

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting - January 13, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Municipal Building
Huntsville, Alabama

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

Member Absent: Dr. Jennie Robinson
Mr. Devyn Keith

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

President Meredith called the meeting to order at the time and place noted above. He stated Councilmember Robinson and Councilmember Keith were not in attendance at the meeting.

Dr. Edward Soule of the Big Cove Cumberland Presbyterian Church led the invocation; Councilmember Kling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

President Meredith stated items 10.a and 10.b on the agenda, a resolution to declare a public nuisance located at 3910 Birch Avenue, SW, Huntsville, AL, and to set the date for when objections would be heard, and a resolution to declare a public nuisance located at 3607 Grote Street, SW, Huntsville, AL, and to set the date for when objections would be heard, had been withdrawn from the agenda; and item 20.l on the agenda, a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Airport Properties, LLC, had been deleted from the agenda.

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

Councilmember Akridge moved to approve the agenda, with the changes enumerated, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and unanimously approved.

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

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on December 16, 2021, were approved as submitted.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Mayor: Special Recognitions.

President Meredith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Byron Thomas, Director of Human Resources, to come to the podium, noting they had several Employee Incentive Awards.

Mayor Battle recognized Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas stated that at this time they would like to recognize some of the employees in the IT Department, and he asked Mr. Gene Uhl of the IT Department to come forward for the recognition.

Mr. Thomas stated they had these Employee Incentive Awards, where the employees were recognized for outstanding service and contribution to the City, where they had saved the City money or done something special.

Mr. Thomas recognized Mr. Uhl.

Mr. Uhl stated that at this time they were recognizing two employees of the City of Huntsville Information Technology Services Department, Mr. Gregory Danehower, their Senior Network Engineer, and Mr. Randall Silk, their Senior Systems Engineer.

Mr. Uhl stated that as many persons were aware, the location of the new City Hall would be right across the street, at the Gates Avenue parking garage location, but what many persons had not known was this was also the location of the City of Huntsville Data Center, housing millions of dollars' worth of equipment and IT infrastructure which provided daily services to the City of Huntsville and its constituents. He stated that, in short, the heart of anything computer related ran through this location.

Mr. Uhl stated Mr. Danehower and Mr. Silk were tasked with planning, designing, and relocating this data center, with minimal down time, that this task was of epic proportions, as they simply could not move a data center easily. He stated these gentlemen, with the assistance of Mr. Troy Jolly from Huntsville Utilities, had been up to the challenge and had accomplished this task with minimal down time and with an estimated cost savings to the City of more than \$100,000 because they had done it in-house. He stated this was a major undertaking, and these two gentlemen were key to the ultimate success of the project. He stated he was grateful for having them work for the City of Huntsville ITS Department.

Presentations were made to Mr. Danehower and Mr. Silk, and Mayor Battle thanked them for their diligent work on this project, noting he could not imagine moving a data center.

Mayor Battle stated the next item on the agenda was Presentation of The Year of the Girl Proclamation, to mark the 50th anniversary of Girls, Inc., in Huntsville, and he asked Ms. Stephanie Malone to come forward, with some of her young charges.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Malone to tell them about this program.

Ms. Malone expressed appreciation for the recognition, and she stated their mission was to inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold, and for the past 50 years,

they had been meeting the unique needs of girls in the community, throughout Madison County. She stated that in attendance at this meeting with her were some of the strong, smart, and bold young women. She stated they ran an after-school program, and they had programs any time school was out, that they had spring break, fall break, and a 10-week summer camp. She stated the program-focused areas included STEM, workforce development, leadership development, and they also helped their young ladies find their voices so they could be advocates for themselves and for issues that impacted them.

Ms. Malone stated they had been a proud partner of United Way of Madison County since they were formed. She stated Kristina Hendrix with Dynetics Corporation was in attendance at the meeting, and she stated they were their corporate partner, and they invested in this program.

Ms. Malone thanked the Mayor and the Council for the recognition, and she stated they would have events throughout the year, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Mayor Battle stated the next item on the agenda was the presentation of a Mentoring Month proclamation to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of North Alabama. He stated the representative for Big Brothers and Big Sisters was ill and could not be in attendance at this meeting, so they would be presenting this proclamation at a later date, but at this time they wanted to thank them for the job they did in mentoring young people throughout the community.

Mayor Battle stated the next item on the agenda was recognition of the GIS Department, and he asked Ms. Amy Kenum to come forward. He stated a special achievement award had recently been awarded to the GIS Department, and he asked Ms. Kenum to tell them about this.

Ms. Kenum stated that members of their department had recently received a

Special Achievement GIS Award at the State of Alabama GIS Conference, for their innovative work in digital applications. She stated this award had been given for developing special geospatial projects by teamwork, which demonstrated commitment to the Alabama GIS community while performing important and pioneering work to create outstanding GIS information resources. She stated they had scanned in over 5,000 historic images of Huntsville, dating back to 1937, and these images were now accessible to the public, that they had created an online application where it would be viewable by the public.

Mayor Battle stated that because of the work this entire department had done, he had a proclamation that talked about the Huntsville Geographic Information Systems and everything they had done for the city. He stated when people came to visit the city and went over to the GIS Department, they always walked away saying Huntsville had something no other city in the nation had, that their GIS Department was so advanced over everyone else. He stated this was mapping, that it was geographical information, and it was geospatial information, and they did a great job.

Mayor Battle stated they had named the following day, Friday, January 14, 2022, to be the “City of Huntsville Geographic Information Systems Day for the City of Huntsville.”

Mayor Battle presented the proclamation to Ms. Kenum, and he asked that it be shared with the entire department.

Mayor Battle stated the next item on the agenda was a proclamation to declare the month of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Mayor Battle asked the representatives to comment on what this meant to the community.

Ms. Kristina Hendrix, President of the Junior League of Huntsville, stated they had partnered with the City and other organizations around the state to bring more

awareness to human trafficking and how it was a problem in the communities. She stated they were glad Pat McKay was also in attendance at this meeting so they would be able to share this with the community.

Ms. McKay stated she was the Chair of the State Task Force. She stated this was a program of the State of Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force, and she stated she also chaired a local task force.

Ms. McKay thanked the Council and the Mayor for allowing them to have this proclamation every year. She stated fighting these horrible crimes was so important, as well as making people aware of them.

Ms. McKay stated that on the following Saturday morning, from 9 to 12, at Trinity United Methodist Church, persons could learn more about what human trafficking was, and she urged people to attend this meeting.

Mayor Battle stated Councilmember Robinson had certainly wanted to be in attendance for this presentation but, unfortunately, was unable to because of illness. He thanked Councilmember Robinson for all her work on this matter.

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution honoring the life and service of esteemed community member Cynthia Masucci, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-01)

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

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling for the presentation.

Councilmember Kling stated it was his privilege to recognize an outstanding board member who came from a wonderful family in the community and who had

done so much.

Councilmember Kling read from the resolution honoring Ms. Masucci, noting her outstanding commitment to the community by being an active member of the Huntsville Beautification Board and honoring her for her many years of service to the city. He continued that her experience on boards such as the City of Huntsville Beautification Board and being event coordinator at the historic Lowry House, along with her mother, Jane Tippet, had positioned her as a pillar of the community. He continued that she had brought love, fun, and creativity to every endeavor she encountered. He stated they wanted to honor the extraordinary legacy and memory of Ms. Cynthia Masucci, for her dedicated life and service to making Huntsville a more beautiful and healthful community.

Councilmember Kling presented the resolution to Ms. Masucci's parents, Louie and Jane Tippet, noting that it was a token of their appreciation for what Ms. Masucci had meant to the community.

Ms. Tippet thanked the Council for caring, and she stated that her daughter was a very caring person.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Announcements and Presentations. He stated that at this time there would be a presentation by United Way to update the City Council on the use of City budget allocations and the work of United Way.

President Meredith recognized Ms. Cathy Miller of United Way.

(Ms. Miller made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Miller thanked the Mayor and the Council for having them for this presentation, stating they were excited to be able to share some extraordinary work.

Ms. Miller stated many of them might know the logo of United Way, but they might not know the logo of their partner in this great work, Crisis Services of North

Alabama, noting she could give an entire presentation about them and the great work they did.

Ms. Miller stated United Way was honored to have Crisis Services come together with them to offer 211, noting she believed everyone on the podium would know what that was, in general, and she knew Councilmember Akridge did because she had been through their 211 Ambassador Training.

Ms. Miller stated they always wanted to start any conversation they had saying thank you to the community from United Way and to thank this wonderful group of folks who had said they knew the community was growing, that needs were growing, as they did in any community that was getting larger. She stated they had also had that little thing of the pandemic come at them, so it was time for them to come together and spend this time together investing in this very important piece, how they could keep the quality of life where it was in Madison County.

Ms. Miller stated that for those in the audience who perhaps did not know what 211 was, it was a free and confidential service, and the simplest way she could say it was that 365 days a year, persons could call those three numbers from anywhere in the United States, and they could get connected with a caring call specialist, who would say, "How can we help?" She continued that then they would go into an extensive and comprehensive source of information about local resources, all of the health and human services nonprofits, and many of their agencies and organizations such as DHR and WellStone.

Ms. Miller stated they often found they had people in the community who would come up to individuals and say they had a problem, and they would confide in them, but these persons did not know the answer, and the answer was to always start by calling 211. She stated it was a very, very simple thing to do, and they were so proud that almost 95 percent of the country was covered by the 211 network. She

continued that they could be proud that Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and South Carolina all had 100 percent coverage, meaning persons could dial that number from any land line or cell phone in the state, as well as the other states displayed in dark blue, and they could get that call specialist who could be that lifeline. She stated they were very proud of this.

Ms. Miller stated that with what was displayed at this time, they were looking at three ways to do this. She stated the traditional way had always been to dial those three numbers, but at this time they also had a text number which they were very excited about. She stated that was txt211, or 898211. She stated people could text their ZIP Code to get to their local call center. She continued that in Alabama, part of their interconnective network on line was 211connectsalabama.org. She stated this was all toll free.

Ms. Miller stated they had found that even with Google and Facebook friends and all the other ways they had to connect and find help, it typically took six or seven calls for persons to reach out, only to find that what they had thought was the answer was not the answer. She stated 211 cut that right to the quick and got folks to the resources that were available in the local community.

Ms. Miller stated she would give a shout-out again for 211. She stated the Board at United Way, back in 2003, was very smart, that they had the chance to bring 211 to the city, and they could have set up a separate call center, but they already had HELpline, for years, at Crisis Services, so that Board had very wisely said, "Why would we reinvent the wheel? Why don't we use the existing call center and expand it and have a partnership with Crisis Services?" She stated that to this day, that was what they had done, and it had been such a good model that five United Ways in North Alabama did that through Crisis Services, so they really were a regional 211 call center, serving Marshall, Morgan, Limestone, Jackson, and Madison counties.

Ms. Miller stated she called this an infrastructure piece. She stated she was thinking earlier in the day what this community would be like if they did not have this, and she could not even imagine how frustrated people would be. She stated there was a lot of mental health stress going on at this time, and without this, it would be at a whole other level, that they would have more people on the street, and they would have more people hungry, and more people looking for mental health services and not knowing where to turn, and more children abused, that they would have lots of things if this lifeline were not there.

Ms. Miller stated she loved the story of a young man who had met them and learned about 211, and the very next day he had gone home, and his sister, who was in high school at the time, was crying, and he had asked her what was wrong, and she had said a friend of hers was abused and she did not know what to do. She continued that because this young man knew about 211, he could get her connected right away with the National Children's Advocacy Center, and she could start on her healing path. She stated that was just one example of how important that lifeline was.

Ms. Miller stated that at United Way, they always liked to look at the hard data, if they were actually getting results from what they were doing. She stated that in 2019, which she believed was the first year they had received funding from the City, they had approximately 9,000 inquiries, for Madison County residents only. She stated they had realized that at that time 98 percent of the phone calls coming in for Madison County were coming out of Huntsville ZIP Codes, so they had said that was an opportunity for a partnership, and the City had said yes. She continued that in 2020, when the pandemic had begun, there was a leap, that there were 13,259 inquiries for the year's total. She stated that the past year, 2021, there had been an explosion, record numbers for the call center, 21,961.

Ms. Miller stated if she went back to March 16th, when United Way had said

they had to go remote, and the call centers had gone remote, with the flip of a button, they had now answered approximately 33,000 inquiries. She stated they were really proud of this.

Ms. Miller stated she could not say enough about the call specialists who were on those calls all the time, that because they were at Crisis Services, they were in the same room as the Suicide Hotline and the HELPLine, so they could get callers who really needed that to those resources really fast, and that was of a great benefit to them.

Ms. Miller stated they did not know what 2022 was going to look like, but she could not imagine it was going to go back to 2019 numbers, noting they were growing so much in the county, and they were drawing some people who saw this beautiful, bright, shiny star that was Huntsville-Madison County, and they wanted to come and be a part of it. She stated maybe they would come low-skilled, and maybe they would come because they were running away from abuse or some other terrible situation, and they were going to need the community's help a little bit to get stable and get settled. She stated that was another reason they were seeing some of the numbers grow.

Ms. Miller stated she wanted to give a special shout-out to the new program 211 was helping United Way with, and that was called "RIDE United." She stated they had seen in their needs assessment from three or four studies that the issue around transportation was becoming more and more chronic, that it was becoming a bigger barrier for people to get to work, and to medical appointments and those kinds of things. She stated they were so proud and grateful to the Mayor and City Transit that they had recognized this also. She stated her group had stood with them for a long time, and they had said, "Tell us what you are doing. How is it growing? What can we do to help?" She stated then Toyota Manufacturing had come to them and

said, "We would like to bring in a gap-filling program for transportation until the City can have time to grow that infrastructure." She stated they knew that was coming, that they always knew City Transit was going to be the way, and transit in general the way, to get around in the community, but in the meantime, they had an answer for thousands of people.

Ms. Miller stated 211 was a portal for getting that resource, that they could schedule about five rides for someone. She stated if they needed more than one ride, they would be coming to United Way and getting into a more case management process with them. She stated that part of the increase in the numbers to 211 was the RIDE United program, that they had seen over 9,000 rides in the past year, noting they counted them one way because some people only took one way. She stated this was getting people primarily to employment or pre-employment opportunities or getting them to their short-term medical needs.

Ms. Miller stated that since they had begun this program with Toyota back in January of 2020, they had given over 11,000 rides. She stated she had seen Scott Erwin in the meeting a little bit earlier, and she wanted to give him a shout-out also because of the work the City of Huntsville had done to keep people in their homes and avoid eviction, with the CARES Act money. She stated they had also seen that 211 was a natural fit to be the portal for connecting those folks, as to how to apply to the agencies that were helping them with that distribution. She stated that was also something they had seen in the numbers.

Ms. Miller stated she wanted to quickly tell them about a wonderful resource that was available to anyone. She stated this was live data, and she would encourage them to go to the website that was displayed any time they wondered what people were needing in the community.

Ms. Miller stated the slide she was displaying was an example of what they

would see. She stated persons could filter this by Madison County, which was what she had done, filtering a custom date of March of 2020 to December of 2021, that that was where she had gotten that 33,000 number. She stated they could see how it broke out the categories. She stated they were coding essentially every call that came into their call center, and across the whole state of Alabama at 211 call centers, so persons could see that those big numbers were not surprising.

Ms. Miller stated Transportation Assistance was a big set of calls they were getting, and Food was not as big, that they were doing a good job of feeding a lot of people who were in a fragile situation. She stated Housing and Shelter was big, as was Utility Assistance, that those were kind of the big, big players. She stated they had seen a leap in the COVID healthcare-related area. She stated the cool thing, which was on the right, was the popout from Housing, so they could see the subset of calls for housing. She stated most of the housing was around Rental Assistance, people who had been caught in this economic growth, where their landlords were going up on their rent, but their income was not going up, so some people were newly having to call for assistance, not having been in that situation before.

Ms. Miller stated she wanted everyone on the Council to know this resource was available for them to use. She stated they could sort it by ZIP Code, so it could go down to the district level, and they could look at the whole state of Alabama, that they could sort it by call centers, to see what they were doing in regional, that there were many different ways to look at this data.

Ms. Miller stated that, as she had mentioned, they had the 211 Ambassador Program, and they hoped the Councilmembers or someone on their staff would go through this training. She stated that several years ago, they had realized that as much as United Way talked about 211 and Crisis Services helped them to share that news, they were not getting to everybody, to let everybody know this was the lifeline

to call when they needed help, so they had created a Citizens Ambassador Program, where persons went through an hour's worth of training. She stated they were doing this virtually at this time, and the next training would be on February 11, which was National 211 Day. She stated they would also be celebrating their partnership with the City by posting posters about what 211 could do for people, posting in all the bus shelters in town. She stated John Autry had been a wonderful partner to them, helping to do this.

Ms. Miller stated they would be posting on their volunteer center the opportunity for this training, and it would be virtual, and they wanted to make sure the community knew it was coming. She stated they held this three or four times a year, and they had about 40 people who had been through the training so far. She stated they asked persons not to go out of their way, to just go and share where they lived, worked, and played, that wherever someone was confiding in them that they had an issue and did not know what to do, they could share that and have an answer for them, with 211.

Ms. Miller stated she had mentioned all the different ways United Way and the City of Huntsville were connected around 211, and they were connected in a lot of other ways, in taking care of their neighbors together, and they really truly appreciated that. She stated United Way belonged to the community.

Ms. Miller stated that what was displayed at this time was her contact information. She stated there was also a link to 211counts.org, as well as 211connectsalabama.org, which she noted was an online version of the database the call specialists accessed.

Ms. Miller asked if the Councilmembers had any questions about the program or anything else related to 211.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge thanked Ms. Miller for mentioning they fielded inquiries and kept tabs on types of calls. She stated she had mentioned she thought sometimes new residents moved in and wanted to know about City services, and she asked if Ms. Miller happened to know where those calls for City services got fielded to.

Ms. Miller stated they would go to whatever City department in most cases, but if they did not know, they might give them the general number. She stated they knew certain roles the City played, and if they were a newcomer and needed to get their utilities hooked up, or something like that, they would know where to send them. She stated they tried to be as specific in referring those resources as possible.

Councilmember Akridge stated she appreciated their being ombudsmen for the City, as well as being critical lifelines for people who were confused about how to get started.

Councilmember Akridge stated she wanted to mention that when she was being interviewed about the recent tragedy the community faced with one of their police officers being charged with murder, and someone had advised her it was a very personal topic, she had suggested to that particular reporter to let people know to call 211 even if they just wanted to get in touch with Crisis Services of North Alabama and understand what kind of symptoms or characteristics might be leading toward some kind of domestic violence.

Councilmember Akridge stated she wanted to let them know that her ambassadorship had stuck in her brain at a very precipitous moment, and it had helped her a lot because there were times when she did not know about those things because she was not in the nonprofit world. She stated that the fact they kept a big database of nonprofit services, or just human services, was of terrific help.

Councilmember Akridge stated that Ms. Miller had mentioned an interest in

transportation help, and she asked if persons were asking specifically, like, how they would get to some place, or for directions, or if they were saying they had just gotten a new job, or how Ms. Miller would characterize those.

Ms. Miller stated those calls came in in a variety of ways, that sometimes they were calling the number when they should be calling 411, for information, and, of course, they would be referred over for that. She continued that, however, oftentimes they were calling because they needed assistance in getting their car repaired, or they wanted to find someone who would help them get a car, such as "Wheels for Working," in that nonprofit sector, not the professional for-profit side, as far as a car shop or something.

Ms. Miller stated they got those kinds of calls, and they also got a lot of calls related to ride assistance, and they could not use public transit. She stated they had several people in the Ride United program who could get to work, such as a lady who was coming from New Market to the city with a friend, and she could take the bus to work, at the Walmart on South Parkway, but by the time she got off work, there was no bus service, so they were giving her the return ride. She stated that even with Tran, as well as CASA and other nonprofits giving rides, they still had people who had no way to get where they needed to go, for dialysis, et cetera, so they were calling for those kinds of things also.

Councilmember Akridge asked if they told them about the Handi-Ride program the City ran with federal dollars.

Ms. Miller replied in the affirmative. She stated they were the last-resort gap filler, noting that not everybody who called to get a ride automatically got a free ride through Ride United. She stated they checked persons' addresses, and if they were on public transit, and they could use it, or they could sign up for Handi-Ride, or Access, as she believed it was called at this time, then they would tell them they needed to use

that service, or that they were not eligible for Ride United. She stated everyone would want to do a door-to-door versus getting on a bus, but this was only when there was no other option.

Councilmember Akridge stated she believed the Access service was something where there was a certain amount of eligibility, i.e., a note from a doctor.

Councilmember Akridge thanked Ms. Miller for answering her questions about transportation because this was always of interest as they grew the city, how people would get around, to work and to doctors' appointments, et cetera.

Ms. Miller stated John Autry had told her they were going to be able to increase over time, that they were going to become a regional transportation center, that there was a plan for that, but it was going to take some time, and that was one reason United Way had decided to bring this program to the city. She continued that they were so grateful to 211 because if those 9,000 calls were all coming directly to United Way, they could not have managed the program, at the volume it was.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling stated he very much appreciated what United Way had done, and he asked that they just keep up the good work.

Ms. Miller stated she had given everyone a brochure because they wanted them to know their United Way. She stated they were a little different, as were many United Ways in different parts of the world and the country, because they were tied to local needs and what was most pressing for the community. She stated they did a needs assessment every three to five years to get their finger on the pulse of that in a deep way because they knew they belonged to Madison County, and they were very proud of that. She stated they encouraged folks if they did not know their United Way, to come and find out about them, that they would be sure to help them not only learn about 211 but also the other resources they had.

Ms. Miller stated they were grateful to the City, and they would continue to give them updates as often as they asked for them. She stated they had the data, that they lived in a data-driven community, and they were very proud their United Way stood in that same place, that they did not just pick things on a whim, that they looked at the hard data in order to decide how best to invest the community's dollars.

President Meredith stated to Ms. Miller that they certainly appreciated the stewardship they had shown, and he thanked her for a wonderful presentation.

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

President Meredith stated that as he had mentioned earlier, agenda items 10.a and 10.b had been withdrawn.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution to declare a public nuisance located at 2111 Hill St NW, Huntsville, AL, and to set the date for when objections would be heard, at the January 27, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-04)

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

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

(Mr. Erwin made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Erwin stated this item would cover two procedural points, with the first one being that based on the affidavit and the video evidence presented to them, the conditions existed at 2111 Hill Street that a junk public nuisance existed, and the Council would set a public hearing for January 27, 2022, at which time they would hear from the public, presenting any objections, and then authorizing abatement of

this property.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge asked if Mr. Erwin would remind them of what a "public nuisance" was.

Mr. Erwin stated they operated in accordance with the State Public Nuisance Act, which identified trash, rubbish, junk, and other debris, abandoned construction, as unsightly to the neighborhood. He stated this was a summary of what constituted a "public nuisance," from a junk perspective.

Councilmember Akridge asked if there was also a public health or a public safety requirement.

Mr. Erwin stated there could be, depending on the nature of it. He stated swimming pools could be covered, and other items could actually be a safety hazard also. He stated this was different from a public nuisance from an open and standing, accessible structure.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-04, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on the zoning of 1.24 acres of land lying on the west side of Mohawk Road and north of Olmstead Road to Residence 1-A District, at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-05)

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

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-06, zoning 1.24 acres of land lying on the west side of Mohawk Road and north of Olmstead Road to Residence 1-A District.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on the zoning of 1.00 acre of land lying on the west side of County Line Road and south of Old Hwy 20 to Highway Business C-4 District, at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-07)

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

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-08, zoning 1.00 acre of land lying on the west side of County Line Road and south of Old Hwy 20 to Highway Business C-4 District.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on the vacation of a Right-of-Way along Powell Road, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16, at the February 24, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-09)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced Resolution No. 22-10, consenting to the vacation of a Right-of-Way along Powell Road, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-11, vacating the Right-of-Way along Powell Road, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16.

President Meredith stated that no member of the public had signed up to speak

under Agenda Related Public Comments.

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

President Meredith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle stated that on the following Monday, they would be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the City of Huntsville, that City services would not be open, and trash pickup and limb and debris pickup would be one day later than usual. He stated this was a day they had celebrated for many years, and that the local Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity always put on a great event, and this year it would be a virtual event, and he encouraged everyone to participate in it.

Mayor Battle stated the recent storm had caused a backlog with pickup services, and he asked that citizens be patient, noting they were moving around the city, but it would take two to three weeks to catch up after an event such as this.

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

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated they had all suffered a shock with the news on the prior Friday of a police officer, who was at this time not an officer, being arrested for capital murder. She stated they were grateful for the information Chief McMurray had offered earlier in the day, to bring closure to this, to start the justice process.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was very grateful for Mr. Jon Rossow and the members of the Citizens Advisory Council to HPD for their first meeting, which was a monumental change in format, that it was a roundtable discussion. She stated this was where conversations happened, where learning happened, that it was where sharing information and being able to improve something would happen, and she was very appreciative of this. She stated she was grateful for all the people who had attended this event, and she asked that they continue to do this. She stated there

were many ways to reach out to the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council, and persons could let her know if they needed to know how to do this.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Ms. Kelly Schrimsher that her team had done an outstanding job of preparing for that presentation, and she thanked all of them for scoping out the venue and being ready to be of assistance, and especially for promoting it. She stated that was a service the former HPCAC had not had, and at this time between Ms. Schrimsher's department and the administrative help they were getting, she thought this would make a tremendous difference in their being a valuable liaison between the Police Department and the Councilmembers, in order to be able to discern what kind of changes or improvements needed to be made.

Councilmember Akridge stated that on Wednesday, January 19, she would be hosting a virtual Town Hall in the Council Chambers, so they could stream on Huntsville TV. She asked that District 2 members, as well as other citizens, send in questions they had concerning the city. She stated the presentations would be geared more toward people in the northeast quadrant of the city, as well as Blossomwood, and then into the Cove, noting they would learn more about why flood plain maps changed, and they would learn how this would have an impact on insurance if they changed again after some structural improvements were made, for example, in the Dallas/Pinhook Creek area.

Councilmember Akridge stated they would get an update on that, and they would also discuss some of the apartments that were happening in District 2. She stated this was something people had on their minds, and she wanted to respond to that, to give everyone a way to share that information. She stated persons could send questions to her directly, and she could share them with everyone else, or they could send them to hsvcitycouncil@huntsvilleal.gov.

Councilmember Akridge stated she had a chart to help illustrate why she had

been inspired to offer a resolution to consider technology to help make the streets in the city safer, noting Huntsville was supposed to be an innovative and smart city.

Councilmember Akridge stated this had started with California Street, microlevel, with Joy McKee being hit by someone running through a red light, as well as other people on California being hit by persons running through red lights. She stated Engineering and Planning had been trying to determine what they might do to the design, but the fact was that red light cameras changed behavior. She stated that in the state of Alabama, they would simply hire an outside company, and it would be that company's responsibility to use their equipment, and this would keep it out of the criminal justice system,

Councilmember Akridge stated she would be making a motion to postpone this items on the agenda because she wanted to hear everyone's opinion about it and see it to a vote. She stated all she was looking for was agreement that they would ask the State representatives to consider it, either this year or the following year, so they could then finalize things, such as the contract and how it would work.

Councilmember Akridge stated the chart she was displaying showed all the reasons why accidents happened. She stated red lights were not the primary reason; however, this was the only thing on the list they had a technological tool for. She stated she felt it was their obligation, as not only stewards of money but stewards of public safety, to do anything they could to reduce the number of accidents. She asked that they look at the blue lines for 2020, and she stated this was highly increased because there was more traffic, that in 2019, there was not as much traffic. She stated that as people returned to their offices or there were more venues to attend, the accidents were increasing. She stated that going through red lights was the only thing they could use to reduce those accidents with technology.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was asking her fellow Councilmembers to

seriously consider this so they could then simply work out the details as to what the contract would look like.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling commended Chief McMurray's leadership and the decisive action he had taken in the aftermath of the shooting that had taken place over the weekend. He stated that when the situation had arisen, Chief McMurray had immediately had the employee placed on unpaid leave, and he had kept the Police Department out of it by using the good judgment to have an outside agency, the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, come in and investigate the situation, and based upon their findings, Chief McMurray had taken decisive action earlier in the day.

Councilmember Kling stated that, as had been mentioned, the following Monday was the Martin Luther King holiday, and because of that, the library would be closed, and he would not be able to hold the January session of his public drop-in office hours. He stated if anyone wanted to reach him, with a question, problem, or whatever, from whatever district they might be in, his email address was on the City website, and he would certainly be glad to respond or to find out information or get the inquiries directed to the appropriate resources.

Councilmember Kling stated that at this time he would like to call on Mr. Thomas Nunez, Manager of Planning Services. He stated there were three Councilmembers who had always had concerns about this matter, himself, President Meredith, and Councilmember Akridge, and this was about the public notification process and problems that had taken place with various zoning boards. He stated there had been situations where someone would complain they had not been notified, even though they were within 500 feet of the affected rezoning, or they had received notification, that it had come in the mail, but it would be postmarked either the day of or the day after the subject hearing had actually taken place.

Councilmember Kling stated he believed Mr. Nunez had taken some real good action concerning this matter, and he thought that would be a great thing for the community.

Mr. Thomas Nunez, manager of Planning services, appeared before the Council, stating he would first like to thank all the Councilmembers for the work they did and their efforts in representing their constituents.

Mr. Nunez stated the Planning staff had constantly sent notifications to individuals, or property owners, for rezonings, zonings, and the Board of Zoning Adjustment. He stated there were sometimes instances where individuals might not have been notified appropriately.

Mr. Nunez stated that what the Planning staff had done in adopting and adjusting this was adjusting the timing in which such mailings would go out. He stated that as an example, they had learned over time that sometimes the instances concerning the mail had primarily been due to some of the shortcomings of the federal postal services. He continued that, however, they had made adjustments to accommodate and make sure those mailings would be mailed out appropriately.

Mr. Nunez stated that with the Board of Zoning Adjustment, for instance, they had required the property owner or the applicant to the Board of Zoning Adjustment to send the mailing out directly, from themselves, but they had adjusted that, and that mailing now had to come to their department, and they certified and verified the mailing addresses and sent them out directly from the City, with the applicant having the postage on them. He stated they had adjusted that time frame, shifted it back approximately three days. He stated they were required by state law to notify within 10 days, but they were improving on that.

Mr. Nunez stated the GIS staff had been recognized earlier in the meeting, and he stated one of the other things they did was to keep up with their notification and

public records in regard to property ownership, the address and where the ownership actually existed. He stated the GIS staff got that record from the Madison County Tax Assessor, and also the Limestone County Tax Assessor. He stated that approximately six to ten years prior, they were getting those notifications every six months, getting those updates, but they now received these updates every two months, and there were some instances where they were even improving more. He stated that as they constantly wanted to make sure they were advancing and being aware of the public interest, they would be making some updates in their process and procedure as well, just to improve as they continued to notify people in a 21st Century effort.

Mr. Nunez stated that some of the other things they had learned as a component of missteps by the outside, or the public, had been bulk mail. He stated one would assume bulk mail would happen in a fast time frame, but they had learned that bulk mail now went out and happened within 10 days, which affected their meetings, so at this time they did not require, or request, that property owners send in bulk mail, that they had made that adjustment.

Mr. Nunez stated that, in addition, they had learned that certified mail took seven to ten business days, as well, so they had eliminated that from their procedures, that they did not require those notifications to be sent via certified mail from the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Mr. Nunez stated that as they continued to evolve and make improvements, it was, of course, first and foremost that they have public involvement. He stated that as a planning professional, they learned, via school, that public input was critical as the government would strive to improve the city overall.

Mr. Nunez stated they had private conversations with the Councilmembers as to how they could improve those notifications, and he thanked them for their efforts concerning this matter.

Mr. Nunez stated these were some of the steps they have done to ensure they were putting out the best documents in the most timely fashion, and to make sure they were involving the public. He continued that in addition to that, the Planning staff and the Zoning administration was always available for a phone call, that persons could contact their office, that they were definitely there to provide accurate information regarding any form of development as it came forward. He stated they did not operate on rumors or circumstances, that they operated directly on the factual information they provided.

Mr. Nunez stated he would again thank Councilmember Kling for his efforts on this matter, challenging them, so to speak, to improve their process. He stated that they constantly were and would continue to move forward.

Councilmember Kling thanked Mr. Nunez for the presentation. He stated he believed Mr. Nunez and his team had done a great job on this, and he thought this would have great benefits.

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Mr. Nunez she had noticed, at least on the Planning Commission agendas, there might be only one day's notice, and she knew there were some alert citizens who were trying to follow those agendas so they could participate, or even just ask questions. She asked what might be done to get agendas posted earlier.

Mr. Nunez stated they were definitely making those efforts. He stated the agendas typically came out the Friday before a Planning Commission meeting, which would happen on the fourth Tuesday, so, typically, on that Friday, the agenda would come out, similar to a Council meeting, where the agenda would come out two days before their meeting. He stated they were following that same procedural process, but from time to time, an agenda was put out on Monday, but that was not a common

occurrence. He stated they were internally talking with the GIS department, to improve their website, to improve some of the notifications, and also to put more information out.

Councilmember Akridge asked Mr. Nunez if there had been further conversation concerning considering a plain old vanilla analog sign.

Mr. Nunez replied in the affirmative, stating they would continue to take those considerations.

Councilmember Akridge asked when they might find out if a sign could be posted, especially for variances.

Mr. Nunez stated they would follow that via the Board of Zoning Adjustment Bylaws and make those adjustments there.

President Meredith stated he would like to thank the Rockhouse Landing Homeowners Association for their invitation to attend and to speak at their HOA on the prior Saturday. He stated this was well-attended, and they had really let him know what the issues were for that neighborhood, and he had taken copious notes and had already started picking away at some of those issues within the City of Huntsville. He stated he would do everything he could to address each and every one of the issues that had been communicated to him.

President Meredith stated that along those lines, the folks in the River Landing community had definitely notified himself, the Planning Department, and everyone else who would listen, as to their position on what had been termed "promenade rezoning." He stated he was happy to report they had been heard, that the Planning Commission had heard them, and they had not had a single vote for the rezoning application. He stated this was the first time since he had been on this board where that had happened. He stated that as a community, they had done a wonderful job communicating their position, and their government had heard them. He stated

there was some thought that the developer would go ahead and ask the Council to consider that rezoning, but the developer had since withdrawn that, so at this point in time, that was not going to happen. He stated they could certainly regroup and bring it back at a different point in time, but at this time they had prevailed, noting they had done a wonderful job in advocacy.

President Meredith stated the President's Forum, part of the "Your Life, Your Huntsville" series, would be held on the first Tuesday of each month. He stated they had recently held the one for January, and he thought the Communication Department had done a wonderful job in highlighting some of the functionality of the City's website. He stated that given some recent social media postings, he wanted to clarify that the City of Huntsville streaming service was closed-captioned, and persons could sign up for alerts that would notify them ahead of time when the City Council would be meeting. He stated this was readily available, as soon as one would decide to access the website, that there was a big banner on the home page, and all one would need to do would be to click on that, and they would immediately be into the screen. He stated that hopefully this information would get passed around amongst the citizens, and citizens could start taking better advantage of the streaming service provided by the City of Huntsville.

President Meredith stated some of the other things that had been discussed during this forum were the SeeClickFix program, compliance issues, what some of the most common neighborhood issues were, and who persons could complain to, and when it came to services, how persons could sign up with the Green Team, to take advantage of the services they provided, and if they had issues with garbage collection, and whatnot.

President Meredith stated he also wanted to acknowledge that Monday was MLK Day, and he stated everyone should do the best they could to enjoy what would

be the last federal holiday for a while.

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

President Meredith read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-12)

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

President Meredith recognized Councilmember Akridge.

Councilmember Akridge stated that since they were talking about money, she wanted to interject that the red light camera topic was not to create more revenue. She continued that they would address that when they came up with a contract.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-12, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Board Appointments to be Voted On.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced a resolution appointing Richele Jordan-Davis to the Burritt Memorial Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Dr. Patricia Sims, for the remainder of a vacant three-year term to expire October 1, 2024, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-13)

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

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

President Meredith stated Councilmember Akridge had nominated Jenna Rosano for appointment to the Huntsville Public Library Board, to the seat previously held by Lee Jones, for a four-year term to expire February 10, 2026.

President Meredith stated Councilmember Robinson and Councilmember Kling had nominated Dr. Jan Harris for appointment to the Huntsville Public Library Board, to the seat previously held by Lee Jones, for a four-year term to expire February 10, 2026.

President Meredith stated Councilmember Akridge had nominated Walter Lee Ellenburg for appointment to the Air Pollution Control Board, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Kenneth Arnold, for the remainder of a vacant five-year term to expire April 11, 2026.

President Meredith stated Councilmember Akridge had nominated Dallas Terrell for appointment to the Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Kenneth Arnold, for the remainder of a vacant five-year term to expire August 22, 2025.

President Meredith stated Councilmember Robinson had nominated Chris Hanks for appointment to the Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Kenneth Arnold, for the remainder of a vacant five-year term to expire August 22, 2025.

President Meredith stated Councilmember Robinson had nominated Frank Levy to the Human Relations Commission, Place 3, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Paul Pradat, for the remainder of a vacant four-year term to expire September 22, 2022.

President Meredith asked if any Councilmember would like to make any board nominations from the floor.

There was no response.

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lots 2 & 3, Blevins Manor, 1323 Blevins Gap (Mullins), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-14)

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

President Meredith asked Mr. Riley if he wanted to address any of these items.

Mr. Riley stated these were simply ordinances where they were moving to vacate Utility and Drainage Easements which were no longer needed.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

Councilmember Akridge asked who deemed it not necessary, since it was something that was platted on behalf of the City at one time.

President Meredith recognized Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development.

Mr. Davis stated these items were routinely placed on the Council agenda, and he would explain how they got there, as to who would sign off and approve these before they would get before the Council.

Mr. Davis stated that in a subdivision process, they had a lot of standards and regulations that might by default create a lot of U&D easements within that development. He stated once a development was fully developed, there were a lot of times when there would be easements that were not needed, and a homeowner might want to do something in their back yard or in an area that an easement crossed a portion of their property where there were no utilities.

Mr. Davis stated the property owner would make that request, and it would

first go to Huntsville Utilities, and they would look to see if they had any future needs or any existing needs; and then it would go to the City's Engineering Department, and they would look at the drainage of the area; and then the Sewer Department would look at it. He stated after it had made all those steps and everyone had agreed they had no future use for it, it would then be brought before the Council.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-14, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Lots 1-9, Johns Landing, 536 Johns Road (Farm and Land Assets, LLC), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-15)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a 25-foot Utility and Drainage Easement, Phase 8, Tract 1, North Huntsville Industrial Park (Starbelt, LLC), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-16)

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

Councilmember Akridge read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a 10-foot Utility and Drainage Easement, Lots 4 & 5, Ware Park Subdivision, Phase 4, 2286 Zierdt Road (Fuquay Commons), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-17)

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which

motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

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

President Meredith stated the next item on the agenda was Resolution No. 21-1273, in support of introducing state legislation allowing the use of automated traffic cameras for red-light enforcement in the city of Huntsville, which resolution was postponed at the December 16, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, and was on the floor for discussion at this time.

Councilmember Akridge moved to postpone consideration of Resolution No. 21-1273 until the January 27, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.

Said motion was duly seconded by President Meredith and unanimously approved by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 21-1277, declaring certain equipment surplus and to be sold at public auction, which ordinance was introduced at the December 16, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 21-1277)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Meredith.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

Mayor Battle stated this was just routine, that they routinely went through and declared fleet surplus as it had come to the end of its useful life, as well as other equipment.

Councilmember Akridge stated Troop 400 desperately needed another van, and she asked Mr. Wilkinson, Director of General Services, if there was a 13-passenger van in this inventory.

Mr. Wilkinson replied in the negative. He stated he believed this was

22 vehicles and four pieces of equipment, that the bulk of it was actually Crown Victorias, that there was not a passenger van as part of this.

Mr. Wilkinson stated they had that on their list, that Mike Blankenship, their Fleet Manager, had a list of any requests from any outside agencies, and if something came up, they would be certain to keep it in mind and let them know.

President Meredith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 21-1277, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Akridge moved for approval of Ordinance No. 21-1279, amending Article III, City Council, Section 2-69, Composition and Duties of the Finance Committee, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, which ordinance was introduced at the December 16, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

Said motion was duly seconded by President Meredith.

Councilmember Akridge moved to postpone consideration of Ordinance No. 21-1279 until the January 27, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Kling and unanimously approved by the Councilmembers present.

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

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

After discussion, President Meredith stated items 20.f, 20.i, 20.m, 20.n, and 20.o would be held from the consolidation.

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

Resolution authorizing travel expenses, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-18)

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-19)

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

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-20)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-21)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and OMI, Inc., for Subsurface Exploration for proposed Economic Development Site, Project No. 71-22-SP12, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-22)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, Rogers Group, Inc., for Periodic Bid for Various Construction Projects-2021, Project No. 71-22-SP06, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-24)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Nola|VanPeursem Architects, PC, for architectural services for Aquatic Center Renovations, Phase 4, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-25)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Mid-City South, LLC, for temporary amphitheater parking, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-27)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Mid-City Owner, LLC, for temporary amphitheater parking, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-28)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 21-867 by changing the authorized personnel strength in a department and fund, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-33)

Resolution to adjust the salaries of employees in certain positions in assigned departments, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-34)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-35)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and RippleWorx, Inc., for SaaS Services agreement, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-23)

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

President Meredith recognized Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development.

Mr. Davis stated he had previously given a presentation concerning the Rippleworx software being developed for the Building Inspection Department. He stated this software they were ready to deploy was capturing data such as the number

of building permits, pass and fail rates, and the different demand that was occurring in the department so they could utilize their resources better.

Mr. Davis stated that in the process of developing that software and starting to collect data, they had started to work out how they would store that data in the City and be able to access it and print reports and distribute those reports to the development community, the building community, and the citizens. He stated that through that process, in working with ITS, ITS had recommended they purchase a server that would house this data and allow Rippleworx to set the server up with this program. He stated the change order was actually to purchase the server and get the software on it so they could deploy this into the community.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

Councilmember Akridge stated to Mr. Davis she was aware he worked very hard with his department to develop software that had time stamps and field notes. She asked Mr. Davis if he would remind her why they needed the contract they were being asked to revise. She asked if he had said this was data that would be reported to the development community.

Mr. Davis stated that in their Building Inspection Department, as advanced as they were with iPads and being able to take photographs of residential construction or commercial/industrial projects that might be occurring, and the pass and fail rate, there was no way to access that unless they just called or went and looked up the specific address, that there was no way to title that inspection request and inspection pass and fail rates by inspectors, by the companies that were doing business, so now they would be able to purge that data and get it all together. He continued that, for instance, if he were an inspector, he could query his pass/fail rate and the type of projects so they could distribute workload evenly, to maximize their production.

Mr. Davis stated they were in a very heavy build environment at this time, so

they wanted to maximize their ability to provide that service in a timely fashion and in a professional fashion. He stated they had just updated the Code, and it would allow them to check and see if there were things that were commonly being failed across a certain sector by multiple contractors, and they could point that out, and start to send that out, and the only way they could do this without this software would be one-offs, that someone would call and say they were doing a project at 14th Street, and they had failed the inspection for this. He stated that was the only known they had.

Councilmember Akridge stated that, then, rather than finding out one person at a time that there now needed to be a cap over an exterior electrical outlet, they could tell everybody, "This is now standard, so remember to do that."

Mr. Davis stated that, also, they could notice one of the reasons it was being failed, and there would need to be a second inspection which might be causing a delay for a CO, and there would also be a drain on their being able to do service because they were doing multiple inspections. He stated they could catch some of that. He continued that a lot of times, they would have a contractor or a subcontractor come in and want to know how their crews were performing, or they would say, "We think we are performing well, but we think your inspector is a little too strict," or vice versa. He stated that now they would have this data to actually look at, whereas before they would have actually had to say, "Well, give me your last five addresses." He stated that now it would sort it by the contractor, by the permit holder, by the inspector.

Mr. Davis stated he would give that presentation again if the Council would like, noting that it had been six or seven months.

Mr. Davis stated the building community was very excited about this, and the Department was very excited about it, that they were ready to launch it. He stated it was a lot of data coming in, that they were collecting it, but they had to house it somewhere so the software could pull and use that data.

Councilmember Akridge stated it would come down to better customer service.

Mr. Davis stated it absolutely would, and they would also get down to more speed in providing that service.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-23, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

President Meredith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Nola|VanPeursem Architects, PC, for architectural services for Fire Station 20, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-26)

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

President Meredith recognized Mr. Ricky Wilkinson, Director of General Services.

Mr. Wilkinson stated this was an architectural and engineering services contract for the design, through construction administration, for Fire Station 20, which would be a two-bay fire station located on Burgreen Road. He stated the amount of the contract was \$170,000.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

President Meredith stated that on this item, he just wanted the public to know they were actually moving forward on this new, westernmost fire station.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-26, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Kling stated that one good thing about this type project was it would mean people's insurance rates would be lowered because of the closer response time. He stated that, of course, this was a great thing as far as planning for the future.

President Meredith stated the insurance savings would be huge, and the less likelihood of property being damaged was huge also.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Huntsville and Flock Group, Inc., as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-30)

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

President Meredith recognized Chief Mark McMurray of the Police Department.

Chief McMurray stated this was a no-money MOU between the City of Huntsville and Flock Group, Inc. He stated "Flock" was the name of a company that was growing and emerging technology with camera use. He stated there were a lot of subdivisions, civic associations, things like that, that were putting up cameras to secure their neighborhoods, and for them to have access to those cameras, they had to sign an MOU. He stated this would be used only for law-enforcement purposes, the recording of crimes within that neighborhood overnight. He stated they could remote into those cameras and use this only for law-enforcement purposes, that they would not have a third-party vendor attached at all. He stated this was by federal law as well. He stated this was just a handshake agreement with a major camera manufacturer, and it was part of the Huntsville Guardian Program in NAMACC.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Akridge asked if it was correct that these were cameras that might be on private property.

Chief McMurray replied in the affirmative. He stated they reached out to corporate, private, and commercial entities for access to their cameras when needed,

and as requested by the owners.

Councilmember Akridge asked if these were private cameras that could be on a home, as in the Ring Doorbell system.

Chief McMurray replied in the affirmative, noting they had similar agreements with Ring.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was aware this was when needed, that it was not all the time. She asked Chief McMurray, just in general, why he felt that using technology was important in crime fighting at this time.

Chief McMurray stated it put handcuffs on the offenders quicker. He stated that, for instance, if they caught one robber right now that had just committed a robbery, noting that they called these persons "muggers," they could pick them up when they had just mugged somebody. He stated that person's sole source of income was stealing from others, and they would have probably just prevented 20 robberies. He stated the quicker they could get these people in custody, the better they would reduce crime. He stated getting people in handcuffs quicker reduced crime, and that was where technology came into play, reducing that time, not allowing persons to continue this criminal behavior.

Councilmember Akridge stated she was very grateful for the use of the Guardian System in her district, and she was glad Chief McMurray was bringing this contract back up.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-30, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Services Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Alacourt.com, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-31)

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

President Meredith recognized Chief McMurray.

Chief McMurray stated this was almost no money, that it cost only \$150 per month. He stated this was a private service that registered all of the Alabama Criminal Court offenses, and lawyers used this constantly. He stated they needed access to this system so they could determine at which level to charge a person. He stated, for instance, domestic violence and DUIs were always categorized by prior offenses and pending offenses. He stated persons might have a case pending somewhere in Alabama, and the Police Department would not have any knowledge of it, so to charge people properly, they had to have access to this type of database. He stated it was one of those things that the Alabama court system kept up with, that it was accurate, and it allowed their investigators to quickly determine the proper charge for an offender.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-31, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Family Services Center, Inc., for new construction of a single-family house at 6102 Tuscaloosa Drive NW, using HOME funds, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-32)

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

President Meredith recognized Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community

Development.

Mr. Erwin stated this provided for the City to enter into a contract with Family Services Center to create additional affordable housing. He stated this was an infill of a subdivision on the north end of Blue Spring Road, and the budget was approximately \$180,000.

President Meredith asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Akridge asked if someone was already going to purchase this house or if the City was in the spec building business with federal money.

Mr. Erwin stated that Family Services Center maintained an active list of qualified individuals who had completed all the necessary requirements, including homeowner counseling and income eligibility, and they would actually make this property available to someone on the list, who had been pre-screened, upon completion.

Councilmember Akridge asked how they could get more of these done with federal dollars.

Mr. Erwin stated they did three or four of these a year, based on HOME funds, that in Community Development they allocated to create single-family home ownership, that they did down payment assistance, and he stated they also did rental properties for low-income seniors and families. He stated that a combination of those funds was how they identified with the projects.

Councilmember Akridge inquired as to how someone could get on that pre-qualified list, go through those classes and be eligible for these properties.

Mr. Erwin stated their partner agency on this particular project was Family Services Center. He stated Family Services Center was also a certified, local HUD home-counseling agency, and persons could get a free homebuyer education class through that organization and get on the list. He stated that another partner was

Habitat for Humanity, and that Alabama A&M CDC had done projects in the past also.

Councilmember Akridge asked if a person was interested in qualifying for this, they should call any one of those entities or if they should call Mr. Erwin's office, and they would then advise them as to who to call.

Mr. Erwin stated they would ask such persons to go straight to the nonprofit organization, whether that would be Habitat for Humanity or Family Services Center, because they maintained their own processes for qualifying individuals.

Councilmember Akridge asked if Mr. Erwin knew if these entities were doing outreach.

Mr. Erwin replied in the affirmative, and he stated there was an extensive list at this time because of that outreach. He stated a lot of those interested homebuyers came from the free homebuyer education class, and that was advertised throughout the community.

President Meredith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Meredith called for the vote on Resolution No. 22-32, and it was unanimously adopted by the Councilmembers present.

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

President Meredith read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-36, amending Chapter 16, Municipal Court, Article 1, In General, Section 6, Municipal Court Administrative Agency, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama.

President Meredith read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-37, annexing 3.58 acres of land lying on the south side of Cap Adkins Road and east of Norton Road.

President Meredith read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-38, annexing

2.22 acres of land lying on the south side of Old Hwy 20 and east of Greenbrier Pkwy.

President Meredith read and introduced Ordinance No. 22-39, amending Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan Ordinance.

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

President Meredith stated this portion of the meeting was reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on matters relating to City business, whether or not such items were on the meeting agenda. He stated that persons could sign up to speak on the Second Public Comments Roster prior to or during the meeting. He asked that when called, persons approach a microphone and state their name, home address, and city of residence. He stated each speaker could address the Council for three minutes, and he stated that speakers shall refrain from entering into dialogue with Councilmembers or City staff and from making comments regarding the good name and character of any individual.

Mr. John Price, 5515 Panorama Drive, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "HPD Training."

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Parking garage, etc."

Ms. Sarah Colletti, Squaw Valley, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Thank you, misc."

President Meredith stated that concluded the Second Roster Public Comments.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK-TREASURER