding life, from being a graduate of West Point, to military duties, and to the formation of L'Etoile Patisserie.

**Presentation recognizing the winners of the Huntsville City Council's 2025 Deck the Districts holiday light contest.**

**Councilmember Watkins** recognized the District 1 winner, Drew Franzo.

**Councilmember Little** recognized the District 2 winner, Jenny Sweer.

**President Robinson** recognized the District 3 winner, Larry Mouton.

**Councilmember Kling** recognized the District 4 winner, Woolsey Finnell.

**Councilmember Meredith** recognized the District 5 winner, Troy Mouers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS.**

President Robinson said the Council would resume its regular schedule of meetings to be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, noting that they met on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month in November and December because of the holidays. She said the first regular meeting of the Council in January of 2026 would be on January 8, 2026.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD.**

**Public hearing in order to hear, consider, and act upon all objections or protests, if any, for removal of a public nuisance at**

**727 Versailles Dr., SE, Huntsville, AL**, which hearing was set at the December 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

(Mr. Erwin made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development**, said this property had been abandoned, that it had an out-of-state corporate owner, and a vehicle had run into the garage area, and there was an abandoned car and other items on the property. He said they were seeking authorization to abate this junk public nuisance, on behalf of the neighbors.

**Public Hearing Opened.**

**Mr. William Carter**, 718 Versailles Drive, SE, addressed the Council, saying his house was directly across from the subject property. He commended the Council and the Administration for being sensitive to what the community required to maintain the standards they had come to expect in the city. He said he had a personal stake in this matter because he and his wife had decided to downsize, and his realtor had told him that the eyesore across the street from his property would cost him 30 to 50 thousand dollars. He said this house had been in this condition for a couple of years, that the owner had died of a heart attack in February of 2024, and in November of 2024, an automobile had run into the garage, destroying the integrity of the upper story, et cetera.

Mr. Carter said it had taken a long time to address this issue, and they needed to get rid of this problem. He said they must take care of the housing area, that the community was what made the city live and breathe, and it was why they were recognized for the progressive community of people they were.

Mr. Carter said he hoped the Council would take favorable action on this matter and get rid of this eyesore and move on.

**Ms. Joy Johnson**, West Arbor Drive, Huntsville, addressed the Council,

saying of course the most important thing about housing was the investment in one's house, not that it was a place for people to live, but it was the money one could make out of it.

Ms. Johnson said she was being ironic, in case they had missed it.

**Public Hearing Closed.**

**Resolution No. 25-1001**, ordering the abatement of a public nuisance at 727 Versailles Dr., SE, Huntsville, AL.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Kling/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1001)**

**Public hearing on authorizing Community Development to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties.**

**Mr. Erwin** said this covered 50 properties, and the total amount was \$16,350.52, for an average per property assessment of \$327.01. He said 39 of these properties had local owners, 4 had out-of-city owners, and 7 had out-of-state owners.

**Public Hearing Opened/No Public Comment/Public Hearing Closed.**

**Resolution No. 25-1002**, authorizing Community Development to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1002)**

**Public hearing on the rezoning of 380.93 acres of land lying south of AL Hwy 20 and east of I-65 from Residence 2-B District and Highway Business C-4 District to Planned Development - Housing District, LUI 56,** which hearing was set at the November 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Thomas Nunez, Manager of Planning and Zoning Services,** said this property had been annexed earlier in 2025, and he was bringing forth a petition for the property owner to present what was called the "Westmoore Landing Planned Development."

Mr. Nunez said this property was primarily surrounded by Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and it included the Singing River Trails, the Limestone County Boat Ramp, and river deltas formed by the Tennessee River. He said this proposed PD utilized the concept of transects, a geographical cross section revealing a sequence of environments to guide urban planning and development, emphasizing urban form, walkability, and mixed use.

Mr. Nunez explained the areas included in each of the transects, with varied residential uses and integrated open spaces, and live/work and mixed-use areas, and open spaces for neighborhood gatherings, and he explained the Village area and the Town Center, providing in-depth explanations of each of the areas.

Mr. Nunez displayed a slide depicting pictures of each of the areas and further explained the development to be done in each area. He said there would be no commercial in the neighborhoods, but in the Village section, they would have the permitted commercial facilities.

Mr. Nunez displayed another slide, and he said this was the open floor plan, which displayed a lot of the characteristics of the development and how it was high on the concept of open space and community activities, places where people could gather, essentially taking away the prominence of the vehicle and more toward the actions of the pedestrians within the community.

Mr. Nunez displayed another slide, and he said this would show more of the intent of the open spaces, geared toward playgrounds and walkability, with recreational spaces, skate park, basketball, et cetera.

Mr. Nunez displayed another slide, and he said they could see the different streetscapes that would be formed in the development itself, and he continued to explain the different streets to be included within the development, explaining each section. He continued to display slides along with explanations.

Mr. Nunez said these proposals would come before the Council for adoption, and he said they would show up as modifications from the traditional zoning and subdivision regulations.

Mr. Nunez continued displaying various slides of the proposed areas in the development, further explaining the areas and housing types

Mr. Nunez displayed a slide entitled "Permitted Land Use By Transect," and he explained the different usages allowed within each transect.

Mr. Nunez displayed a slide entitled "Requested Modifications," and he said this was one of the most important parts of this proposal. He said the development team was present at this meeting, and they had asked for particular modifications to be before the Council, and he said these modifications either came up in the Zoning Ordinance or in their Subdivision Regulations. He continued to explain the requested modifications, along with the intent of them. These sections are as follows: Street Cross Sections, Minimum-Right-of-way and Pavement Widths; Road Grading, Improvements, and Curbs; Access and Easements; Intersection Radii; Street Materials and Traffic Calming; Lot Line Orientation; Traffic Control Devices, Perimeter Landscaping; Single-Family Lot and Building Standards; Multi-Family Building Standards; Parking Requirements; Permitted Land Uses; Frontage Types; General Application of Standards; and Vehicular Access to Streets.

**Public Hearing Opened.**

**Ms. Sarah Colletti**, Hartselle, addressed the Council, saying the way the city was expanding, it looked as though she might soon be in Councilmember Meredith's

district. She said she had seen the Decatur city line on one of the displayed slides, and this showed the interconnectedness of this area. She asked what the point would be of a walkable neighborhood that was not connected to downtown by public transit, unless it would only be accessible to folks who could afford drivers.

Ms. Colletti said they needed more affordable housing in Huntsville, not just apartments that started out at \$5,000 a month, or whatever these would be. She said she had found that every time individuals had asked for affordable housing, they started talking about caves and how tall buildings were not an option. She said this Westmoore Landing, or, in fact, the building they were in at this time, definitely proved that they could build tall buildings and have plenty of affordable housing in them, and not just this waterfront, walkable without public transit, idyllic place.

Ms. Colletti said they could do affordable public housing in this city, and the Council members knew it, and that was what was being asked for. She asked what weighed more, the Walmart furniture poor people could afford and the cheapest possible appliances that landlords could get away with putting in, that broke after a month, or the elaborate, marble dais the Council had, and the nice leather chairs they were sitting in. She said she could not imagine anything she could afford, at the thrift store or at Walmart, weighing as much as the dais.

**Ms. Nancy Grayson Van Valkenburgh**, 108 Gates Avenue, SE, addressed the Council, saying she agreed that this development seemed to be absolutely unconnected to anything in the area, and it was too dense, in her estimation. She said she did not think she would want to live there, but she was sure some people would find it just right. She said there were too many things being asked for, that it was being asked to change from Residential 2-B District, which was fairly dense but not like this. She said she had a 360-acre farm, and this was 380 acres, which was only 20 acres more, and she said to cram all this in the little space she had would not work.

Ms. Van Valkenburgh said she just wished them good luck.

**Ms. Joy Johnson**, West Arbor Drive, Huntsville, addressed the Council, saying she was excited to hear about ADUs getting approved somewhere, and she asked when they were going to get them everywhere else.

Ms. Johnson said in this huge piece of real estate, they were making a lot of places specifically for humans to live, and she asked what they would be doing about the things that were living there now. She said she had heard a lot of acknowledgments to various departments, but she had heard nothing about the Sustainability Committee and what they had to say about this development, and she would love to hear from them.

Ms. Johnson said she wanted to know if this lighting they were going to have that was special, mood lighting for this sort of place would follow Dark Skies guidelines. She said she knew they would request a plat restriction that would get rid of non-native species grass and say everybody would have to plant native species to support the biome that was there, right next to Wheeler Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. Johnson said that while they were at it, some of these common spaces could be maybe committed to gardens, noting she knew they were going to do a restriction for that, that they were going to require community gardens. She asked if that was right, and she asked if, also, chickens would be allowed.

**Public Hearing Closed.**

**Ordinance No. 25-879, rezoning 380.93 acres of land lying south of AL Hwy 20 and east of I-65 from Residence 2-B District and Highway Business C-4 District to Planned Development - Housing District, LUI 56,** which ordinance was introduced at the November 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Kling.**

**Councilmember Kling** asked if it was conceivable that after this

development was completed, Public Transit would evaluate it for the feasibility of adding it to the shuttle system.

**Mr. Nunez** said that would be something that would happen under the direction of the Director of Public Transit, noting that they did such evaluations every two to three years. He said this project, in itself, would probably be a 30-plus-year project, and as the development continued, there would be evaluations of how this would be connected, and they would continue to grow their transit components for this development, as well as others that would be more focused in the core. He said they wanted to make sure they got the ridership necessary to make sure it would be economically feasible for them to provide this.

**President Robinson** said there was some wonderful wildlife, with the location near the preserve, and she asked if they had considered how this development would be interacting with this opportunity to bring people into nature.

**Mr. Nunez** said that was definitely an action they had looked at, and he said he would like for David Horwath, with Land Innovations, to speak to some of the studies they had done toward keeping Wheeler Wildlife exactly the way it was, not impeding on it. He said this area had been primarily farmland, that there had been no people, or even cattle or horses, on this property in the last 100 years.

**Mr. David Horwath, President of Land Innovations**, addressed the Council, and he said his development partner, Trey Rochford, with Rochford Realty and Construction, was also in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Horwath said they had been meeting with the Singing River Trail and the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge for the last 16 months, and they had been incredibly helpful, thoughtful with their input, and he said in the Council's package, there was a support letter, that they felt strongly that their development philosophy, which was on sustainability and a variety of water treatments, would actually improve the

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, along with coordinated access points, to not only allow access to Limestone Bay but to educate the public on the decisions they made on a day-to-day basis and how that impacted not only the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and Limestone Bay but ultimately the Tennessee River.

Mr. Horwath said he would be glad to answer any questions the Council members might have.

**Councilmember Meredith** said it had been a privilege working with Mr. Horwath and a lot of other folks who had been involved in this development. He said this had been a long time coming, that it had been started and stopped several times at the Planning Commission level, and they had jumped through more hoops than he could recall any developer having jumped through. He thanked everyone who had been involved in this matter.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-879)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE SET.**

**Resolution No. 25-1003**, setting a public hearing on the zoning of 4.91 acres of land lying on the east side of Hillcrest Avenue NW and north of US Hwy 72 W to Highway Business C-4 District, at the January 22, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; and rescinding Resolution No. 25-954.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1003)**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1004**, zoning 4.91 acres of land lying on the east side of Hillcrest Avenue NW and north of US Hwy 72 W to Highway Business C-4 District.

**Resolution No. 25-1005**, setting a public hearing on the zoning of 4.65 acres of land lying on the south side of Hwy 72 E and east of Shields Road to

Highway Business C-4 District, at the January 22, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; and rescinding Resolution No. 25-956.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Kling/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1005)**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1006**, zoning 4.65 acres of land lying on the south side of Hwy 72 E and east of Shields Road to Highway Business C-4 District.

**AGENDA RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**President Robinson** said 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. She said the Council welcomed hearing ideas, questions, and concerns about City business. She said speakers should approach the microphone and state their name and city of residence, and they could address the Council for three minutes.

**Ms. Joy Johnson**, West Arbor Drive, Huntsville, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "20 f g h k l m, 21 d e."

**MAYOR COMMENTS.**

**Mayor Battle** made the following appointment:

**Christopher Jones to the Land Trust of North Alabama Board**, for a 2-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027.

Mayor Battle said they had the kick-off for the Space Command, and all representatives and senators from the state of Alabama were in attendance, and they promised support for the project, to make sure it would work well. He said in the next several months, they would be seeing a little more travel budget, as they would be going to Washington to work on ensuring they had the tools and the infrastructure necessary to get these 1400 people on the Arsenal and back home each day.

Mayor Battle said that the prior week, Eli Lilly had announced they would be building a \$6 billion campus at the Greenbrier/I-565 intersection, on some City land they had purchased, looking for just the right business to come in there. He said this would be a four-year build, and over that period, they would hire 3,000 workers, over time, and then they would end up with 450 workers at the plant.

Mayor Battle said they had had some good successes over the last couple of weeks, and they were looking forward to being able to make sure they could provide opportunity, that this was jobs and opportunity, that it would give people a chance to move up from an entry-level job to a better job, and also offer employment for persons who might be just coming out of high school. He said it was a good thing for the city to be able to offer the opportunity for good jobs for people throughout the area.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS.**

**Councilmember Watkins** said she had attended the 73rd annual HPD graduation, and she congratulated the new police officers. She said she had also attended the Claus for Celebration, and she thanked everyone who had worked toward the success of that event.

Councilmember Watkins said she had the pleasure of reading to a kindergarten class at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Councilmember Watkins said she had recently had a press conference concerning the North Huntsville Connect coalition. She said this was a group of bar owners, as well as restaurant owners, who had come together, and they now had a system where they scanned a person's ID, and if that person caused a problem in their establishment, they would be banned from all the establishments in the coalition. She said she thought this was an excellent idea, that it would curb a lot of nonsense, and she said for these business owners to come together and collaborate the way they

had said a lot about the city, that people were invested in their businesses, and they wanted the best for their customers.

Councilmember Watkins said on December 23rd, the Food Bank of North Alabama and the Northwoods Committee would come together and have a food drive in the Northwoods Public Housing Community, and she said persons could just drive up, and a box would be put in their car.

Councilmember Watkins thanked the City of Huntsville staff for the exceptional job they had done during the year, noting there were a lot of things going on in Huntsville, and the staff worked extremely hard. She thanked them for their dedication, noting that it was sincerely appreciated.

Councilmember Watkins wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Councilmember Kling** said he wanted to recognize the passing of B.J. Robinson, noting she had been very much involved in Bailey Patton Estates, that she was a big Alabama football fan and loved gardening, and she would be greatly missed.

Councilmember Kling congratulated Mayor Battle on the Eli Lilly development, noting it was about the biggest single industrial development project in the state of Alabama's history.

Councilmember Kling commended Scott Erwin for the way he had handled a problem of people being without heat at The Summit.

Councilmember Kling said Mr. Riley, the City Attorney, was working on seeing what they could do concerning cable TV boxes, noting that as he walked the neighborhoods in his district, he saw downed, broken cable boxes.

Councilmember Kling said he had the opportunity to participate in the Shop With a Hero program, and he said this was a great event, taking some very special young people to a Walmart and letting them go Christmas shopping.

Councilmember Kling said he had the opportunity to participate in a guest role

in the Huntsville Ballet's performance of The Nutcracker, and it had been a lot of fun.

Councilmember Kling said luminaries had been displayed in the downtown area, and it was very beautiful to see.

Councilmember Kling said he had participated in the annual gatherings for Community Watch and the Fraternal Order of Police, and he had also recently had his town meeting, and he had received a lot of good input, and there were some things he was getting City departments to take care of.

Councilmember Kling said Tinsel Trail was still going on in Big Spring Park, and it would be continuing through New Year's Eve. He said it was a great thing to see, and he urged persons to go out and see all the very impressive trees.

Councilmember Kling wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

**Councilmember Little** thanked the entire team that had worked on the Eli Lilly project, noting this had covered many months, that it was a huge deal for Huntsville, as well as the region.

Councilmember Little wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Councilmember Meredith** said the Eli Lilly project was a \$6 billion investment, the biggest investment in Alabama history, and it was going to be in District 5.

Councilmember Meredith said he and his wife had played the part of the grandparents in The Nutcracker presented by the Huntsville Ballet, and he said he had been very much in awe of the production itself, and he thanked them for this opportunity.

Councilmember Meredith said he was happy to announce that they would be cutting the ribbon for the Martin Road Rec Center on the upcoming Monday,

December 22, at 10 a.m., and he invited everyone who lived in the area to attend and get their first sneak peek at the new facility, noting this would be the site of his first town hall in 2026.

Councilmember Meredith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and most prosperous New Year, with further wishes for whatever people might be celebrating at this time of year.

**President Robinson** said they had heard a lot at this meeting about housing, and she wanted to bring everyone's attention to an interview Dennis Madsen had done on NPR, focusing on how cities provided affordable housing. She said housing prices in Huntsville had risen, and it was a good thing for property owners, and they had not risen to the point they were unaffordable. She said Mr. Madsen had done a great job of explaining the thought behind this and how forward thinking the City had been in providing enough housing stock for the people who would be coming into the city without having these prices become inflated.

President Robinson said this was why Community Development's work was so important, because they preserved these investments that people depended on as they aged out and needed to move to other housing. She said they not only protected the investment, that they also protected the neighborhoods.

President Robinson thanked Mr. Erwin and his team for the work they did in helping to protect all the investments in this community.

President Robinson thanked the Huntsville South Civic Association, noting they had rededicated a memorial on Bailey Cove, the site where Officer Eric Freeman was shot and killed in the line of duty many years prior.

President Robinson said they had wonderful community volunteers who contributed their time to making great communities, and she said one of those organizations was South Huntsville Main, and one of those volunteers, Brooke Bell,

who had served on the board and as a board Chair, had now become the new Executive Director there. She said she had a wonderful background in banking and finance and business development, and she knew she would be doing great things for South Huntsville Main.

President Robinson suggested that everyone visit Christmas on the River at Ditto Landing, noting that Christmas Card Lane was amazing, with more than 100 Christmas Cards.

President Robinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.**

**Resolution No. 25-1007**, authorizing expenditures for payment.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1007)**

**Ordinance No. 25-1008**, approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 5 Council Improvement Funds.

**Motion by Robinson/Second by Meredith.**

**Councilmember Meredith** said this appropriation was as follows: \$22,000 to Oakwood University, to provide funding for academic resources that would facilitate successful matriculation of students at the University; \$5,000 to the Kids to Love Foundation, to provide funding for work to bring mental health services to, among others, Williams Middle School, and also Morris, and hopefully to expand to all of them; and \$5,000 to the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, to provide for the mentoring of mostly high school young ladies.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-1008)**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO BE VOTED ON.**

**Resolution No. 25-960, reappointing Freeman Holifield to the Solid**

**Waste Disposal Authority of the City of Huntsville, 5th Director** (his current seat), for a four (4) year term to expire January 1, 2030.

**Motion by Watkins/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-960)**

**Resolution No. 25-1000, appointing Sean Magers to the Burritt Memorial Committee, Place 3**, due to the resignation of Ahmad Brown, for the remainder of a vacant three (3) year term to expire October 1, 2028.

**Motion by Robinson/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1000)**

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENT NOMINATIONS.**

**President Robinson** asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

There was no response.

#### **LEGAL DEPARTMENT ITEMS/TRANSACTIONS.**

##### **Vacation of Easements.**

Ordinance No. 25-1009, authorizing the vacation of a Utility and Drainage Easement for Lot 98, The Willows at Sanctuary Cove Subdivision, 4400 Lake Willow Blvd. (Martin)

**Motion by Little/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-1009)**

**Ordinance No. 25-1010**, authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements for Inverness Springs Subdivision, Phase IV. (Elite Properties)

**Motion by Little/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-1010)**

##### **Deeds of Acceptance.**

**Resolution No. 25-1011**, authorizing the acceptance of a 0.064-acre tract of land from D.R. Horton, Inc., for a Drainage Easement located in Highland Hills

Phase 1 Subdivision.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1011)**

**Resolution No. 25-1012.** authorizing the acceptance of a 0.08-acre tract of land from Corbett Huntsville Properties, LLC, for a Stormwater Drainage Easement located at Solstice Apartments, 5541 Promenade Pointe Parkway.

**Motion by Little/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1012)**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS FOR ACTION.**

**Ordinance No. 25-996**, annexing 1.41 acres of land lying south of Sutton Road and west of Woodside Drive, which ordinance was introduced at the December 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Kling/Second by Meredith.**

**(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Nunez** said this was a request to annex approximately 1.41 acres lying south of Sutton Road and west of Woodside Drive. He said this was an existing single-family residence, and they would like to come in for City services.

**President Robinson** said there were a number of annexation items before the Council, and she asked if Mr. Nunez would review the annexation process for the public.

Mr. Nunez said within an annexation process, a property owner would first contact the Planning Department, petitioning to annex and filling out paperwork, and if the property owner did not meet the minimum requirements, they would never see that particular paperwork, but if they met the requirements, they would accept the paperwork and filter it through the 24 departments within the City of Huntsville, and through that review, each department had the opportunity to comment if there were

particular issues related to the property or to the annexation. He said if they could not service it appropriately, such requests would never come before the Council. He said through this process, the departments had an opportunity to review these, that they essentially had anywhere from 14 to 21 days, and upon that, they would then get the appropriate paperwork, with the petition from the property owner. He said there were also other supporting documents that came forward with that, and that would be when they would be introduced to the Council, and the Council would take action.

President Robinson said with this ordinance, and the following ones concerning annexation, it was not the City going out and annexing the property, that it was requested by the property owner, and then it had to be approved through all the departments and meet very rigorous guidelines.

Mr. Nunez said that was correct.

**Councilmember Kling** asked if it was correct that no one would be annexed into the city of Huntsville against their will.

**Mr. Nunez** said that was correct, that the City of Huntsville did not annex land without the petitioner asking them first.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-996)**

**Ordinance No. 25-997**, annexing 36.54 acres of land lying on the south side of Martin Road and east of Electronics Blvd., which ordinance was introduced at the December 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little.**

**(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Nunez** said this property was located on the south side of Martin Road and east of Electronics Boulevard, and the petitioner was seeking to annex for a proposed residential development.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-997)**

**Ordinance No. 25-998**, annexing 686.46 acres of land lying north of Little Cove Road and east and west of Hwy 72 E, which ordinance was introduced at the December 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Little/Second by Meredith.**

**(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Nunez** said this was a petition to annex 686.46 acres of land located north of Little Cove Road and east and west of Highway 72 East. He said this proposal included 50 to 100 acres that would remain in its natural state, as it was in the floodway. He said there were no housing proposals on this development, that the petitioner was seeking to zone the property Commercial along 72 East, and also Commercial Industrial Park and Industrial Park.

**President Robinson** said this was one of those projects where they needed to demonstrate a good use, a good reason for bringing this acreage, 686.46, into the city. She asked why it was important for them to have this land come in, this large piece of land, on the east side of 72.

**Mr. Nunez** said as the eastern portion of the county continued to grow, they wanted to make sure they provided services to these areas. He said as petitioners came forward, they came through all the departments, for review and questions about the intent and the overall goal. He said this site would be similar to what they had just accomplished with Eli Lilly, that when there would be the appropriate project, they would have the opportunity to control how it would be done. He said if such a project were to come into the county, there would be no level of control, that the regulations were completely different. He said the city had more intense regulations than the standards established by the state. He said the City would get the

opportunity to make sure a development was appropriate.

**Mayor Battle** said Eli Lilly would have some following industries that would come in, suppliers, and they needed to have sites they could show them that would work. He said this was a great area because it was in the northern labor shed, and that labor shed had a lot of capacity, going toward Sand Mountain, that it was a labor shed they had not worked all the way through, and this would open up another section of the city.

**President Robinson** said they could open up to Jackson County and DeKalb County, and provide employment for those rural communities.

**Councilmember Watkins** asked if it was correct that this was Industrial and Commercial only, so no houses would be built, and there would be no students affected in the county, that would be annexed to go to city schools.

**Mr. Nunez** said that was correct.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-998)**

**(Item 19.d was withdrawn by the sponsor.)**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION.**

**Items 20.f, 20.g, 20.h, and 20.k were held from the consolidation.**

**Motion for consolidation and adoption of the following items:**

**Motion by Robinson/Second by Meredith/Unanimously Approved.**

**Consolidated Items:**

Resolution authorizing travel expenses.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1014)**

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1015)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low

bidders meeting specifications as outlined in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1016)**

Resolution amending Resolution No. 25-761 and Resolution No. 25-762, by appropriating carry-forward encumbrances and project budgets from Fiscal Year 2025 into Fiscal Year 2026.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1017)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for FY 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program planning grant funds.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1018)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Proposal for Coverage to the Alabama First Responders Benefits Program and the City of Huntsville, for the purpose of providing a Firefighter Cancer and Long-Term Disability benefit to Active Paid Firefighters.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 1022)**

Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the workers' compensation claim of Centrale Harris.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1023)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Grayson Carter & Son Contracting, Inc., for City of Huntsville Streets Resurfacing, FY2026, Phase 1.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 1025)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Lambert Contracting, LLC., for City of Huntsville Streets Concrete & ADA Upgrades, FY2026, Phase 1.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1026)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and Marty Calvert.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 1027)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Janel Ploge.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1028)**

**Items Not Consolidated.**

**Resolution No. 25-1019**, authorizing the City of Huntsville to commit HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to Parkside Cottages, LLC., to construct thirty (30) affordable rental housing units for families, contingent upon receipt of an allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the Alabama Housing Finance Authority.

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little.**

**Mr. Erwin** said this resolution was related to a new affordable housing project within North Huntsville, and he said they would be requesting proposals for local partners, where they could leverage HOME funds to maximize tax credits so they could develop additional rental housing within North Huntsville. He said this project was 30 units, two- and three-bedroom units, and it was an approximate \$13 million investment within the neighborhood. He said this was a local, nonprofit developer, Neighborhood Concepts.

**Councilmember Watkins** said this was the beginning of more affordable housing in Huntsville, and that was good news. She said she had met with Mary Ellen Judah, with Neighborhood Concepts, several times, along with some community members, and Ms. Judah had answered all their questions and reassured them that this would be affordable housing for families. She said she was excited about this

happening in North Huntsville, and she wanted to see more of this done throughout the city, to assure they would not be pushing out any of their people who had been in the city for years, the Huntsvillians who were here before anything was built. She said it was important for them to remember this when it came to affordable housing.

Mr. Erwin said they tried to bring before the Council opportunities to expand the affordable housing stock in the city as often as possible, and this was one more, and they would continue with this.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1019)**

**Resolution No. 25-1020**, authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama, Inc., for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds.

**Motion by Little/Second by Meredith.**

**Mr. Erwin** said earlier in the year, the Council had approved an allocation of \$200,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama, noting they had the need for replacement of a roof at the Abingdon location. He said this work was almost complete, but not final, so they needed an additional approximately 90 days to wrap the project up, so it would be completed and they could close it out.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1020)**

**Resolution No. 25-1021**, authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc., for Huntsville Northern Bypass, COH Project No. 65-10-RD08 and ALDOT Project No. CRSA-STPHV-PE10(917).

**Motion by Watkins/Second by Meredith.**

**Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development,** said this was Change Order No. 2 to the Northern Bypass project, and the amount was \$632,193.95. He said as they got into these large highway projects, one of the things they came back to in mid-construction was Huntsville Utilities starting to design the streetlights and intersections, and he said this would pay for the streetlight installation for the road project and some additional water lines that were needed to support the new North Huntsville Town Center, and also some pending residential development on the north side of the Northern Bypass. He said they were just adding scope to this project, that it was not anything that was left out of the design, that they were getting to the point of being ready to open this road, as they got into the spring of the upcoming year.

**Councilmember Kling** asked if there was a ballpark estimate as to when cars would be actually driving on this, that it would be completed.

Mr. Davis said at this time, they were shooting for a May timeline. He said if one was up in that area, they could see that they had most of the curb and gutter installed and several portions of asphalt, and they had opened the intersection early, an early completion, by contract, to get Food City open and allow them to advance the announcement of Target and Home Depot. He said there was a little bit of shift change into a single lane, and they were about to open up the full two lanes at that intersection and get traffic farther west, toward Pulaski Pike. He said the heavy construction was all in place, and people could start to see what the finished project would look like.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1021)**

**Resolution No. 25-1024**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Huntsville and the Gulf Coast

Regional Fugitive Task Force (U.S. Department of Justice, United States Marshals Service).

**Motion by Meredith/Second by Little.**

**Mr. John Hamilton, City Administrator**, said this was an annual renewal of the agreement with the Marshals Service, specifically for the Fugitive Task Force. He said this agreement provided funding that agency had available to reimburse them for overtime if their officers were needed to participate in the operations and used overtime, that it was primarily a financial agreement.

Mr. Hamilton said the question really concerned what the Fugitive Task Force did, and he said oftentimes what they were doing with this in Huntsville was concerning someone who had fled from another community where they had committed some violent crime. He said that, obviously, people who committed a violent crime in the city might flee to other communities. He said when they started crossing state boundaries, when they had done things that would get the attention of federal law enforcement, that specifically the U.S. Marshals Service was charged with the mission of going in and collecting fugitives, and they used local and state partners to assist with that process. He said that, specifically, it was bringing people who were fugitives from justice back to face justice.

**Councilmember Meredith** asked, on average, how much they participated in this and how much they were being reimbursed for overtime.

Mr. Hamilton said he did not have those specific statistics with him, but he would be happy to get them for Councilmember Meredith. He said the maximum reimbursement was \$30,000, and his guess was they had not hit that number.

Mr. Hamilton said they had been in this task force for probably 20-plus years, so there would be some good historical data, and he would provide that.

Mr. Hamilton said about two or three meetings prior, he had laid out, just in

summary, the seven agreements the Huntsville Police Department was involved in with other agencies, some federal and some state and local, and this was one of those seven. He said he had recently met with a group of citizens that had particular interest in these types of agreements, and one of the things they had talked about, and agreed upon, was it was easy if one was in leadership in HPD or a Council member who saw these routinely and knew what they were, but not all of these necessarily stood alone, if there was a citizen just pulling it up and reading it, and he said they fully acknowledged that. He said if they went back and compared ones they had seen in the past, additional language had been added to this resolution that they thought would help better clarify and help the document stand alone a little bit better. He said they would continue to do that, and he said all seven of these they had seen would have to go through periodic renewals, and as they brought those before the Council, they would continue to add that additional language, to clarify somewhat.

**Councilmember Watkins** said, to be clear, this had nothing to do with ICE.

**Mr. Hamilton** said that was correct.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-1024)**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR INTRODUCTION.**

**President Robinson** said that as had been announced, the Administration had asked for consideration of items 21.d and 21.e at this meeting. She said they would go through all the items for introduction, and then they would come back to those items.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1029**, declaring certain equipment surplus and to be sold at public auction.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1030**, declaring a certain railroad car surplus and to be hauled away and disposed of.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1031**, declaring a certain railroad car surplus and to be donated to the Scottsboro Boys Museum.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1032**, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c) of Section 3-27 (Arts and Entertainment District Ordinance) of the City's Code of Ordinances, to modify the Quigley Arts and Entertainment District.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1033**, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c) of Section 3-28 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, AL, to amend the Providence Arts and Entertainment District.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-1034**, to declare property as surplus and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Hank Holdings, LLC, for conveyance of the same.

**President Robinson** said all items under New Business Items for Introduction had been properly introduced, and she said the Administration had asked that the Council consider items 21.d and 21.e at this meeting, and she asked for a statement from the Administration regarding the urgency of considering these items at this meeting, as opposed to waiting until the January 8, 2026, meeting.

**Mr. Nunez** said the consideration was not only for the businesses but for the residents of Huntsville to participate in these new businesses and in the Arts and Entertainment District. He said they were aware they were going to have warmer weather, and approaching the Christmas season, it would be nice to have this. He said it would be up to the Council to decide to add these, or they could wait until the following year. He said during the Christmas holidays, a lot of people were out and about and partaking at these establishments, so they wanted to help them.

**President Robinson** said the timeliness of these items was that approval at this time would permit them to participate in the holiday season.

Mr. Nunez said that was correct.

**Ordinance No. 25-1032**, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c) of Section 3-27 (Arts and Entertainment District Ordinance) of the City's Code of Ordinances, to modify the Quigley Arts and Entertainment District.

**Motion for Unanimous Consent of the Council for immediate consideration of Ordinance No. 25-1032.**

**Motion by Robinson/Second by Little.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**AYES: Watkins, Little, Kling, Robinson**

**NAYS: Meredith**

**Motion failed.**

**President Robinson** said they did not have unanimous consent of the Council to consider Ordinance No. 25-1032, so the ordinance would be moved to the January 8, 2026, agenda, for consideration at that meeting.

**Ordinance No. 25-1033**, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c) of Section 3-28 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, AL, to amend the Providence Arts and Entertainment District

**Motion for Unanimous Consent of the Council for immediate consideration of Ordinance No. 25-1033.**

**Motion by Robinson/Second by Little.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**AYES: Watkins, Little, Kling, Robinson**

**NAYS: Meredith**

**Motion failed.**

**President Robinson** said they did not have unanimous consent of the Council to consider Ordinance No. 25-1033, so the ordinance would be moved to the January 8, 2026, agenda, for consideration at that meeting.

## **SECOND ROSTER PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**President Robinson** said 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. She asked that when called, speakers approach the microphone and state their name, home address, and city of residence for the record. She said she would also call the name of the next person signed up so they could prepare to come forward, and they could move the process along. She said each speaker could address the Council for three minutes, and she said while this was not an appropriate time to engage in dialogue with Council members or City staff, Council members could direct the Administration to research answers to questions and address concerns at future meetings. She said the sign-up sheet also provided an opportunity to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses so that follow up could be made by Council members or Administration if they desired. She asked that speakers refrain from making comments regarding the good name and character of any individual.

**Mr. Will Ennis**, 143 Oldwood Road, Huntsville 35811, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Constitutional Duty."

**Mr. Russ Dunford**, 211 Taylor Road, Owens Cross Roads, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Traffic Light."

**Mr. David Snyder**, Huntsville, addressed the Council, saying his address was on the sheet (3816 Bob Wallace, SW), and having signed up to speak concerning "Misc."

**Ms. Sarah Colletti**, Hartselle, addressed the Council, saying her address was on the sheet (Lawrence Rd., Hartselle, Alabama), and having signed up to speak concerning "Jeffrey Parker."

**Mr. Taylor Miller**, 1100 Enterprise Way, NW, District 5, addressed the

Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Annexation."

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**(Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on December 18, 2025.)**