

**HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting - November 7, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**Huntsville, Alabama**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Mr. John Meredith, President</b> <b>Dr. Jennie Robinson</b> <b>Mr. Bill Kling</b> <b>Mr. David Little</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>

---

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

The invocation was offered by Chaplain Ben Coronado; Councilmember Kling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

The agenda was approved as published.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.**

**President Meredith** said the Council members had been provided copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held on October 24, 2024, and a Special Session of the Council held on November 4, 2024, and these minutes were approved as submitted.

**MAYOR: SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.**

**Proclamation declaring November 1-11, 2024, as Veterans Week, in recognition of the many veterans in the community who have served the**

**nation in the military.**

**Mayor Battle** recognized City employees who had served in the military and thanked them for their service. He read from the proclamation declaring Veterans Week and recognizing the many veterans in the community who had served the nation in the military, in times of peace and conflicts.

Mayor Battle said the proclamation would be presented on the following day, at the Veterans Dinner at the Von Braun Center.

Mayor Battle recognized James Gossett, Director of Parks & Recreation, and he said they had a great group in town, the Bullpen Foundation, that gave back to the community, and he asked Mr. Gossett to tell how they had helped Parks & Recreation.

**Mr. Gossett** said Parks & Recreation had started working with the Bullpen Foundation a couple of years prior to help supplement some of the parks in some underserved areas of Huntsville, and they had successfully done this. He said they wanted to expand their service, and that with this, they were talking about free things they could do for different communities, and he enumerated how they were going to assist with aiding sports events and providing CPR training for volunteer coaches. He said they would also be offering scholarship opportunities for youths to participate in the youth athletic leagues in the city.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD.**

**Public Hearing on authorizing the Manager of Community Development to assess the cost for the demolition and cleanup of a structural public nuisance located at 1015 Magnolia Dr., NW, Huntsville, Alabama.**

**Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development,** said the total amount of this assessment was \$11,171.24.

**Public Hearing Opened/No Public Comment/Public Hearing**

**Closed.**

**Resolution No. 24-820**, authorizing the Manager of Community Development to assess the cost for the demolition and cleanup of a structural public nuisance located at 1015 Magnolia Dr. NW, Huntsville, Alabama.

**Moved for Approval by Kling/Seconded by Robinson/ Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-820)**

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

**Mr. Erwin** said this was a public hearing on assessing the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against 20 properties, in the amount of \$5,663.21, with an average per property of \$283.17, and the owners of 11 of the properties being inside the city limits of Huntsville, and the owners of 9 being outside the city limits of Huntsville.

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

**Resolution No. 24-821**, authorizing Community Development to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling/ Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-821)**

**Public hearing in order to hear, consider, and act upon all objections or protests, if any, for removal of a nuisance at 1417 Dale Circle SE, Huntsville, AL., and consideration of a resolution ordering abatement of a nuisance located at the same property, which hearing was**

**set at the October 24, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.**

(Mr. Erwin made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Erwin** said this property had been initially inspected by Community Development staff on August 21, 2024, and it was found to be in violation of the Junk Ordinance, and the property had been given 30 days to come into compliance, and it failed to be in compliance, and the Council had set this public hearing for this meeting at its October 24, 2024, meeting, and this was the time and place for objections as to why this public nuisance should not be abated.

**Public Hearing Opened.**

**President Meredith** said Councilmember Little had been in contact with one of his constituents on this issue, and he would like to enter this correspondence into the public record.

**Councilmember Little** said this was a communication from David Harrison, 1414 Dale Circle, SE, Huntsville, Alabama 35801. He said Mr. Harrison had a conflict with his work and could not be present for this meeting, so he would read his statement.

“Ange house at 1417 Dale Circle is a growing, physical mess and physical nuisance. There has been no action undertaken by the owners to remedy it. If not already an issue, there will be infestations soon. Additionally, it's a psychological mess and psychological nuisance. Behaviors are erratic, to include shouting and physical displays of dominance, and safety concerns. It is an incredibly active site - day and night. My property is repeatedly impacted by indescribable, senseless, daily activities and by new ways for them to access their property, bring trash to their home, and park their vehicles. My moving would not even be possible as my home would be unsellable with the physical and physiological nuisances next door. Anyone who approaches my home is apt to have to engage in unsolicited and unusual

conversations. I wish to maintain my home. I wish for my peace, my safety, my surroundings, my home value, my quality of life to be restored.

“Thank you to City officials for making themselves accessible and for taking my concerns seriously. Thank you to the City for working together toward a solution to the nuisances that impact me daily and have for far too long.”

**President Meredith** said if persons needed to have their voice heard on a hearing, they could always email or contact a Council member, and they would get it on the public record.

President Meredith asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address this particular matter.

**Public Hearing Closed.**

**Resolution No. 24-822**, authorizing, requesting, and directing Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development of the City of Huntsville, to abate said public nuisance by the removal of the accumulation of junk and debris, and to take all lawful and necessary actions to accomplish the foregoing.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-822)**

**Public Hearing for suspension of licensure for confidential tax-related Case Nos. 399 & 400**, which hearing was set at the October 24, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

**Ms. Penny Smith, Director of Finance**, said this was for the suspension of licensure for delinquent taxpayers, noting that this related only to the Finance Department and revenues of the City. She said they started with three cases when this was originally introduced, and they were now down to one, that Case No. 400 had resolved itself, so it could be taken off the record, and they were only looking at

Case No. 399, and this taxpayer had not been in contact with them since they had stopped paying certain taxes. She said the Council members could see in the packet that had been furnished to them that they had reached out to this taxpayer numerous times and worked with them over this time period.

Ms. Smith said they were requesting suspension of the licensure for Case No. 399.

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

**Resolution No. 24-823**, that because of failure to remit taxes due and owing to the City, the business licensure for certain taxpayers, Cases 399 and 400, be and the same are hereby suspended for a period of 12 months from the date hereof, subject to conditions contained in the resolution.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

**Councilmember Kling** said he understood there was a State law that had to be complied with concerning not disclosing the name of a delinquent taxpayer, and he asked Ms. Smith to comment on this procedure.

Ms. Smith said State law required confidentiality surrounding businesses and their payment of taxes, that that was confidential by nature and by state law.

**Councilmember Robinson** asked if it was correct that the license was suspended until the payment of the debt was resolved.

Ms. Smith said that was correct. She said if they did not remain current on their license, then they could bring an action back before the Council.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-823)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE SET.**

**Resolution No. 24-824**, to declare a public nuisance located at

2609 Skyline Dr., NW, Huntsville, AL, and to set the date for when objections will be heard, at the November 21, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-824)**

**MAYOR COMMENTS.**

**Mayor Battle** said the Mayor's tree-planting had been the prior Saturday, and they had planted 305 trees.

Mayor Battle said they had also had the Steamfest, with robotics and all things tech, and there had been thousands of people there, getting their fill of science and technology found right here in Huntsville.

Mayor Battle said for Veterans Day, the Army Band would be in concert at the Von Braun Center, in the Concert Hall, on Saturday at 2 p.m., and the Veterans Day Parade would be on the following Monday at 10 a.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.**

**Councilmember Robinson** welcomed the newest Council member, Councilmember Watkins, and she said she had just left service on the City School Board, that she had joined her and Councilmember Kling on that path to service on the Council, and she thanked her for her willingness to continue to serve the community in making difficult decisions on behalf of the taxpayers.

Councilmember Robinson said her father had served in the military during the Vietnam War, and she would like to thank those persons who had served or were now serving, as well as their families, who were part of that sacrifice.

**Councilmember Little** said he had met with some citizens in the Hampton Cove area who were concerned about growth in that area, and schools, so representatives of the Planning Department and other departments had put together

a great map showing where all the investments had happened in that area in the prior five or six years, and they had a very productive meeting, with everyone apparently being satisfied.

Councilmember Little said he wanted to bring up a work session he felt they needed to have. He said they had discussed previously the Community Development process of house abatements, property abatements, that some of these were resolved quickly, but some of them lingered, and he wanted to see if they could determine how to make this a little better process for the citizens.

**Councilmember Watkins** thanked everyone who had helped in her transition to the Council, noting that everyone had been very cordial and accommodating, and she appreciated that.

Councilmember Watkins said to all veterans that she appreciated their service, that they had done an honorable and brave thing in joining the military.

Councilmember Watkins said she was looking forward to working with her fellow Council members and the Mayor, that she had talked with Mr. Davis about some things, and she had met most of the department heads and had talked about her concerns, things she wanted to see in her district, and she was looking forward to rolling up her sleeves and getting to work with a great group of people.

**Councilmember Kling** welcomed Councilmember Watkins, noting that she had a six-hour lapse from ending her service on the School Board to starting her service on the Council at this meeting. He said Councilmember Watkins had really hit the ground running on the Council, that she had been asking a lot of questions and having a lot of meetings, and he looked forward to working with her.

Councilmember Kling said he was so grateful to all the veterans, noting that he had been honored in that he had been allowed to participate, as the son of a Legionnaire, in the American Legion Post 237 for several years. He said his father



was a veteran during World War II, and he was so glad the City recognized Veterans Week in the way it did.

Councilmember Kling said he would be holding his monthly town meeting on November 18, at 6 p.m., at the Library, and everyone was welcome to attend.

**President Meredith** welcomed Councilmember Watkins to the Council, noting that he was looking forward to working with her.

President Meredith said his father was also a veteran, although not a wartime veteran. He said he wanted to thank all the veterans, whether they had served and had retired or were active, that they were part of the reason the Council was able to have discussions and talk about politics openly, because they had defended their right to do so.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.**

**Resolution No. 24-825**, authorizing expenditures for payment.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Meredith/  
Unanimously Adopted.**

#### **(RESOLUTION NO. 24-825)**

#### **Presentation by Ms. Penny Smith, Director of Finance.**

(Ms. Smith made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Ms. Smith** said they had some issuances coming up for the City, and she was asked to provide an update, and being that there was a new person on the Council, she wanted to dive a little bit into the debt and what they did in pulling this together, and pulling the issuances, and thinking through the debt obligations of the City, and whether they wanted to issue debt or pay cash, with the projects they built.

Ms. Smith said she would be presenting a snippet of the overall consideration, and if any of the Council members had any questions, or if they wanted to take a dive into something in particular, she would be happy to sit down with them and do that.

Ms. Smith displayed a slide, and she said she first wanted to walk through the hows and whys and considerations of how they looked at large infrastructure costs and how the City structured debt.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said what was depicted was a long list of all the issuances, noting there were 35 to 40 issuances, or series, in City obligations that were outstanding at this time, including the school issuance, that it was everything they did.

Ms. Smith said there was the credit rating for the City for Moody's Investor Service, at AAA, and Standard & Poor's was the same. She said that was the highest rating a municipality could receive, and they were very proud of that rating, and it meant savings to the City, and to the taxpayers, as they went forward to issue debt.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said this was a debt overview, taking that long list and putting it into a chart that brought it a little bit more into realization, and what it meant to the City. She said that, generally, the City issued debt for 20 years in length, and with a level debt service. She said that was what they liked, for being able to pay their debt and manage their debt. She said that, however, some issuances were for a longer period of time when the projects warranted it, and sometimes it was a little shorter, that they had issued 7-year debt or 10-year debt, depending on the type of projects and why they were going to the markets. She said this allowed them to budget without spikes in their debt service, and that as they could see, they could better manage the debt as they moved along.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said this was a little bit of a breakdown of the debt service. She said City debt was issued as a General Obligation, or GO, warrant or bond. She said the definition behind that was that a General Obligation bond was backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing City rather than a pledge of a particular revenue stream. She said they had heard a few meetings

prior about Huntsville Utilities' debt, how they were taking a Water Revenue debt or a Gas Revenue debt, noting that they heard that from time to time, and that was a specific revenue stream. She said if she were the holder of a bond or she invested in debt, if she was under a General Obligation debt, if they defaulted on that debt, then she could collect on any number of revenue streams for the City, Sales & Use Tax, Sewer, License Fees, et cetera, that it was all available for that debt. She said, however, if she were into something that was a particular revenue stream, the only way she could get back her principal would be to go to that particular revenue stream. She said that, obviously, General Obligation meant safer credit, less risk, so that meant lower interest rates, which was good for the City. She said they did not issue Sewer bonds because their rating would be lower and interest rates would be higher, that they issued General Obligation debt across the board.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said debt was funded by many sources. She said they issued by series, and one of the reasons they did that was so they could take that debt service and appropriate it toward a specific funding series. She said there were multiple sources that paid for their debt, and Ad Valorem Taxes was one of those. She said the Huntsville City Schools had a specific 6.5 mills that was collected, and it was put into a specific fund and accounted for, that all the debt service was contained in that fund. She said when they worked with PFM and their other partners to model debt, they had a number of models, that they had a 6.5 mill debt model for the Huntsville City School System, and they had a Lodging Tax model that modeled what was available for the Von Braun Center, because they wanted that Lodging Tax to pay for that, a specific portion of it, not the entire thing. She said Sewer charges paid for the debt associated with the Water Pollution Control Plant and the intake system, so all of that debt was contained under that revenue source.

Ms. Smith said that looking at the pie chart that was displayed, they could see

that only about 47 percent was funded with other sources, and she said that was their Capital Projects Funds, whether it would be the 1990 or the 2014. She said a tiny sliver was funded with General Fund debt, and the 6.5 mills that was the City's side of that also helped to support that. She said they had multiple sources, and they dedicated those, so the accounting for this and the way they structured it was very important.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said they had a team of people who when they went to market or they even thought about issuing debt, or anything like that, advised them. She said their financial advisors were PFM Financial Advisors, and they helped them with the timing, the structure, and navigating the complex market environments, that they walked with them and provided independence, that they were an independent source. She said Marcie Lewis with PFM was in attendance at the meeting. She said Rod Kanter of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings was their bond counsel, and he was a wealth of information, that he knew everything about municipal structures and the rules and regulations around those structures, and he was able to find things in the law that would help them better manage their debt or do something that was unique that would enable them to have a better interest outcome or a better payment stream for the City.

Ms. Smith said besides that, there was City Staff. She said she worked closely with Rachel Biggs, the Deputy Finance Director, not only for the building of reports and presentations but the follow-through. She said debt was a 20-year commitment, or a 30-year commitment, and the ending was just as important as the beginning, that they had reports to file with the IRS, with the MSRB, et cetera, and Ms. Biggs was the one in her office who managed that. She said they also worked closely with the Administration, General Services, and Engineering, to provide the cost estimates and the spend-down estimates. She said they looked at the projects they wanted to fund,

how long it would take for the building of those projects, so they could ensure they would not borrow too much nor borrow too little, and that the timing would be good, so they would not be paying interest on debt they borrowed for a long period of time, that they would get going on those projects, and they would be finished out.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said this was Notes and Reminders, that there was no order to it. She said debt was a tool, just like anything else, and they did not enter into it lightly, that they wanted that debt to be managed into the future, and they wanted to enable themselves to build other projects and have other opportunities as they entered into this. She said the sizing and the timing of issuances were important, and she said she would bring reimbursement resolutions before them from time to time. She continued that one they had just approved was for the City schools, and it allowed the City Schools to size projects the City was going to pay debt on, and then the City could reimburse itself for these expenditures upfront until the debt was issued, that, again, they would not be paying debt service or interest for a period of time, until they could get it right, and make sure the sizing was correct for the future.

Ms. Smith said, concerning Market Versus Local, that they did both, that they might go to the markets for a larger issuance, a longer term, and they might do a local borrowing, or a bank loan. She said when they went to the market, it required more time and lift from staff, that the cost of issuance was higher, but it usually resulted in better interest rates, and they had more flexibility with structure and the length of the issuance. She said if they did markets, they had to consider whether they were going to be competitive or negotiated. She said a negotiated sale meant that an underwriter would shepherd them through the process, that it usually cost a little more, but, again, a little bit depended on the type of issuance, that when they took the PDA issuance, they always moved with an underwriter because it helped them negotiate

some of the finer tuned rules and regulations as they went through the process.

Ms. Smith said the calendar was set, and they could see it on the display, and she said they had veered off of it a little bit, but it was a tool they used in order to stay on track, because they were planning on issuing that competitive sale on the 5th of December, and bringing it before the Council that evening as well. She said it would all need to be done in one day.

Ms. Smith said because they were going to market, they would issue what was called a "Preliminary Official Statement," noting she had a copy of this with her if any of the Council members would like to have it. She said it was a wealth of information as to the bonds that were being issued, or the debt that was being issued, and it also told all about the City's financial structure, different revenue streams, and it had their last Comprehensive Financial Report, et cetera. She said this was what would go to the rating agencies, and they would look at that, that they looked at a wealth of information, that it was like going before a loan officer when going to the bank for a loan.

Ms. Smith said the rating calls would happen the following week, that Moody's was on November 12th and S&P's was on November 13th.

Ms. Smith said of the things they had to consider, they considered interest, that after they got that big money, they pulled it down and tried to earn as much on it as possible while spending it down, noting this took some timing, going back and forth. She said they also had to consider Arbitrage rules and IRS rules, et cetera,.

Ms. Smith displayed another slide, and she said, concerning this specific issuance, that December 5th was the deadline, or it was the goal they were going for. She said this was going to be in two different segments, with one being the tax-exempt segment, a 24-month spend, and it was for Parks & Rec's projects, with about \$85 million to \$88 million in principal, and the interest earnings they felt

would be between \$2 million and \$4 million, depending on the market as they moved forward, and the estimated interest rate estimate, for Total In Cost, was 3.88, for tax exempt.

Ms. Smith said the taxable piece was a Tender Offer, and it was under TIF 5, that this was infrastructure, out at Redstone Gateway, that they had already put in the ground, that it was already done. She said based on that revenue stream, the Ad Valorem taxes that came out of TIF 5, they issued debt from time to time, and they had requested that the City take a look at this, and they had done so, and they needed to issue that debt. She said it would be between \$15.5 million and \$16.5 million, principal. She said the interest rate, because it was a taxable issuance, would be closer to 5.39 in estimated interest rate. She said there was a big difference, so as government, tax exempt was where they wanted to be. She said the way this was set up and procured, taxable was all they could issue in this case.

Ms. Smith said the box they saw below on the display went out further on the two projects she had just talked about. She said they had some refunding opportunities, so they would reevaluate this as it went along. She said at this time, it was about \$37 million they could refinance. She said they never lengthened the time on their deals, that if they had 10 years left in a 20-year deal, it was still going to be 10 years left, that they would just be tweaking the payments in order to gain that lower interest cost.

Ms. Smith said for the Huntsville City Schools, it was for new buildings and renovations, in their plan that was approved, for \$150 million. She said they had worked closely with the CFO of Huntsville City Schools to build that, and PFM had been a large part of that as well. She said they had put the reimbursement resolution at the end of October.

Ms. Smith said there were various projects for the VBC, and most of them were

already underway. She said the total spend was \$35 million, but they had some cash in the bank, and they were going to use \$10 million in cash, so they would only borrow about \$25 million.

Ms. Smith said the PBA borrow was the finalization of City Hall, and they had some expenditures that were above the bond issuance they had originally, so they were going to contain that in that \$9 million. She said that would be a tax-exempt borrow. She said they would take all those in the winter and the spring time period, that right after the new year would be when they would reevaluate as to when they were going to enter the market, and they would tighten down all those numbers for that issuance. She said this rating was covering all that, so when they went the following week to Moody's and S&P, they would give them a rating on everything the Council was seeing in front of them at this time.

Ms. Smith said she would take any questions the Council members might have.

**Councilmember Robinson** asked if on December 5th, the Council would need to set a special session for this or if it would be addressed within the body of the regular meeting of the Council on that date.

Ms. Smith said it would be done within the body of the meeting.

**Councilmember Robinson** asked if Ms. Smith, for the benefit of the public, would explain the significance of the AAA bond rating.

Ms. Smith said both Moody's and S&P had what they called a "matrix," and they were based on a little bit different stances, but they evaluated the City on five or six tenets within that matrix: governance, stability, liquidity, reserves, and how they managed over time, if they were making their payments, if they were timely, and if they met their budgets, and what that looked like over time. She said they were going to evaluate them on all of that, that they looked at economics, at whether or not their economic development was producing as they moved forward. She said a big piece of



this was Redstone Arsenal and the way that base worked in the City's system, to its advantage, that it was a stable part of their economics within the city. She said they looked at a lot of statistics and evaluated the City in that meeting. She said the higher their rating, the lower the interest rate would be, because it was a safe place for people to put their money.

Councilmember Robinson said a number of years prior, there was an organization that was looking at debt of municipalities across the state, and they had dinged them because their debt was so high, but that was because they carried the School System debt and Sewer System debt. She asked if the City's debt was within the required State limits.

Ms. Smith answered in the affirmative. She said the State required them to only issue debt to the level of 20 percent of the assessed values within the city, so they had to look at how that played out. She said this was in the back of the Comprehensive Financial Report each year, and it was out there for 10 years, that they maintained and remained under that debt. She said there was some debt that was exempt, that School debt and Sewer debt were both exempt from that equation.

Ms. Smith said her question to herself was always if they could afford it, and if they could not afford it, they did not need to enter into debt, and they might have other problems if they could not afford what they were planning on doing. She said that was where the modeling came in for every piece of debt, that she was not going to put before the Council \$150 million for the Huntsville City Schools if that 6.5 mills of Ad Valorem Taxes could not afford it.

**President Meredith** said he would like to have a copy of the Preliminary Official Statement.

**President Meredith** said Ms. Smith had mentioned borrowing too little or borrowing too much, and he thought most people understood about borrowing too

much, and he asked if she could address the ramifications of borrowing too little.

Ms. Smith said when they sized a borrowing, they would look at the projects. She said, for example, with the demolition of City Hall, if they had borrowed based on the budgeted cost, they would be borrowing too much. She said, however, it could have been the other way around, that they would have borrowed lower than the bid, that the bid would have been higher, so they would have borrowed too little, and then they would get in the crunch of how they would spend the funds, noting that they would be required to spend them within a time frame, so would they shift projects around to try to fit the debt, which would be unwise, so borrowing too little was a problem as well, so they wanted to be careful. She said they might take a very large project and split it because of the time frame it would take to complete the project. She said a lot of times on school issuances, they might do that, that that was a consideration as well. She said they could see how they got into all these evaluations, and they would take a look and see what that looked like for the City and what was the best structure. She said that was why they had good advisors, like PFM and Rod Kanter, to help them think through all the scenarios as they moved forward.

**President Meredith** thanked Ms. Smith for the presentation.

**Ordinance No. 24-826**, approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 3 Council Improvement Funds.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

**Councilmember Robinson** said she was taking \$25,000 from the Council Improvement Fund for District 3 and returning it to the Bridge Fund, noting that the Council had voted to take money out of the Bridge Fund to increase the amount in the Council discretionary funds.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-826)**

**Ordinance No. 24-827**, approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 4 Council Improvement Funds.

**Moved for Approval by Kling/Seconded by Meredith.**

**Councilmember Kling** said they had a lot of neighborhood cleanups in his district, courtesy of the Green Team, and this was providing some financial support to them, as well as some support for Eric Wade, who was going to be working under them, and they would use some of that money for cleanup and the education of school students, that they were trying to educate people about litter pickup, as well as providing assistance to the Green Team for the great neighborhood cleanups they were already doing.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-827)**

**Ordinance No. 24-828**, approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 5 Council Improvement Funds.

**Moved for Approval by Meredith/Seconded by Kling.**

President Meredith said this was a \$6,000 allocation to Columbia High School's Basketball Team. He said it was expensive to put on a season, that there were a lot of charges, some of which got passed on to the students, creating hardships. He said this allocation would be used for tournament registrations and other incidentals that went along with conducting a basketball season.

**Councilmember Robinson** said they had heard about the Bullpen Foundation, and she asked if it would be possible that might be another resource for the students to use.

**President Meredith** said he would certainly look into that, noting that this \$6,000 was nowhere near the total cost.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-828)**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO BE VOTED ON.**

**Resolution No. 24-794**, to appoint **Ginger Young to the Beautification Board, Place 16**, to the seat previously held by Clayton Buff, for a three (3) year term to expire September 30, 2026.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Little/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-794)**

**BOARD APPOINTMENT NOMINATIONS.**

Nomination to appoint **Janice Vaughn to the Human Relations Commission, Place 3**, due to the resignation of Frank Levy, for the remainder of a vacant four (4) year term to expire September 9, 2026. (Robinson)

Nomination to appoint **Tammie Hammons-Figures to the Human Relations Commissions, Place 5**, due to the resignation of Catherine Hereford, for the remainder of a vacant four (4) year term to expire September 8, 2026. (Meredith)

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT ITEMS/TRANSACTIONS.**

**Vacation of Easements**

**Ordinance No. 24-831**, authorizing the vacation of a portion of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lot 7, Block 3, Hillwood Estates.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-831)**

**Ordinance No. 24-832**, authorizing the vacation of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lot 4, Legacy Cove.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling/Unanimously**

**Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-832)**

**Ordinance No. 24-833**, authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Twenty Lake Hold Phase II Subdivision.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling/Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 24-833)**

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

**(Items 20.c, 20.d, 20.e, 20.j, 20.n, 20.ab, 20.ac, 20.ad, and 20.ae were held from the consolidation.)**

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

**Moved for Approval by Meredith/Seconded by Robinson/  
Unanimously Approved.**

**Consolidated Items:**

Resolution authorizing travel expenses.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-834)**

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-835)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and TTL, Inc., for Engineering Design Services CR-93 (Winchester Road) from CR-983 (Dominion Circle) to CR-406 (Naugher Road), Project No. 65-09RDo3.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-839)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and U.S. Geological Survey, for Water Resource Investigations, Project No. 71-25-DM01.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-840)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Garver, L.L.C., for 2024-2025 WPC On-Call Surveying Services, Project No. 71-25-SPO2.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-841)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 2 to the Contract between the City of Huntsville and Garber Construction Company, Inc., for construction services for the Huntsville Aquatic Center Phase 4.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-842)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Hands Across Decatur, Inc., for the use of HESG funds.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-844)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Community Action Partnership of Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties, Inc., for the use of HESG funds.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-845)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-846)**

Resolution to appoint Tiffany Robinson as Clerk of the Municipal Court.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-848)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Vital Records Holdings, LLC, dba Vital Records Control, for records storage and/or various related records management services.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-849)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Stanard & Associates, Inc., for Police Investigator testing.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-850)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Stanard & Associates, Inc., for Police Sergeant testing.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-851)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Stanard & Associates, Inc., for Police Lieutenant testing.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-852)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Huntsville and The Little Circus That Could, LLC., d/b/a Venardos Circus.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-853)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke South State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90558679 for Bluffs at Inspiration Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-854)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke South State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90558682 for Inspiration on Green Mountain Phase VI Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-855)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke Bank Independent Letter of Credit No. 30011928 for High Park Estates Phase 1 at Mountain Preserve Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-856)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke Cadence Bank Letter of Credit No. 362001112396 for Lakes at the Meadows Phase 2 Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-857)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke South State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90558688 for Bluffs at Inspiration Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-858)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke South State Bank Letter of Credit No. 90558685 for Inspiration on Green Mountain Phase VI Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-859)**

Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the claim of William Crowden (Claim FY24-174).

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-860)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Intergovernmental and Interagency Understanding between the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency State Bureau of Investigation (ALEA SBI).

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-865)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville and KorTerra, Inc., for KorWeb Services to enhance the 811 locate requests services for the City of Huntsville.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-866)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-867)**

**Items Not Consolidated:**

**Resolution No. 24-836**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Option to Purchase Real Estate Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Barbara Swaim



and Doris E. Strang.

**Motion for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development,** said what was before the Council was a Purchase Option Agreement, for property. He displayed a slide, and he said the property was located at the intersection of the Northern Bypass that was under construction on North Memorial Parkway, and it was 42 acres on the west side of North Memorial Parkway.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said that to the right on the display was the southeast quadrant of this intersection that would be completed once the Northern Bypass was completed, and he said this was very similar to about 16 acres the Council had approved where Food City was under construction, and that the two tracts in blue were owned by the City.

Mr. Davis said they were asking the Council to do something very similar with what they had done at the Food City location and put the 42 acres they could see on the display under option. He said the reason for this was that they had been in contact with some major national tenants, and there were letters of intent. He said this did not mean they had secured anything yet, but the first step would be to secure the property and doing due diligence, going through the same process they had done on the east side of the Parkway.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said this was the Master Plan they were working off of, and he said everything shown in red would be retail/commercial, restaurants and brick and mortar retail. He continued that what was pictured in gold was mixed-use, that it could be multifamily, hospitality, townhomes, and the light yellow would be the more traditional single-family residential.

Mr. Davis said he would go back to a previous slide, and he said they could see

a lot of new residential development that had sold. He said the part just north of Bob Wade Lane had been through the Planning Commission already, for approval. He continued that on the east side, there was Countess Road, and not Bob Wade Lane, as depicted on the display. He said the property just north of the Dollar General and east of the Circle K had also sold, and the preliminary layout had come through, but it had not yet gone through the Planning Commission, but it should in the first part of the upcoming year. He said they could see a lot of new activity they had been able to spur with this activity and their efforts.

Mr. Davis said what they were asking the Council to approve was this purchase option, to allow them to do due diligence and continue those conversations. He said that, certainly, a purchase would be the City selling, that they did not plan to give the property away, that it would be a similar transaction to what they had done on the east side.

Mr. Davis said he would be happy to answer any questions the Council members might have.

**Councilmember Robinson** said this was a big win for Councilmember Watkins, to start her Council term off with, that it was an incredible project in District 1.

Mr. Davis said they had a lot of work to do, but they were working hard.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-836)**

**Resolution No. 24-837**, to approve a Land Sale Incentive Agreement for conveyance by the City of a strip of real property for a commercial development project known as the old Lewter Hardware property, between the City of Huntsville and 223 Washington Huntsville, LLC.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Meredith.**

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Davis** displayed a slide, and he said he thought they were familiar with the former Lewter Hardware property, noting that they actually had four parcels, on the east and west sides of Washington Street, in the downtown business district.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said of those parcels, the redevelopment of this site was being put into three pieces. He said they would start on the east side of Washington Street, and he said the part that was in pink, work had started on that, and this was attached brownstone townhomes. He said the development team wanted to preserve the original Lewter Hardware Building, and it was slated for reuse as a sit-down dining restaurant.

Mr. Davis said the part that would be under discussion at this time was the part on the west side of Washington Street, and the yellow shaded area was the site of a former Lewter Hardware building, the annex, where they had a storage facility, that it was a small, brick building, and a surface lot, with a chain link fence there. He said the little sliver they were asking the Council to consider was the part in red, that it was very tiny, that it was 0.07 acre. He said the part in blue was .15 acre along Lewters Way, which was also City property, that they had two tracts there, and the part in blue would remain with the City, and the part they were asking the Council to vote on was the really small sliver in red.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said the City was granted the section in red, which he noted was about 12-feet wide, back in 2004, by the Lewters. He explained the history of the property and why the City had been granted the property, and he said what they would be doing if the Council approved this would be essentially giving this property back, noting that the City did not need it. He said back at the time the property was given to the City, the City had thought there might be a need for some angled parking along what was Lewters Way, but as the

Washington Street streetscape had come along, they had done on-street parking on Washington Street, and they would not need that angled parking.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said this showed the plan for this location, that it was a multiuse building, and the ground floor along Lewters Way would have three retail spaces, and the area in yellow was office space, and it was a four-story building. He said along Lewters Way, they could see the street trees, and he said those were indicative of the existing trees he had shown previously. He said just behind that, they could see a public sidewalk that had to, for ADA access, attach to the private building that would be built.

Mr. Davis said if they looked at the Courthouse Square area, they would see outside dining, and that was in the public right-of-way, that that was in City property, by permit, that people would come and get a permit, and they would fence in the area. He said what would be different with this project was that their patio area would be on the developer's property, rather than out in the public right-of-way. He continued that on the display, they could see black squares, and he said those were the pillars they could see in the illustration, and that encroached just a little bit on the area that was given to the City many years prior, and what they wanted to do was just give this property back. He said the City would still be keeping everything that they could see in blue, which was indicative of the street trees and the public sidewalk. He said they did not feel it would be right to sell this property back to someone who had given it to them. He said he hoped this would clarify what the Council would be voting on.

Councilmember Robinson said she had held this resolution not because she had a problem with the project, which she thought was terrific, but regarding the process. She said normally the Council would declare the property surplus, and then they would be required by the State to sell it for fair-market value.

Mr. Davis said that was correct, but given its width, it was considered an

uneconomic remnant, that it would be hard to put a building or something of value in a 12-foot strip.

Councilmember Robinson asked Mr. Davis if, then, this was legal, noting that she just did not recall the Council ever doing this previously.

Mr. Davis said that was correct, that under this scenario, it was an uneconomic remnant, the width, and then how they acquired it, and it going back. He said they were traveling under Alabama Constitution Amendment No. 772.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-837)**

**Resolution No. 24-838**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Revised Construction Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and the Alabama Department of Transportation, for the Huntsville Northern Bypass from 1.2 miles east of Pulaski Pike to east of U.S. Highway 431, Project No. 65-10-RDo8 & ALDOT Project No. CRSA-PE10(917).

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

Mr. Davis said this concerned the Northern Bypass that was currently under construction, and they were accelerating this construction. He said they originally had \$30 million of MPO funding from the State, and then the Legislature had moved some of their CARES Act funds into the Transportation Department and spread it throughout the state, so they replaced their MPO funds with CARES Act funds, and this allowed them to accelerate the project. He said Congressman Strong appropriated \$8.3 million to this project, but through the federal process and just getting everything approved, it had come late, so what this would allow them to do would be to accept the \$8.3 million appropriation through Congressman Strong's office for this project, and then they would move the same amount of money to the next phase of the Northern Bypass, which would connect from US 231 to

Winchester Road. He said since they were under construction, all those funding mechanisms were already under an ALDOT agreement, that it was State Route 255, but they referred to it as the Northern Bypass. He said they would have to amend that to pull in the \$8.3 million appropriation and move the same amount of money for Phase 2 of the Northern Bypass.

**President Meredith** asked if there were any questions for Mr. Davis.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-838)**

**Resolution No. 24-843**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Fixed Price Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Britt Demolition and Recycling, Inc., for the Municipal Building Demolition.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

**Mr. Ricky Wilkinson, Director of General Services**, said this was a construction services contract for the demolition of the old City Hall Building. He said the scope of work included any environmental abatement that needed to occur to the building, followed by the physical demolition of the building, and the preparation for a future Big Spring Park East expansion project. He said the contract was for 240 days, and with Council approval, they anticipated probably the first three months, say, December through February, they would be working inside the building, on abatement processes, and then from March through May, they would actually begin and complete the physical demolition of the building.

Mr. Wilkinson said this demolition would be done by mechanical means, that it would not be an implosion, noting there had been a lot of questions concerning that. He said they did not anticipate any adverse disruption to the Tinsel Trail and activities planned through December and January in Big Spring Park East.

Mr. Wilkinson said the amount of the contract was \$1,243,000. He said their

estimated cost was around \$2.4 million, and they had seven bidders on bid day, and a couple of them were higher than their 2.4 number, and their low number was with Britt, in the amount of \$1.2 million, so they were pleased with the pricing.

**Councilmember Kling** asked if there would be any way some of the big trees and big bushes on the Big Spring Park East side could be saved.

Mr. Wilkinson said they anticipated that at least three, or maybe four, of those trees on the north side of the building would be transplanted, and they had plans, in coordination with the Big Spring Park East expansion project, to protect the trees there that would not be disrupted by the future project.

**Councilmember Kling** asked if there was a way something could be worked out for people being able to get a piece of the marble exterior. He said he was aware from previous discussions that the marble was fragile, and it was not like everyone could have big, square blocks of it, but if there was a way that there could be a pile set somewhere so that people could get pieces of it, as memorabilia, the history of Huntsville, or whatever what one might want to call it. He said it would be nice if they could do that.

**Mr. Wilkinson** said he had that discussion with Mr. Britt, expressing to him trying to do that very thing. He said they would have to be careful and mindful of how they would go about doing that, and OSHA regulations would have to be met, that they would not want folks going on the job site. He continued that Mr. Britt had committed to working with them on this, and if there was a way they could make it happen, they would certainly do so.

Councilmember Kling said that, also, perhaps they could get a large piece that could be displayed in the lobby of the new City Hall, as a memento of the old City Hall.

Mr. Wilkinson said he believed it had been explained pretty well, and he would

expect there would be fragments, and big pieces would be hard to come by, but they would do what they could concerning this.

**Councilmember Robinson** asked if once the building was demolished, the plan was to return that land to Big Spring Park. She continued that she understood there was a landscape contract with Mr. Bostick, and she asked if they were coordinating with that landscape contract, to save, for instance, the trees in other spaces as that landscape plan evolved.

Mr. Wilkinson replied in the affirmative. He said the Council had approved the design contract with Mr. Bostick, and that was the intention, and the reason for approving that early was to make sure that coordination was happening. He said they did not want to do anything across the road, as part of this demolition contract, that would counteract what they were doing to put it back, that they wanted to make sure all the elevations were done and that everything that needed to be demoed was taken to the elevation needed, in order to make sure they were in the best place for that future expansion project.

**Roll-Call Vote on Resolution No. 24-843:**

**Ayes:** Robinson, Kling, Little, Watkins

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Meredith

**Motion Passed.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-843)**

**Resolution No. 24-847**, to appoint Department heads to certain positions to serve with the Mayor's term of office.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

**Councilmember Watkins** said while she was new to this position and was still familiarizing herself with the Directors, she had some concerns, which she had



shared with Mayor Battle, and she said she would be following up with him about these concerns. She said the only reason she was supporting this was because she was hoping there were going to be some changes.

**Councilmember Kling** said he believed they had all gotten emails expressing concern about the Animal Control Department head, and there were a couple of concerns he thought they might be able to get addressed. He said when he had talked to the gentleman on the phone, he had mentioned to him that his top concern had to do with the euthanasia rates, what actions could be taken to reduce the euthanasia rates, and he seemed to take that pretty seriously. He asked if Mr. Hamilton had had contact with this gentleman about this.

**Mr. Hamilton** said, concerning their hiring process, that the Council members were aware that on appointed positions, how they identified the appropriate candidates and got them into the positions varied, depending on the department and the nature of the position to be filled.

Mr. Hamilton said in this particular case, they had done a nationwide search, that they had quite a few applicants for the position, and they had gone through an extensive interview process with a number of people they found to be qualified for the position, and they had gone through a second round of interviews, and for those who were from out of town, they had invited them to come and spend some time with them, and in this particular case, Mr. Fischer was recommended and selected. He said Mr. Fischer had spent a couple of days with them in town, in addition to the prior interviews they had conducted. He said all those conversations included discussion of live release rates. He said it was very challenging, finding that appropriate balance between public safety and saving and rehoming as many animals as possible, and they had to have folks who had experience in this business and worked hard. He said they had a great staff at Animal Services that engaged in that every day.

Mr. Hamilton said Mr. Fischer had spent more than 20 years in this business, that he was coming out of the state of Texas. He said one of the things they had spent a lot of time talking about was some of the different programs that helped with saving the lives of animals. He said some of the structure he dealt with in Texas was different from what they dealt with in Huntsville, and some of the resources that were available to him were probably different from what they had in Huntsville, so it would be understanding those differences and understanding how to employ the tools they had available here, as to what worked well in Huntsville, but then also finding other things that could work well. He said there was never an area in the city that could not be improved, and understanding the challenges and finding ways to continue to improve those would be an important part of what Mr. Fischer would do.

Mr. Hamilton said he had personally spent time talking to a number of people from local advocacy groups, and those relationships were extremely important, that they could not accomplish what they needed to accomplish, as related to the Animal Services business, without good partnerships with the private shelters, the private rescue groups, and the advocacy groups. He said Mr. Fischer understood this, that he had several No. 1 priorities when he would be coming in, and one of those was building those relationships with those private organizations.

Mr. Hamilton said he had several conversations with members of these groups about the things they needed to prioritize for this department, and one of the things that was important was getting a leader in there to focus on the people as well, the people who were there every day trying to care for the animals and finding them homes, et cetera. He said an area of particular focus for Mr. Fischer would be making sure the staff had the resources they needed and the training they needed. He said that was an area that needed to continue to grow, and Mr. Fischer understood that.

**Councilmember Kling** said the people he had contact with all seemed to

have positive agendas, that he thought they were all on the same wavelength about reducing euthanasia rates. He said he thought one thing that might help would be if they could have a time, like nights or weekends, when the shelter would be open for adoption, because people who worked during the week might not be able to get over at other times, to check and see if their lost dog was there, and also for adoption purposes.

Councilmember Kling said he knew Mr. Hamilton would have gotten more input concerning this than he had, and he believed they would work to deal with working with the community, and also work concerning the euthanasia rates.

Mr. Hamilton said they were not without challenges, that across the country, shelters were seeing reduced adoption rates, and they were seeing more pets being abandoned, et cetera. He said the team there had fought hard for years to bring the intake down, but the number kept increasing. He said this was not a reflection of the Animal Services Department, that it was a reflection of the community, a reflection of people who were not properly caring for their animals.

Mr. Hamilton said they all needed to work together to take care of the pets and keep them in healthy homes. He said the adoption rate was down, and when there were messages from this department saying they were at capacity, that was when they needed the community to step up and adopt those animals. He said he wanted to throw that challenge to the community, but he also wanted to pat the community on the back. He said a couple of weeks prior, the shelter was at capacity, that they were at the point where they were having to seriously consider euthanasia for space, for the first time since 2014, and at that time, the staff had stepped up, and they had run some messages, and the community stepped up and adopted a great many of those dogs, got them out of the shelter, and they were in a much better place at this time.

Mr. Hamilton said that, however, they could not just go from special to special,

that they needed people every day to come down and consider adopting from the shelter rather than from breeders, to adopt those great animals from the shelter that needed homes. He said that would make the difference and keep them at a healthy level inside the shelter, that when they had too many animals, they would start having health issues, behavior issues, et cetera.

**Councilmember Robinson** said she and Councilmember Little were fortunate that they were available when Mr. Fischer was in town, and they had been able to meet with him, and they had a good meeting and were very impressed with the things he had shared with them, and they had asked him some hard questions, about his experience and the results he had been able to achieve. She said she had been surprised when she got these emails from the advocacy groups. She continued that she was aware there were two sides to this.

Councilmember Robinson said Mr. Hamilton had also received these emails, and he had investigated this, and she asked if he still had confidence in hiring Mr. Fischer.

Mr. Hamilton said he absolutely did.

Councilmember Robinson said she did also, and she knew Mr. Fischer was going to come to Huntsville with some high expectations. She said what was different about Animal Services, as opposed to some of the other City departments, was they tracked a lot of data, and they could evaluate the effectiveness of what was going on based on that data. She continued that the entire community would have access to that data, and Mr. Fischer had talked about the software he was going to be using that would make it easier for people to see that data, to more readily access it, and they would be able to look at Mr. Fisher's effectiveness very easily.

Mr. Hamilton said they currently did monthly reports that laid out the statistics in terms of live release and other outcomes, and they could be looked at on

the website, and they were talking about some ideas for additional reporting that might give a little clearer picture.

**Councilmember Little** said they had a great meeting with Mr. Fischer, and he appreciated everything he had to say, that Mr. Fischer realized what he was getting into, that he knew it was a challenging job, but he was very upbeat and positive about it. He said he had heard from a few citizens with concerns, and, like Councilmember Robinson had said, there were two sides to every story. He said he was aware the Administration had gone through a big vetting process on this position, and this was what they did day in and day out, and if they were happy, he was happy.

**Councilmember Watkins** said she did not have the luxury of speaking with Mr. Fischer, that at the time, she was not on the Council, but she was trusting and confident that her fellow Council members would make the right decision on this, that they had met with the gentleman, and they said they had no concerns, so she trusted this would be a good hire.

**Mr. Hamilton** said Mr. Fischer was scheduled to start on November 18th, and they would want to get him with Councilmember Watkins as soon as she was available.

**President Meredith** commended the Administration for making this a national search.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-847)**

**Resolution No. 24-861**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Service Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Huntsville Housing Authority, and Urban Strategies Inc., for the Mill Creek Choice Neighborhood Initiative People Strategy Agreement.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Little.**

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Davis** said there were four resolutions on the agenda for the Council to consider, and his presentation at this time would cover items ab, ac, and ad.

Mr. Davis said this was in regard to the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative HUD Grant, an award of \$50 million a couple of months prior.

Mr. Davis displayed a slide, and he said "CNI" stood for Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, that it was a US HUD Grant program to help communities redevelop aging public housing, and there were three pillars: Neighborhood, Housing, and People. He continued that this was how it would blend in with its location, in and outside the public housing property, and, certainly, replacement housing, which was one of the critical pieces. He said he had told his team, when they were doing the planning, doing the grant, and when HUD was reviewing them, if all Huntsville did was to replace housing, they would fail, if all they would do would be to tear down and build new sticks and bricks, and then walked away and thought that was victory, they would have failed. He said they had to have all three of these pieces to change someone's life in a positive manner, and that was what they thought they had put together.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said the Mill Creek neighborhood property was owned by the Huntsville Housing Authority, that the existing neighborhood was comprised of Butler Terrace, Butler Terrace Addition, and Johnson Towers, and it fronted both Clinton Avenue and Governors Drive, as they could see in the yellow area on the displayed slide.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said in 2019, the City of Huntsville was the recipient of a Planning grant, and also in 2019, the Huntsville Housing Authority found high levels of radon in the Butler Terrace Addition, and they applied for and received demo approval from HUD, and also for vouchers for those units, to provide replacement housing for the residents who were in those units, and

assistance in the transition. He said in 2020-2021, they came to what HUD referred to as a "Transformation Plan," which was should this grant plan move forward, what it would look like. He said this was a very public process, that it was listening to residents in neighborhoods in and around the project site, as to how it would work. He said in parallel with this, the Huntsville Housing Authority had continued to work with the issue of the radon, and in 2022 demolished the units that had to be removed due to the conditions of the housing.

Mr. Davis said in late '23 and early '24, they had followup meetings, when they were getting ready to apply for what they hoped to be an Implementation Grant, which was what the Council was considering at this time. He said they wanted to take a second look, noting that it had been started in 2019. He said they had then gone through two dozen public meetings, and they had started tweaking that plan, and then they had made application to be one of the recipients of a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Grant.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, entitled "Housing Plan," and he said there would be 284 Replacement Units and 296 Affordable and Market Rate Units. He said as they had gotten into this, Huntsville Hospital had approached them and said they needed housing for certain support personnel at the hospital, and they had asked if they could be part of this, and they had assured them they could. He continued that Huntsville Hospital would build their own 125 units on-site and also provide a clinic. He said one of the things the City had wanted was to provide health care services within this neighborhood, and Huntsville Hospital had come on board and said to let them provide that service, to provide the clinic and to put their employees in their building that would be integral to the neighborhood.

Mr. Davis said with the units he had enumerated, there would be 705 units on site, and they would be a mix of townhomes, attached, detached, and multistory and

multifamily-type units.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said he would go through the Phasing Plan, as to what this would look like. He said they would start in the area where the buildings were demolished due to the radon issue. He said what they wanted to do was to be as least disruptive with the existing residents as possible, and the theory was that Phase 1 and Phase 2 would allow them to do that. He said Phases 1, 2, and 3 was currently vacant land, and that would allow them to build and transfer people on-site, without having to do relocation off-site and then bring people back on-site.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said Phase 1 would be 84 units on two acres, and this was what they called the "Special Needs Building," for persons with disabilities. He said they did not have a facility like this in the city at this time, and they had seen through their planning process they were missing being able to provide any type of opportunity to those citizens with that type need.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said Phase 2 would be adjacent to the Phase 1 building, and it was a "Senior Replacement Building," for Johnson Towers.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said they would get into what they called the "Family Units," what they called multifamily, but this could be a single person, or a family of four, or a single mom, or a single dad, with one child. He said this mix would look very different as far as bedroom count. He said this would be a building fronting Governors Drive, a five-story building, with a parking garage, which would look like any other recent development in and around the city. He said back behind that building, on Harden Avenue would be what they called "Walk-Ups," that they would be two-story townhomes, or four-plexes, to really make this feel like a neighborhood instead of just a bunch of large buildings and surface parking lots.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said Phase 4 was another phase of what they called "Family Units," 173 units on five acres, and then the final phase,



Phase 5, was much smaller, just finishing out the rest of the project, with 73 family units.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, entitled "Project Amenities," and he said this was more than just sticks and bricks, in providing residential homes, that it was just under 30,000 square feet of management and amenity space, that there was on-site management and maintenance, a Fitness Center, Community Room, and a Business Center. He said there would also be a new park, Mill Creek Park, a community pool/splash pad, green spaces, a pocket park, and some light commercial. He said they would be very specific as to how they would program that commercial, so it would provide support-type services, some light grocery, light apothecary-type care, and those types of things.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, entitled "People Plan," and he said this was probably one of the most important pieces they would do in the plan. He said this slide listed the seven goals they planned to execute, and he said their development partner was Urban Strategies, Inc., and he said No. 1 was to make sure households were economically stable, and that children, youth, and adults were physically and mentally healthy. He said HUD's program was Up and Out, to provide stability, and then start to provide people services, so that one could move on into life as to what one wanted to do, or the goals one had. He said it would be hard to do this if one were not physically and mentally healthy. He said the next one was to improve health outcomes through prevention and wellness programming and health navigation. He said this was where Huntsville Hospital would really come in, that they were a valued partner, having an on-site clinic and some resources in nutrition they could provide. He said a big thing was the future, the future of the workforce in those kids that would call this neighborhood home. He said another thing was that the children in this neighborhood would enter kindergarten ready to learn, that they would have been prepared. He said

Urban Strategies would have boots on the ground, living in the city, and they would be doing after-action and after-care, doing preparation on weekends, making it fun, that they would be checking in, not only to the City but to HUD, because HUD was helping to fund this. He continued that another part of the plan was that children would be proficient in core academic subjects. He said this would be open not just for those in public housing but for anyone living on-site, that all this would be available to everyone, that it would not be socioeconomically limited, that if one lived in Mill Creek, they would have access to all of this at no cost.

Mr. Davis said another part of the plan was that youths would graduate from high school, college, and be career-ready. He said this one, No. 6, and No. 7 on the list went hand in hand, that No. 7 was kind of for adults, but also for a child who had graduated from high school and did not want to go to college. He said Urban Strategies would be there to see what soft skills they needed to help them with so they would be able to enter the workforce.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said this was about the Neighborhood Plan, that they could think of this as the public pieces of the plan. He said they had talked about the mixed-income, and not being just a section that was for public replacement, and a section for seniors, that these were all mixed throughout the development, that it was not that one building was this and one building was another, that all phases had the mixture of income levels.

Mr. Davis said they would be creating major new public amenities that were not only for Mill Creek. He said the Mill Creek Park was like any other park in the city, that people would be able to go in there and parallel park and maybe shop at one of the retail places, et cetera. He said the park was just a public park, that it was not dedicated to Mill Creek, but it would be within that neighborhood.

Mr. Davis said another point was to promote economic development in and

around Mill Creek, that they wanted it to be a beacon for other investment in and around the neighborhoods, on the west part of downtown.

Mr. Davis said next was to support all businesses, and he said Urban Strategies already had boots on the ground, and there would be, through that process, small business grants in and around the neighborhoods and in that corridor that HUD identified as the service area.

Mr. Davis said No. 5 on the list was actually item 20. on the agenda, which the Council would be considering, enhanced pedestrian/bike access, which would be mobility, to not be so car dependent. He said this was a mixed-income community, with mixed abilities, and they were trying to make it equal to everyone.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, concerning Total Leverage, and he said with the \$50 million HUD grant, they were able to leverage, both in public and private funds, \$290 million plus, with a lot of that being private investment with their master developer that he would go into in the next phase of this.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said it showed the Project Timeline, and he said in 2024, since the award, they had had a lot of meetings, with a lot of attorneys and teams, to make sure they were protecting both the Housing Authority and the taxpayers, and also ensuring that their business partners would deliver, just as they had told the community they were going to deliver.

Mr. Davis said as they went into the new year, they would start the preliminary design of the public infrastructure, and the developer would start finalizing with the architects the vertical components, and that about this time in the upcoming year, they would start construction, that they would start seeing Phase 1 coming out of the ground. He said the small business support would continue, that that would be classes, grants, facade work, just to uplift the overall neighborhood.

Mr. Davis said with their grant, they had eight years to complete this, by the

federal government agreement, which meant they must complete all vertical construction by 2032. He said the Development Agreement had very detailed schedules and exhibits in the back that must be complied with by the City, and mainly by the developer, in starting these phases on this timeline to be able to finish. He said they would stabilize the project, and in the ninth year, they would start to submit their final, close-out paperwork to HUD, showing that the money was spent where it was supposed to be spent. He said they would do that phase by phase, and then there would be a consolidated report. He said the Council would get these reports, and there would be presentations as they closed out each phase.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said this showed the Project Partners, and he said this certainly included the federal government, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Huntsville Housing Authority, Huntsville Hospital, Urban Strategies, and McCormack Baron Salazar, their development partner, that would build the residential, the vertical construction.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said these were the Committed Community Partners that had stepped up when they had started this process and asked how they could be a part of this, how they could help, either in in-kind services or help to fund small businesses, or the childhood services. He said this was what had so impressed HUD, the extent of this. He said these organizations had shown up and said they wanted to be a part of this, and this showed they had a community that cared about this project and cared how it could be generational, a change in certain sectors of the neighborhoods and the community overall.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said these were the three things that went hand-in-hand. He said item 20.ae on the agenda was the application for a grant that would lower some of their costs on public infrastructure, utilities, roads, the park. He said that was a grant application, but what was shown on the screen were the three

items that were attached to the grant they had already received, the \$50 million grant.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said he wanted to give them some background on who they would be entering into agreements with. He said this slide was concerning Urban Strategies, Inc., and he provided a history of their services, through many HUD programs, and he said the City thought this company was the best of the best. He said when they had reached out to HUD and said they had selected this group, HUD had said this company was at the top of their list.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said this showed how Urban Strategies went about their contract, noting that they would get a family support ratio max, that this was the max people, 60 residents to one. He said what usually happened was that early on, there was a lot of intake and a lot of need for that support, but then it would start to stabilize, as they got the programs going, and it would trend down, but Urban Strategies would be with them throughout the entire process. He said there would be one-to-one coaching with families, the Learn Data Tracking, proprietary software that not only showed the City and the HUD results, but also the family of the person they were helping.

Mr. Davis said that then there was data outcome, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, to determine if what they were doing with that individual family was working, and if it was not, they could go in a different direction.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said Huntsville was one of six locations across the United States to receive this grant, noting that they had more than 90 applications. He said the City's grant had scored 96 out of 100, so they had received the maximum grant of \$50 million.

Mr. Davis reiterated that the grant required completion in eight years, and he said of the grant allocation, \$10 million would go to People Services, noting that it would pay 100 percent of the contract the Council was being asked to approve. He said

the remainder of the funds could go in a lot of different buckets, a certain percentage in the parks, a certain percentage in the roads, and that really made the audit very complex, so they had said the easiest thing to do would be to put 100 percent of it in the Housing, so it would be easier to track and easier to close out. He said all the other pieces would be in the City's Capital Plan, whether it would be a sidewalk, a road, or a park.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said he wanted to highlight who was responsible for what. He said the City of Huntsville was responsible for Public Infrastructure; assisting the Huntsville Housing Authority with the demolition of the existing structures as they became vacant; building the public park, which would be the City's, or the taxpayers'; and People Services, which was the reason for the contract with USI. He said HUD required them to do that because they were the lead applicant.

Mr. Davis said, concerning the responsibilities of Huntsville Housing Authority, that the Huntsville Housing Authority Board had to agree to lease their property to McCormack Baron so they could get funding. He said they were bringing a lot of capital to the table, that they had the public housing replacement units, and they would work on temporary relocation assistance, and People Services support.

Mr. Davis said McCormack Baron Salazar was the City's development partner, and they would be responsible for construction of all residential vertical construction in the plan, all phases, and operation and management of the new facilities once they were built, and also the maintenance of them, for the term, for a period of 75 years. He said the beauty of this was once the City made its capital investment and once the Huntsville Housing Authority made theirs, it was on the developer to maintain it not only to Community Development standards but also HUD standards, in the operation, maintenance, and management of it.

Mr. Davis displayed another slide, and he said they had chosen McCormack,

Baron Salazar through a very competitive process. He said they were one of the largest companies in this game, as far as mixed-use/mixed-income housing, and they had completed or been chosen for 15 CNIs, which was more than any other developer in the country that did this type of business.

Mr. Davis asked if any of the Council members had any questions.

**Councilmember Robinson** said the resolution that was before the Council concerned Urban Strategies, and she was excited about this. She said having talked to the Urban Strategies people and knowing the work they did, she believed they were the people who would know how to do this work.

**Councilmember Watkins** said Mr. Davis had said this was going to be mixed-use, and she asked if they had a designated percentage of the residents that would return once construction was completed.

Mr. Davis said everyone who was on-site had the legal right to return, that they would not have to return, that they might choose to have a voucher and find somewhere else they wanted to live, but no one would be displaced because of the project.

Councilmember Watkins asked how Huntsville Housing Authority was going to notify the residents that left, if they were going to keep in contact with them so they could come back if they wanted to come back to the housing.

Mr. Davis said they absolutely would.

Mr. Davis displayed a slide he had previously shown, and he said Phase 1 was their universal design building, for people with impairments, whether it would be handicapped vision, hearing, or any impairments they might have, and these were specialized units. He said Phase 2 was the replacement of Johnson Towers, the seniors. He said they would build Phase 2, which would not displace anyone, and then they would be able to move 100 percent of those seniors from just across the street

into brand-new units.

Mr. Davis said Phase 3 would bring more multifamily mix, so that would allow them to start moving people on-site, from north to south, into new buildings. He said he was not saying there would not be anyone who would have to leave, that they did not know that yet, but they had tried to make this plan to where when it was time for people to leave their current unit, they could move to a unit on-site that was brand new. He said they wanted to make that process as simple and seamless as possible, that it was by design to try to do that.

**Councilmember Watkins** asked if there would be any requirements of the residents to live on the property.

Mr. Davis said they would follow the similar rules of the Huntsville Housing Authority because of HUD funding, so the same type of rules and regulations HUD required Huntsville Housing Authority to assess and regulate. He said HUD would require that because HUD was putting \$50 million into the property.

**Councilmember Kling** asked if it was correct that they were taking into account the acreage, the amount of land they had there, and the concentration of units within that area, so that it would not be overly concentrated into two small a land area.

Mr. Davis said when they started the Planning Grant back in 2019, finishing it in late 2020, he thought the view was a little different, in that the consultant they had used for the grant application wanted to do the first run. He said that plan had resulted in a little over 1,000 units, and they probably would not have won a grant with that, because it was really seeing how many replacement units they could get on that land. He said what they had at this time was much more neighborhood friendly, that it felt very comfortable to walk and live in, and that number had gone down to 705, and what they had gotten out of that was a public park, a daycare, medical services, and the educational building, so, really, from just seeing how many units



could be put on the site, they had scaled that back, seeing how they could get the right number of units but still feeling like they could really walk the neighborhood.

**Councilmember Kling** said this was located near Valley Garden Apartments, and he said that was a well-maintained complex, with many amenities, computers on-site, tutors for the children, et cetera. He said it sounded like some of that was what would be going on with this new development.

Mr. Davis said it was very much replicated, that it was very similar.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-861)**

**Resolution No. 24-862**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and HUD, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the Mill Creek Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Agreement.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Kling.**

**Mr. Davis** said that with this resolution, the Council would be accepting the federal \$50 million grant to implement this program. He said this agreement was between the Huntsville Housing Authority, the City of Huntsville, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-862)**

**Resolution No. 24-863**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville, the Huntsville Housing Authority, and McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc., for the Master Development Agreement, Mill Creek Choice Neighborhood Initiative Transformation.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Meredith.**

**Mr. Davis** said this was an agreement between the City of Huntsville, the

Huntsville Housing Authority, and the development partner that would build the residential replacement and do on-site operations, maintenance, and management for the term of the lease, 75 years, so that neither the City nor the Huntsville Housing Authority would put money back into those, that it would be the developer's responsibility. He said this was a tri-party agreement, and the Huntsville Housing Authority Board had already provided approval, and they had signed it, and so had McCormack Baron Salazar.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-863)**

**Resolution No. 24-864**, authorizing the Mayor to submit an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Community Change Grants Program (CCGP) Application, for the Bike & Pedestrian connection for Mill Creek Choice Neighborhoods.

**Moved for Approval by Robinson/Seconded by Meredith.**

**Mr. Davis** said with the Council's approval, this would allow their team to apply for an up to \$20 million grant that would help offset public infrastructure costs within the Choice Neighborhood Project.

**Councilmember Robinson** said she had noticed this was a partnership with Huntsville Hospital Foundation.

Mr. Davis said that was correct. He said part of the grant application required a nonprofit-type foundation. He said this was a climate and environmental justice type grant, and they had public property, with residential housing, with a sloped, paved concrete channel going through the middle of it, that there were a lot of things they checked the box on, but being able to tell the story of Huntsville Hospital's investment, with the clinic and what the Foundation would be doing there, would really help their grant application.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 24-864)**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR INTRODUCTION.**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 24-868**, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c) (1) of Section 3-30 (MidCity Arts and Entertainment District Ordinance) of the City's Code of Ordinances, to modify the MidCity Arts and Entertainment District.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 24-869**, annexing 25.08 acres of land lying north of Bibb Garrett Road and east of I-65.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS.**

**Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments.**

Councilmember David Little

Councilmember Jennie Robinson

**Community Action Partnership Huntsville/Madison & Limestone Counties, Inc.**

Councilmember Jennie Robinson

**Advisory Commission on Accessibility.**

Councilmember Jennie Robinson

**City of Huntsville Insurance Committee.**

Councilmember David Little

Councilmember Jennie Robinson

**Chairperson of the Finance Committee and one (1) other member of the Council as Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee.**

Councilmember Michelle Watkins, Chairperson

Councilmember David Little, Vice Chairperson

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

**President Meredith** said the floor was open for a member of the Council to

serve as its representative to the City of Huntsville Planning Commission.

**Councilmember Kling** nominated **Councilmember Robinson**.

President Meredith asked if there were any other nominations.

**Nominations Closed.**

**Roll-Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Kling, Robinson, Watkins, Little, Meredith**

**Nays: None**

**President Meredith said Councilmember Robinson would serve as the Council's representative to the City of Huntsville Planning Commission.**

**President Meredith** said he would like to note for the record that he would like to exercise his ex officio rights and maintain being on the electronic distribution list. He said if he attended a meeting, it would be as an observer, noting that he understood the limitations of "ex officio," and he was not bringing this up as any indication that Councilmember Robinson was not very well qualified to serve in this position, that he just wanted to get information.

**President Meredith** said the floor was open for a member of the Council to serve as its representative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

**Councilmember Robinson** nominated **Councilmember Watkins**.

President Meredith asked if there were any other nominations.

**Nominations Closed.**

**Roll-Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Little, Watkins, Robinson, Kling, Meredith**

**Nays: None**

**President Meredith said Councilmember Watkins would serve as the Council's representative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.**

**President Meredith** said he would also like to be ex officio on the MPO as well, under the same circumstances.

**President Meredith** said the floor was open for a member of the Council to serve as the Council representative to the Research Park Board.

**Councilmember Robinson** nominated **Councilmember Little**.

**President Meredith** asked if there were any other nominations.

**Nominations Closed.**

**Roll-Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Little, Watkins, Kling, Robinson, Meredith**

**Nays: None**

**President Meredith** said **Councilmember Little** would serve as the **Council representative to the Research Park Board.**

**President Meredith** said the floor was open for a member of the Council to serve as its representative to the Historic Preservation Commission.

**Councilmember Robinson** nominated **Councilmember Kling**.

**President Meredith** asked if there were any other nominations.

**Nominations closed.**

**Roll-Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Robinson, Kling, Little, Watkins, Meredith**

**Nays: None**

**President Meredith** said **Councilmember Kling** would serve as the **Council's representative to the Historic Preservation Commission.**

**SECOND ROSTER PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**President Meredith** 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. He said persons could sign up to speak on the

Second Public Comments Roster prior to or during the meeting, and that when called, they should approach the middle microphone and state their name, home address, and city of residence. He said 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.

President Meredith said it was his intent to make sure the Second Roster Public Comments would continue to be broadcast as part of the meeting, and he hoped that would happen.

**Ms. Felicia Dangerfield**, 1021 Parklane Street, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Huntsville Police."

**Ms. Maryam Rashid**, Madison, addressed the Council, stating that her address was on file (1645 Sparkman Drive), and having signed up to speak concerning "Palestine/election."

**(Document submitted.)**

**Dr. Moni Ahmed**, Madison, addressed the Council, stating her address was on file (123 Foxhound Drive), and having signed up to speak concerning "Civil rights."

**(Document submitted.)**

**Ms. Vera Vergare**, Madison, District 5, addressed the Council, stating that her address was on the sheet (3149 Lakeland Drive), and having signed up to speak concerning "Palestine."

**Ms. Susan Stewart**, 2027 Cameron Road, District 3, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Palestine."

**Mr. Christopher Lioi**, South Madison, addressed the Council, stating that his address was on the form (114 Ardsley Drive), and having signed up to speak concerning "Palestine and War."

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

---

CITY CLERK

**(Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m., November 7, 2024.)**