

## HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**Regular Meeting - May 8, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall  
Huntsville, Alabama**

**Members Present:**                      **Mr. John Meredith, President**  
   **Dr. Jennie Robinson**  
   **Mr. Bill Kling**  
   **Mr. David Little**  
   **Ms. Michelle Watkins**

**Mayor:**                                      **Mr. Tommy Battle**  
**City Administrator:**                  **Mr. John Hamilton**  
**City Attorney:**                         **Mr. Trey Riley**  
**City Clerk:**                               **Ms. Shaundrika Edwards**

---

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

The invocation was offered by **Chaplain Steve Lacy**; **President Meredith** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**President Meredith** said items 18.a and 18.b on the agenda had been withdrawn, at the request of the sponsor, and because these items were related to the public hearing that was item 9.b on the agenda, this public hearing was being canceled, in that it had been rendered unnecessary because of the withdrawal of the previous items.

The agenda was approved as corrected.

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

**President Meredith** said the Council members had been provided copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held on April 24, 2025, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**MAYOR: SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.**

**Proclamation honoring Skylar Hurst for her selection as the 2025 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama.**

**Mayor Battle** asked Dr. Randy Barbour, Director of Multicultural Affairs, to come forward to make the presentation.

**Dr. Barbour** said Skylar Hurst was the 2025 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama and first runner-up for Alabama State Youth of the Year.

Dr. Barbour said he had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Edwin Lightbourne, who helped Skylar prepare for this competition, that he served as a tutor and a volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club at Sparkman Homes. He said this reminded him of how vital it was to have a village, a network of support, encouragement, and accountability, to help people not only dream but to achieve. He said Skylar's story was a testament of what happened when there was talent and opportunity and when caring adults showed up, poured into, and stood beside the youth.

Dr. Barbour said Skylar had given a speech during this competition, and she had talked a lot about the environment one lived in, that one could not control what family one was born into, but oftentimes one could control the environment that surrounded them, and she had talked about how the Boys & Girls Club had served as a family for her and a positive environment for her to reach her fullest potential. He said she wanted to become a genetic counselor, and she was an intern at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

Dr. Barbour presented the proclamation to Skylar Hurst, and she expressed appreciation for the recognition.

Mayor Battle said Dr. Barbour would be leaving this meeting and going to an event honoring Dr. Leslie Pollard for his long leadership at Oakwood University. He

said Dr. Pollard had served in that position for approximately 17 years, and he had done a great job for the University, and he was moving on to the next chapter of his life. He said Dr. Barbour would be presenting Dr. Pollard a proclamation naming this day as his Day in the city of Huntsville.

**Proclamation honoring System Studies & Simulation, Inc., for being selected as a recipient of the 2025 Alabama Governor's International Trade Excellence Award.**

**Mayor Battle** said Ms. Jan Smith was the owner of S3, and that she sponsored many causes in the community, including Panoply, the Symphony, the Broadway Theater League, the Burritt Museum, and the Botanical Garden, that she was always giving back to the community. He said at this time Ms. Smith was being recognized all over the state for giving back to the community, that S3 had been selected as a recipient of the 2025 Alabama Governor's International Trade Excellence Award.

**Ms. Smith** introduced Conrad Bonner, and she said he was their international business developer, that he went all over the world explaining the benefits and the products their company could provide to other countries. She said the country that had won this award for her company was Saudi Arabia, noting that they had 300 aviation maintenance and aviation trainers working with their pilots and their maintainers on various aircraft.

Ms. Smith said it was a great honor for them to be recognized in this capacity, and they hoped to be there again with other companies in the future, thanks to Mr. Bonner.

Mayor Battle thanked Ms. Smith for her tremendous support of the community. He said the State award was followed by the City recognizing this as System Studies & Simulation, Inc., Day in the city of Huntsville.

**COUNCIL: SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.**

**Resolutions for Approval and Presentation.**

**Resolution No. 25-349**, honoring local winners from the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-349)**

**Councilmember Robinson** said she was honored to be able to present a very special recognition to some people who were very special in a number of different ways. She said they wanted to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of Beth Allen, Cody Wheatley, and Deeb Habchi, for their dedication and remarkable success at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy, where they had proudly represented Huntsville on the international stage.

Councilmember Robinson said Beth Allen won a silver medal; Cody Wheatley won a gold medal; and Deeb Habchi won a gold medal. She said these achievements not only recognized these individual talents but also reflected the spirit of excellence of Huntsville and North Alabama.

Councilmember Robinson presented a copy of the resolution to Beth Allen, and she said Beth she had spent the past 20 years passionately competing in Special Olympics sports, excelling particularly in figure skating and bowling. She said her athletic journey was not only a testament to her physical dedication but also to her resilience, personal growth, and the deep sense of belonging she found through the competition.

Councilmember Robinson presented a copy of the resolution to Deeb Habchi, who had participated in the Special Olympics since 2008, finding his passion for figure skating in 2016 after exploring several other sports. She said in Italy, he took

the top prize in this category, bringing a gold medal back home to North Alabama.

Councilmember Robinson presented a copy of the resolution to Cody Wheatley. She said he participated in a diverse range of sports, including bowling, equestrian, and figure skating, and in Italy, he had won a gold medal in figure skating.

Councilmember Robinson also recognized Coach Heidi Parker, stating all this would not have been possible without her. She said Coach Parker had been a passionate figure skating coach for the Special Olympics since 2003, deeply valuing the bonds she had formed with the athletes, and she had been honored to represent her state and country at the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

**Resolution No. 25-350**, recognizing May as International Internal Audit Awareness Month.

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-350)**

**Councilmember Kling** said it was his pleasure to recognize Rhonda Roland, a community leader, and he asked her to please stand.

Councilmember Kling said internal auditing was a vital part of strengthening organizations, protecting stakeholders of both public and private sectors, and it also helped to identify and manage an organization's risks and to ensure policy, procedures, and controls were in place and working appropriately, that it was a complex activity requiring specialized knowledge, training, and education. He said the Institute of Internal Auditors was the internal audit profession's most widely recognized advocate, educator, and provider of standards, guidance, and certifications. He said the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville were recognizing the month of May as International Internal Audit Awareness Month.

Councilmember Kling presented the resolution to Ms. Rhonda Roland, and he

thanked her for everything she and the organization did to help keep the books straight.

Ms. Roland expressed appreciation for the recognition.

**MATTERS WITH OUTSIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION.**

**Council decision on Personnel Hearing for Katrina Brady,  
(Huntsville Police Department), held on April 22, 2025.**

**Motion to uphold the decision of the Personnel Committee.**

**Motion by Robinson/Seconded by Little.**

**Councilmember Watkins** said she had some serious concerns about the Council's hearing on this matter, noting that some of the evidence was not overwhelming, and it was not clear, that she had not received her package in a timely manner. She said one of the things she was seriously concerned about was that a female who had to lactate was offered an office to use, and when she used that office, she was reprimanded for using it. She said there was also not having been absent three consecutive days and being required to have a doctor's statement. She said after this person had gone to the City's Employee Health and been sent home sick, she was still written up, after she had come back to the job and given them her statement from Employee Health.

Councilmember Watkins said for these reasons, she would not be supporting this termination, and she could not see how anybody sitting on the Council could vote otherwise, because it was not overwhelming, and the individual was clearly being targeted.

Councilmember Watkins asked that in the future when any of these cases came up, she not be given a packet at the last minute, and she asked that the packet be labeled, "Exhibit A," "Exhibit B," et cetera. She asked that they give her a packet rather than giving her a stack of papers. She said the Council members were all up

there rushing, looking through papers, because it was not organized, and it was not factual in some of the nature.

**Roll-Call Vote on motion to uphold the decision of the Personnel Committee.**

**Ayes: Kling, Robinson, Little.**

**Nays: Watkins, Meredith.**

**Absent: None.**

**Passed.**

**President Meredith** said the decision stood.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD.**

**Public hearing on authorizing Community Development to assess the cost of removal of a nuisance against certain properties.**

**Mr. Scott Erwin, Manager of Community Development,** said the proposed resolution would authorize the assessment for property at 4303 Blue Spring Road for a junk public nuisance, in the amount of \$10,851.

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

**Resolution No. 25-351, authorizing Community Development to assess the cost of removal of a nuisance against property located at 4303 Blue Spring Road.**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-351)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE SET.**

**Resolution No. 25-352,** to set a public hearing on the zoning of 20.80 acres of land lying north of Miller Lane and west of US 431 South Highway to Residence 2

District, **at the June 26, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-352)**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-353**, zoning 20.80 acres of land lying north of Miller Lane and west of US 431 South Highway to Residence 2 District.

**Resolution No. 25-354**, to set a public hearing on the zoning of 91.69 acres of land lying north of Bibb Garrett Road and west of Mooresville Road to Commercial Industrial Park District, **at the June 26, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-354)**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-355**, zoning 91.69 acres of land lying north of Bibb Garrett Road and west of Mooresville Road to Commercial Industrial Park District.

**Resolution No. 25-356**, to set a public hearing on an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Article 62, Flood Hazard District Regulations, Section 62.7, Standards for the Floodway Fringe District, Subsections 62.7.1, 62.7.2, and 62.7.4, to modify requirements, **at the June 26, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-356)**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-357**, amending the Zoning Ordinance, Article 62, Flood Hazard District Regulations, Section 62.7, Standards for the Floodway Fringe District, Subsections 62.7.1, 62.7.2, and 62.7.4, to modify requirements.

## **AGENDA RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**President Meredith** said this portion of the meeting was reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on matters relating to the specific content of items on the meeting agenda. He said persons could sign up to speak on the Public Comments Roster prior to the meeting, and that when called, they should approach the 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.

**Ms. Joy Johnson**, West Arbor Drive, Huntsville, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "20 n. o."

## **MAYOR COMMENTS.**

**Mayor Battle** had no comments.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.**

**Councilmember Kling** said Rob Buddo, President and CEO of Downtown Huntsville, Inc., was going to be leaving. He said he had been a great person to work with, and his latest legacy would be opening on the following day, Umbrella Alley on Jefferson Street, across from the Jefferson Hotel. He wished Mr. Buddo the best in the future, noting that he was going to Charlotte, North Carolina, his home town.

Councilmember Kling said he, along with Mayor Battle and Councilmember Little, had attended the Chamber of Commerce Washington, DC, trip, and they had the opportunity to state their case and see what was going on there. He said they had heard from their congressman from North Alabama and the senators, to find out first-hand what was going on. He continued that they had learned it was not whether or not the Space Command was coming to Huntsville, that it was more a question of when, and it appeared to be the consensus that they were

waiting for the Secretary of the Air Force to be formally confirmed, and once that happened, there should be an announcement concerning that. He said it had also been announced that there were an additional 500 FBI jobs that would be coming to Huntsville in the future, and there might even be other projects along that line. He said he was certainly hopeful that when these things came, the federal government would give them infrastructure support, with the influx of new jobs and population coming into the city. He said he thought this was something that had been communicated by members of the Chamber.

Councilmember Kling said on the prior day, he had attended the Fallen Officers Memorial Service on the Courthouse Square. He said there were 24 police, sheriff, and other law-enforcement personnel who had given their lives, going back to the early 1900s.

Councilmember Kling said on the following morning, he would be visiting with Huntsville Utilities retirees at their breakfast meeting, and he was looking forward to that. He said he was also looking forward to having the opportunity to participate in the opening of the new Alleyway on Jefferson Street.

Councilmember Kling said he was continuing his walks throughout his district neighborhoods, that he was still trying to keep up with things, and they had great department heads, as he had previously mentioned, to assist in this endeavor.

**Councilmember Little** said he would not be in attendance at the next Council meeting because his son would be graduating from Huntsville High School on that date.

Councilmember Little said he wanted to also say, along with Councilmember Kling, that Mr. Buddo had done great work at Downtown Huntsville.

Councilmember Little said he had recently met with the Cove Area Civic Action Group, a group of citizens who were just trying to keep up with the growth in that

area, and it was a great meeting, with good discussion, and he thanked the City staff who had assisted him at the meeting.

Councilmember Little said he would like to talk with Mr. Davis about what was happening at the Summit, noting that there had been a lot of rain the prior week, and there was some flooding into some of the lower homes there, and he just wanted to talk through what had happened and what was being done, how the City was responding.

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development,** said he would go through some data that had happened on the prior Friday that caused some localized flooding downstream of the Summit of Monte Sano. He said this was certainly not an excuse for what happened, but he wanted the public to understand this weather event. He said in about 25 minutes, that area had received almost eight-tenths of an inch of rain, so there was intense rain in a very short amount of time, and not much of this rain had entered the ground, that it was pure runoff. He said it was almost this perfect storm within about 60 minutes, with about 1.5 inches of rain. He said this was a 100-year event, which was an anomaly, that this was not often seen, that it was a front that just came through and kind of stalled out in this particular area.

Mr. Davis said on the following Monday morning, their engineers were onsite, and they put a stop work order on the developer.

Mr. Davis referred to the displayed map, and he said everything in the tan-shaded area was what the Planning Commission had approved, and the City's development team had approved, and he said these were 5- to 6-foot berms, or retention ponds. He said these were under construction, but they were not completed, so with the 100-year intensity event, the water was not being absorbed.

He said what they had done was to put a stop work order until 100 percent of the berms were in place, so the system would be 100 percent complete, to operate as intended.

Mr. Davis indicated on the display the drainage system for the development, and he said this was also taking water off across the street from Bankhead Parkway. He said that water came across Bankhead, went through the development, and then downhill. He indicated where the water was being held by a very large berm, and he said it was then piped into an existing drainage system in the city, and he continued to explain the system, and the work that was being done pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Davis said this problem was a combination of this project being in the middle of construction and the rain intensity that was seen.

Councilmember Little said he understood this property had been rezoned.

Mr. Davis said when this property had come up for sale, a Colorado developer that was used to developing mountain property had come to the City with a townhome product, that it was a planned development, and his staff had seen the opportunity to do the planned development with developers willing to take these lots and pull them up toward Bankhead and preserve everything at the upper part of the screen he indicated. He said if they had not done this planned development, the density of lots in this area could have been increased. He said they were not trying to take away the concern of the existing residents at this time, but they had seen the opportunity to see this land developed, because it was legally allowed to be developed, under their regulations, but to lessen the impact of the development. He said a large portion of this had been donated to the Land Trust, to preserve it. He said at the time they were working on this, they had gone to several houses in the area, where they had already had flooding, and that was a concern, and they had started looking at the topography, and they were changing some of that stormwater discharge direction,

that it was just not complete, but they had taken action to stop work at this time. He said they had told the developer they wanted to get that finished before they proceeded with any other work, and the developer and contractor were very amenable to this, and that was all they had been working on.

Councilmember Little said a few folks had offered opinions that slope ordinances and other rules were modified to make this happen, and he asked if everything had been done aboveboard on this.

Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative. He continued that the residents had been concerned as trees were being removed in this area, and he said at that time, they had asked for a weekly survey, so they had a before and after, and they did aerial surveys, to ensure that no more trees were removed than what was approved. He said once the developer got in and kind of cleared the lots, there were trees standing that per their plan, they could have removed

Councilmember Little thanked Mr. Davis for the report.

**Councilmember Robinson** said Mr. Buddo, in his three years in Huntsville, had made quite an impact on DHI, particularly in data collection, and he had shared that with Huntsville Main, and it was a great partnership. She said he would be missed, but he had a great opportunity.

Councilmember Robinson thanked everyone who had participated in her recent Town Hall meeting, noting that the focus had been on public safety. She said crime data had been presented showing that while the population continued to increase, crime rates continued to go down. She said a lot of the credit for this was said to be because of jobs being created in the middle-income space, that it was because of people going to work. She said they had also talked about data specific to the South Precinct, that it was a very informative night for everyone.

Councilmember Robinson said there were two cleanup opportunities coming

up in South Huntsville, and the first would be on the upcoming Saturday at Ditto Landing. She said they would be meeting at the fuel docks at 8 a.m., and the Southeast YMCA was sponsoring this, so there would be lots of volunteers, from Scout troops to the Y and community volunteers, that they would be coming to help clean up Ditto and get it ready for the season. She urged persons to join them for this event.

Councilmember Robinson said on the following weekend after that, the Southeast Huntsville annual cleanup would take place, and the Green Team and the hazardous waste trucks would be there. She said the staging area would be at Bell Mountain Park on Redstone Road, commencing at 9 a.m.

Councilmember Robinson displayed a bag she had recently received for the mail carriers' food drive, to benefit the Food Bank of North Alabama. She said this was one of their biggest efforts to collect food, and it would be on the upcoming Saturday, that persons should just fill up a bag with canned goods and put it out at their mailbox.

Councilmember Robinson said Mother's Day would be the upcoming weekend, and she thanked all the mothers and mother figures for what they did to raise the rising generation and provide future leaders for the country.

**Councilmember Watkins** said that earlier in the day, she had attended J.F. Drake's graduation, and she congratulated the graduates. She said on the following day, Alabama A&M would hold their graduation, and she would also be in attendance there.

Councilmember Watkins said she had participated in a Founder's Day Forum at Alabama A&M University recently. She continued that she had been meeting with constituents and answering phone calls, mostly about roads, that everyone wanted to talk about roads, that they were frustrated with the roads, as was she. She said on

June 17th, she would be hosting a Town Hall, and they would be talking about road projects and the path forward, and she asked Mayor Battle and Mr. Hamilton to please attend that meeting.

Councilmember Watkins said she would be hosting a community event on June 21st which would be focused on mental health, as well as physical health. She said there would be several vendors there, that it was a free event, and it was family friendly, that there would be activities for the kids. She said this would be held at the Johnson Legacy Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Councilmember Watkins** said she had a point of order.

**President Meredith** asked Councilmember Watkins to please state her point of order.

Councilmember Watkins said she was raising a point of order regarding the Council's vote on agenda items 15.d and 15.h, the appointments of Seat 4 and Seat 5 to the Board of the Health Care Authority of the City of Huntsville, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council that had occurred on Thursday, April 24, 2025.

President Meredith asked Councilmember Watkins to please elaborate on her point of order.

Councilmember Watkins said she was raising this point of order over lingering procedural questions as to how the slate of nominees was collected. She said she maintained that the CEO of the Hospital System had improper influence in creating the slate of nominees to the Board. She said the vast majority of her communications regarding the Board nominees were with the CEO of the Hospital Board, who seemed to be leading the charge as to who could and who could not be nominated. She said that, furthermore, her colleague, the Council member from District 3, had said at that same meeting, "Normally we meet with the Hospital CEO, who is accompanied by the Hospital Board Chair. It would be inappropriate for the CEO to make any

recommendations regarding Board members."

Councilmember Watkins said these were clear acknowledgments, and the correct process was not followed. She continued that she was not challenging whether or not the selection process was codified in the Code of Alabama, nor was she disputing the timeliness of any submission from the Health Care Authority Board, that her concern was with what appeared to be the CEO of the hospital hand-picking the Board, which in her belief went, at the very least, against the spirit of the state law known as the "Health Care Authority Act of 1982."

President Meredith asked Mr. Riley for his legal interpretation of the points Councilmember Watkins had raised.

**Mr. Riley** said he understood the objections Councilmember Watkins had, and at her request, he had looked into the procedure involving this matter, and after he had done so, he had not found any irregularities whatsoever, in the form or in the order in which it was done. He said that simply put, the statute provided a procedure whereby the nominees were to be submitted to the Council in no more than 90 days or less than 10 days, containing at least three names. He continued that there were some suggestions concerning this, that, for instance, they were not to be a physician or not holding elective offices, that those would be disqualifying factors. He continued that in accord with the Amended and Restated Certificate of Reincorporation arising out of this statute, all these procedures were taking place and were done properly.

Mr. Riley said that first of all, the point of order in this case was not to be granted because it violated the general rule, which was that points of order should be made at or very near the time of breach, or the alleged breach, to give an opportunity at that point for a correction to be made, or whatever. He said there were only limited exceptions to that requirement, and one of them was "Any action taken in violation of

applicable procedural rules prescribed by federal, state, or local law." He said this was what Councilmember Watkins had relied upon as the exception. He said he did not believe anything had been shown that showed any procedural irregularities under federal, state, or local law. He said the Health Care Authority was a creature of state law, the Health Care Authority Act of 1982, which had been amended from time to time. He said that Act provided the procedure by which things were to be made, and the Council had limited authority within that action. He said it was clear that that authority was limited, basically, to appointing a representative for each of the vacant positions from the three names submitted.

Mr. Riley said that based on that information, he did not believe the point of order was to be granted, nor did he believe it was covered by the exception cited, or depended upon here, in that there was no violation of any procedural rules. He said there had been discussion about things he would call practice or preference matters, and he said preference and practice were not procedure, that they were different levels of things, and the law related to the procedure. He said he understood the preference would be for different things, but unless the law stated otherwise, then it had not been violated.

Councilmember Watkins asked Mr. Riley if he believed or if he was 100 percent sure. She said she did not need "I believe," that she needed to know if it was factual, from a legal standpoint.

Mr. Riley said, "Factually, yes."

Councilmember Watkins asked if it was correct that Mr. Riley had changed from saying he believed to it was factual.

Mr. Riley said he was not making a change, that it was just the way of saying. He said as certain as anybody could be, he was very certain of the opinion he had given with regard to the status of this situation.

Councilmember Watkins asked Mr. Riley if he had consulted with any legal firm on this matter.

Mr. Riley said he consulted with others in his office. He said he had a fine group of 14 lawyers, including himself, and he had talked about this with several in his department. He said they did not do anything unreasonable.

Councilmember Watkins said she was not alluding to that, and she said she was glad to know he had 14 attorneys who were competent, so they would not have to seek outside counsel anymore.

Mr. Riley said that was not true.

Councilmember Watkins said to get back to the current matter, that at the end of the day, the Board members were supposed to meet with Council members, and that did not happen. She said maybe it happened with other Council members, but it did not happen with her, and that was what the law said.

Mr. Riley said that was not what the law said.

Councilmember Watkins said it said to meet with the Board members, that it did not say the CEO.

Mr. Riley said that was not in the law, that that was what he meant, that it was a practice or procedure.

Councilmember Watkins thanked Mr. Riley, and she said that at this point, she had made her statement, and she was going to be clear about it. She said it was illegal, and they all knew it.

**President Meredith** asked if any other members would like to speak.

There was no response.

President Meredith said what he had heard attested to by Mr. Riley was that what may have been violated was essentially non-enforceable, that it was not mandated by state law but was, rather, a courtesy that was afforded the Council, but

there was nothing in state law that said a member of the Board had to come with the CEO to discuss this. He asked Mr. Riley if he had heard that correctly.

**Mr. Riley** replied in the affirmative. He said he would say that the Council had every right to express that preference, to say they would like to hear from a member of the Board, or whatever. He said they had every right and ought to do that. He said he would not criticize that, but as far as it being an irregularity, it was not.

**Councilmember Little** said it seemed to him that the problem resided on the hospital's side of this issue and not the Council's, in how they had conducted it.

**Councilmember Watkins** said if it resided on the hospital's side, it meant it was not done properly, that procedures were not followed, and they presented a false slate of candidates to the Council.

Mr. Riley said he certainly disagreed with that assessment. He said because individual Council members might have suggestions for improvements in the process did not equate to falsehoods or the inability or failure to follow the law that was required. He said that as stated, they were required to submit three names, that they were not actually required to come or do anything. He said it would certainly be appropriate that they would come and talk to the Council about the people they put on the list, and he would again urge the Council, and it would be certainly within its rights, to contact them and say that from this point forward, they needed more guidance from them, that they needed some more courtesy from them, to come and sit down with them and discuss the people they put on the list.

Councilmember Little said the Board Chair, or whoever on the Board, could just email them three names and leave it to them, and not even meet with them. He said it was a process, the way they did it, that they had gotten the names, and they made their decisions.

**Councilmember Kling** said all five of the Council members had their

thinking and their way of doing things. He said he had missed the previous meeting, and the office staff had brought him up to date on things, and he was told that two names had been submitted for one seat on the Hospital Authority. He said he had initiated contact with both candidates and had a good discussion with both of them, and from that, he had made up his mind. He said they were both certainly outstanding, but he had made his decision, that no one on the Council had told him to vote a certain way, and, certainly, the CEO or the hospital had not told him anything about how to vote. He said that was the process he had used, as an individual, and every Council member could use whatever process they wanted to on these appointments.

**President Meredith** said he would like to affirm this point of order, that his hesitation was predicated on opening up the Council for being sued, and he would rather avoid that. He said he would request that there be two-two-ones with the City Council to talk about filling Board seats moving forward. He said he thought they had to parse out what was mandated by the state and what was a courtesy, or whatever word they wanted to use, for what had been happening. He said that, obviously, what had happened previously had not happened on this particular nomination. He said it was contentious, and he personally felt that his nomination got a short shrift, in that the No. 1 candidate offered by the Board did not even receive a second, to be voted on. He said, however, he could not let his personal feelings interfere, but he would like to insist that they nail down this procedure moving forward.

President Meredith said he could not make this an official request because it was beyond his jurisdiction, but he would love to see a resident of District 1 on the list of nominees for the next seat available, someone who had been thoroughly vetted by the Board, and hopefully one that was incorporated into their foundation Board, so they could have the experience of mission of the Board moving forward.

President Meredith said that as much as he wanted to affirm this point of order, he was not going to be able to. He said he did not want to open this Council up to being sued, noting that this had been an overriding concern of his in the years he had served as president of the Council.

President Meredith said with much regret, he was going to have to not affirm this but to insist that in moving forward, this process would be 100 percent nailed down, and the concerns of his colleague would be fulfilled moving forward.

**Councilmember Kling** said he thought a Council member bringing up representation in their respective district, whether it would be on this board or any other board, was certainly a valid issue. He said he would voice his support, and he thought another Council member had voiced his support, for the concept. He said he had seen a person from the hospital on the Chamber trip, and he had mentioned to that person that he thought this was a valid concern, that there was not a person from that particular district. He said he knew many people from that community, and there were great people who could serve, that in the past, there were great people in that district whom he had supported on numerous boards.

**President Meredith** said that ordinarily points of order would not take this long to consider, but this was kind of a special situation. He said that moving forward, the timeliness of a point of order would also be something that was respected. He said in the past, he had personally not wanted to raise a point of order, and then had tried to have it addressed later, and it just did not work.

**Councilmember Watkins** thanked President Meredith for considering her point of order.

**President Meredith** thanked Mr. Nichols Nene, the Director of Traffic Engineering, as well as Ms. Amy Kenum, the Manager of Geographic Information Systems, for being the Council President's Forum guests on the prior Tuesday. He

said their presentations were awesome and full of information, and he urged persons to watch this online. He said these forums offered residents the opportunity for direct communication with department heads and others, and he urged them to take advantage of this.

President Meredith thanked those persons who had attended his recent Town Hall meeting, and he said the residents had asked some tough questions, but they were all able to be addressed, with a couple of exceptions he had taken note of, and he had referred those to the appropriate places, and he would absolutely follow up on them.

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

**Resolution No. 25-358**, authorizing expenditures for payment.

**Motion for Approval by Watkins/Seconded by Meredith.**

**President Meredith** said the numbers on this were significantly larger than average, and he asked Ms. Smith to comment on this.

**Ms. Penny Smith, Director of Finance**, said a large portion of the payments before the Council, almost \$31 million, was for debt service payments. She said the vast majority of their debt service payments were divided into semi-annual payments, and some of those payments were interest only, and some included the principal amount. She said when the principal amount was included in the debt service payments, they were very large, but it was not like this happened every month, that it just happened on a semi-annual basis.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

#### **(RESOLUTION NO. 25-358)**

**Ordinance No. 25-359**, approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 5 Council Improvement Funds.

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

**President Meredith** said this allocation of \$8,000 would be directed toward Columbia High School's outdoor track and field teams, male and female, to provide funding for supplies and equipment.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-359)**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO BE VOTED ON.**

**Resolution No. 25-318, to appoint Claude Snoddy to the Madison County 310 Board, City Place 10,** to the seat previously held by Betsy Estopinal, for a six (6) year term to expire April 1, 2031.

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-318)**

**HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES ITEMS.**

**Resolution No. 25-360,** authorizing the Mayor to approve additional costs of \$894,433.28, for a previously approved expenditure to replace an existing water main along Swancott Road from Rockhouse Road to Pryor Road.

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

**Mr. Gary Whitley, Huntsville Utilities,** said this project was a 16-inch water main line that would be installed on Swancott Road, between Rockhouse Road and Pryor Road, to ensure service reliability and growth in that area.

**Councilmember Robinson** said this was a significant change order, and she asked why it was necessary and if it was in Huntsville Utilities' budget.

Mr. Whitley said this change order was necessary because they had encountered some cement and rebar, concrete, in Wheeler, so they were having to relocate the project, and it was in the budget.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-360)**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS FOR ACTION.**

**Ordinance No. 25-347**, amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, Chapter 25, Traffic and Vehicles, Article IV, General Rules of Vehicle Operation, Division 2, Speed, Section 25-163, Street Schedule, which ordinance was introduced at the April 24, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

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

**Councilmember Watkins** asked for an explanation of the ordinance.

**Mr. Shane Davis** said every few years, the Traffic Engineering Department updated, by ordinance, all the streets with their posted legal speed limit, so as they extended roads or widened roads, or where the county might have tied into a city road, they would go through and do a survey to make sure the speed limits matched. He said that, also, there were areas where they had seen high speeds, and they would reduce the speed limit. He said the one before the Council at this time was mainly bringing new roads they needed to codify within the existing ordinance and post the speed limits. He said the Council would see these only every three or four years.

Councilmember Watkins asked when this would take effect.

Mr. Davis said it would be upon the Council's adoption of the ordinance.

Councilmember Watkins asked when the signs would be up.

Mr. Davis said most of the signage was already out when a road went into service. He continued that if it was a speed limit change, going from, say, 50 to 45, it would typically be within 30 days.

Councilmember Watkins asked if it was correct that no tickets would be given until the signs were up.

Mr. Davis said that was correct, that the signs would have to be posted for any action to be taken.

Councilmember Watkins asked if the residents in this area would get any notification or if there would just be signs.

Mr. Davis said they would see the signs, that they would see the work going on, and the posted speed limits would be up and down that road.

Councilmember Watkins asked if they could put out a digital sign, giving people notice that the speed limit was going to change.

Mr. Davis said he would work with Traffic Engineering and see if they could put out a quick message concerning that.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-347)**

**Ordinance No. 25-348**, declaring certain equipment surplus and to be recycled for monetary value, which ordinance was introduced at the April 24, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

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

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-348)**

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

**Items 20.f, 20.n, and 20.o were held from the consolidation.**

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

**Motion by Meredith/Seconded by Little/Unanimously Approved.**

**Consolidated Items:**

Resolution authorizing travel expenses.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-361)**

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-362)**

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 24-700, by changing appropriated

funding for various departments and funds.

**(ORDINANCE NO. 25-363)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-364)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Consent to Assignment of Contract Agreement between Largen, Inc., and APHIX, L.L.C., to transfer the rights and obligations of the Irrigation Services Contract, awarded under Resolution No 23-638.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-365)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and Garver, L.L.C., for Engineering Design Services for Public Infrastructure Improvements south of Brahan Avenue, for Mill Creek Redevelopment, Project No. 71-25-SP14.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-367)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 2 to the contract between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and Rogers Group, Inc., for SR-255 Widening & Interchange Improvements, Project No. 71-17-RD02.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-368)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Three-11 Properties, LLC, for Agreement to Renew Tower Lease Agreement.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-369)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and GTEC Corporation, for the JHP Veterans Memorial Museum

Expansion.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-370)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), for FY 2025 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-371)**

Resolution to adjust the salaries of employees in certain positions in assigned department.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-372)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 1 to Fire Station Alerting Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Motorola Solutions, Inc., for adding Fire Station Alerting 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Yearly Maintenance at Fire Station #20, located at 13175 Burgreen Road.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-373)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), for the Cooperative Maintenance of Public Right-of-Way with Reimbursement.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-376)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke North Alabama Bank Letter of Credit No. 456 for Morningside Mountain Phase 4 Subdivision.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-377)**

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to invoke First Horizon Bank Letter of Credit No. S233146 for Creekside Subdivision Phase 1.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-378)**

Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the Workers' Compensation claim of Tina Masiello.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-379)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and Alta Planning + Design Inc., as adopted and approved pursuant to Resolution No. 23-1007 of the City Council of the City of Huntsville.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-380)**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 3 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama and HDR Engineering, Inc., as adopted and approved pursuant to Resolution No. 22-831 of the City Council of the City of Huntsville.

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-381)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-382)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-383)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-384)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-385)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-386)**

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

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-387)**

**Items Not Consolidated:**

**Resolution No. 25-366**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Option to Purchase Real Estate Agreement among the City of Huntsville and Joni D. Swaim, Jeri S. Kirkpatrick, and Johnnie M. Swaim, for property located along Bob Wade Lane.

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

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

**Mr. Shane Davis** said they had brought before the Council over the past 14 or 16 months a couple of different real estate purchases, and this was at the intersection of North Memorial Parkway and the Northern Bypass that was under construction. He said on the displayed slide, they could see the Food City and Starbucks that were about 95 percent complete and currently scheduled to open on June 28th. He said the area in blue was existing City property that had been authorized for purchase in a previous Council action. He said they had sold the Food City parcel to Food City for the same price they paid, so they had not lost any money. He continued that they had kept the outparcels, which they could see in blue, on the east side of the Parkway. He said there were four outparcels, and there were two they were finalizing a contract for to bring to the Council, and they hoped they would allow them to sell that, for a retail development. He said they should have that before the Council sometime in early June, that there would be a lot of action at this location, as they got into the summer months, for the Council to approve.

Mr. Davis said the part they could see in blue on the west side of the Parkway, south of the new Northern Bypass, was a 42-acre tract they had purchased. He

continued that they had been working a significant project there, and as that project had unfolded, they had reached out to the Swaims, and they could see there was a piece that adjoined the 42 acres, and the other was on the north side.

Mr. Davis said this 42-acre project had continued to evolve, that they had had more interest than could be put on this 42 acres, which he noted was a good thing. He said what they would like to do at this time was to get a Purchase Option, with the Council's approval, for about 17 acres, noting that this was what they could see in yellow on the display. He said this was what the Council would be voting on at this time. He said they would combine the tract on the south side with the blue and put that in the current project, and this would allow them to develop the part on the north side and sell it.

Mr. Davis said once the dust settled, they would have some really good announcements. He said this was a significant opportunity for the City, with the new Northern Bypass and the Parkway, to take advantage of a major intersection to do something very special. He said they were not in the real estate business, as he had said numerous times as they had worked on this, but there were times when they saw the potential in planning and the opportunity to deliver something to a community, and they needed to preserve land. He said this was almost land banking, to make sure the right opportunity landed in a district to make a positive impact.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-366)**

**Resolution No. 25-374**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the North Alabama Zoological Society, Inc.

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

**Mr. John Hamilton, City Administrator**, said this was a facilities use

agreement for the Hays Nature Preserve, for the week of June 23 through June 27, so this organization could conduct a youth camp, which they had done in the past. He said the Council had seen this before.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-374)**

**Resolution No. 25-375**, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Fresh Air Family, Inc.

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

**Mr. Hamilton** said this was also a facilities agreement for the Hays Nature Preserve. He said this organization would be conducting two youth camps, the first one the week of June 9 to June 13, and the second one the week of June 16 through June 20.

**Unanimously Adopted.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 25-375)**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR INTRODUCTION.**

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-388**, to amend Chapter 15, Licenses and Taxes, Article I, General Provisions, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Huntsville, Alabama.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-389**, declaring property surplus and no longer needed for municipal purposes.

**Introduction of Ordinance No. 25-390**, annexing 27.61 acres of land lying west of Old Big Cove Road and north of Buford Drive.

**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 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.

**Mr. David Snyder**, Huntsville, addressed the Council, stating that his address was on the sheet (3816 Bob Wallace Ave., SW), and having signed up to speak concerning "Derrick St. camp."

**Ms. Sheila McNeil**, 439 Ripple Lake Drive, SW, Huntsville, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Drainage ditch debris removal cleanup."

**Ms. Sarah M. Colletti**, Hartselle, addressed the Council, stating that her address was on the sheet (Lawrence Rd.), and having signed up to speak concerning "Rocket City Remembers."

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

---

CITY CLERK

**(Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on May 8, 2025.)**