

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting - January 12, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, Municipal Building
Huntsville, Alabama

Members Present: Dr. Jennie Robinson, President Pro Tem
Mr. Bill Kling
Mr. Devyn Keith
Mr. David Little

Members Absent: Mr. John Meredith, President

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

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

Dr. Spright E. Simpson III, West Mastin Lake Baptist Church and Huntsville Public Safety Chaplains Director, led the invocation; Councilmember Kling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that Council President John Meredith was out of town and had asked her to conduct this meeting. She noted that a quorum of the Council was present to conduct business.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on December 15, 2022, were approved as submitted.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Mayor: Special Recognitions, and she stated there would be the presentation of a Mentoring Month Proclamation to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Alabama.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Michelle Linville, Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Tennessee Valley, to come forward, noting that he had a proclamation for her. He stated this was about mentoring, how important it was to mentor a child, and how important it was to be someone who would step out and do good things for people and how Big Brothers/Big Sisters made this a better community by mentoring young people who would become the future leaders.

Mayor Battle stated to Ms. Linville that they wanted to thank her and to recognize January 2023 as Mentoring Month in the city of Huntsville.

Ms. Linville thanked Mayor Battle for the recognition, and she stated that Big Brothers/Big Sisters did one-on-one mentoring, working with kids, with the overall goal of having every child graduate high school with a plan, being either enrollment in college, enlistment in the military, or employment.

Mayor Battle asked Byron Thomas, Director of Human Resources, to come forward, and he presented Mr. Thomas with his 25-year pin, noting that the City was very fortunate to have had him working for the City for these years, that they certainly appreciated the job he did every day and hoped he would be with them for several more years.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Announcements and Presentations. She stated that there would be a presentation from Huntsville Utilities regarding recent weather impacts, and she recognized Mr. Wes Kelley, the CEO of Huntsville Utilities.

Mr. Kelley stated that recently there had been extreme weather, and that at this time he wanted to provide a summary of what had transpired at Huntsville Utilities, noting that it was unprecedented, and that they had implemented rolling blackouts in the community for the very first time, that it was the first time the Tennessee Valley Authority had ever called for this.

Mr. Kelley stated he wanted to provide this summary for the Council and the public, but he was not going to enter into a discussion of long-term energy policy, and what all of this meant, or how they would keep it from happening in the future, because there were a lot of reports and activities that were under way concerning this, so at this time, that would be premature. He continued that, however, he wanted to make sure it was understood what Huntsville Utilities had done, why they had done it, and the steps they were taking on a very practical, tactical level on the distribution system.

Mr. Kelley expressed his appreciation to the employees of Huntsville Utilities, noting that it was his great privilege to work with them every day, that they were very sharp and very dedicated men and women who did a lot of different jobs. He continued that in this situation, a lot of them were working during extremely cold weather, and in some cases, they were doing things they had never done before, so it was a stressful situation, and he felt they had done a wonderful job, and he wanted to thank them for their work.

Mr. Kelley stated that in terms of advance work before the storm hit, they had been aware the cold weather was coming, so they had taken precautions, that they had additional crews ready to go, additional plant operators, contractors on call, and support teams prepped and ready, and they needed all of them.

Mr. Kelley stated they had also made contact with their natural gas suppliers, to make sure the pipelines and all their connections on the gas system were in place. He continued that they had winterized piping around the water treatment plants, to make sure there would be no interruptions to flow; and, of course, they had done the things that everyone did when they were aware bad weather was coming, that they had checked their generators, and made sure they had fuel, and they had put their trucks inside and kept them warm, just common sense things. He stated all of those

things were worth doing, noting that sometimes they prepared and then wondered if it was worth the effort, but this time, it was worth the effort, that they needed all these steps to be done.

(Mr. Kelley made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Kelley stated this storm had a name, that it was Winter Storm Elliott, and it had really started on Thursday night, that high winds had come through the area, and there were scattered outages throughout the service area. He continued that the temperatures had dropped quickly early Friday morning, December 23rd, and the extreme cold had brought record high demands on the electric system, creating both some localized problems for Huntsville Utilities and more systemic problems for TVA, for the regional grid. He stated that Huntsville Utilities had first learned there was insufficient generation to meet the load around 9 a.m. on Friday morning.

Mr. Kelley stated they were in regular communication with TVA after that, throughout the events Friday and Saturday, and as things got better, and they were also in contact with Chairman Strong and Mayor Finley as well. He stated rolling blackouts were not something they had done before, so they were all learning as they went.

Mr. Kelley stated the impact of this storm was significant, but it had not created any critical challenges for Huntsville Utilities, despite the rolling blackouts, which he noted were really to address a TVA issue, not a Utilities issue.

Mr. Kelley stated that on December 23rd, the temperature in Huntsville had dropped from 27 degrees to 3 degrees, according to their records, and the load on the electric system had more than doubled within a few hours.

Mr. Kelley stated he wanted to start with the water system because there were stories across the state of Alabama and across the Southeast, and even the nation, of cities, even good-sized cities such as Huntsville, running out of water. He stated they

did not have that problem in Huntsville, but they were not unscathed, that they did have concerns and issues he wanted to talk about, just so people could understand the complexity of what they were dealing with. He stated they did not have anything that caused customer interruptions.

Mr. Kelley stated that during that early cold event, the water system continued to pump pretty normally. He continued that it had reached really high levels later on Christmas Day, as things started to thaw, noting that the problems created during the freeze revealed themselves during the thaw. He stated they had about 260 calls come in that their water crews had gone out and responded to during this period of time, due to water mains breaking, and pipes inside customer facilities, and that had created a tremendous drain on the water system. He stated there had been some talk about customers dripping pipes, and their load was higher than average for December, probably due to this dripping before, but the real problem had started with the broken pipes. He stated some of these broken pipes were at large commercial and industrial facilities that were impacted by the blackout, so this was how these things were related.

Mr. Kelley stated the rolling blackout happened, and the power went off. He stated that then in homes, the thermostat would click back on, and the heat would come back on, and everything would be fine, but some commercial and industrial facilities had more complicated HVAC systems, and they might need to be rebooted, et cetera, so things could start back up. He stated that these rolling blackouts happened early in the morning on Saturday morning, Christmas Eve, and no one was there to take care of those things, and in some cases, that heat did not come back on, and those pipes froze, and then the thaw happened, and significant amounts of water flowed.

Mr. Kelley stated that during this time period, they were pushing about as

much water into their system as they did on a very hot, dry summer period, as though all the sprinklers in town were running. He stated it was enough that their crews could get the water pumped where it needed to be, but it had taken focus and more than a little bit of effort, especially on the north side of their system, which was where they had started to see the drain, but they had kept that under control. He stated the water level had stayed high through the 26th, and then as those problems got resolved, the pipes got fixed, and the water got shut off, things returned to normal.

Mr. Kelley stated he had just wanted to touch on the water system and that delayed impact, noting that, unfortunately, that caused damage in customer facilities, that Huntsville City Schools and other places had serious impact from it.

Mr. Kelley stated he wanted to touch on the gas system, and he stated they had set a new peak. He displayed another slide, stating that was the gas flow on December 22nd, and they could see the steady rise, noting this had set a new peak demand on the natural gas system during the early morning of December 23rd, and then they could see it sort of scale away there throughout the remainder of the weekend. He stated the gas system had held together and worked as intended, that they had worked with their pipeline folks, and they had set a new maximum flow on their system. He continued that the gas crews had responded to about 63 complaints from customers, but those were usually inside issues, such as pilot lights being out or suspected gas leaks, et cetera. He stated the only real struggle the gas system had, aside from doing some fancy footwork to keep the flows right, was dealing with getting around when the ice hit on the 26th, noting that had complicated everybody's ability to respond to customer needs.

Mr. Kelley stated he wanted to discuss the electric side of this, and he stated the graph he was displaying showed the electric loads, and they could see on December 22nd they were at about 685 megawatts, and then there was quite a steep

wall, and he indicated a point he said would be midnight, between the 22nd and 23rd, and he noted there was quite a steep climb between 8 and 9 o'clock on the 23rd. He stated they had set a new peak demand of 1,475 megawatts.

Mr. Kelley stated the pink band on the display was when TVA sent out a call asking them to implement what was known as Step 50 of the Emergency Load Curtailment Plan. He continued that all of the Utilities in the Tennessee Valley were bound by this plan, and there were six steps, Steps 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60. He stated the plan had worked as intended, that the actions taken in these two steps had allowed them to avoid Step 60, noting that was when TVA just started turning stuff off. He stated they had not gotten to that, and he noted that was to avoid the worst case scenario, which would happen past Step 60, where TVA would lose control of the grid, and it would just start shutting itself off.

Mr. Kelley stated that all of this was actually a sign of success, that the system had worked as intended, noting that, however, it was a blunt tool.

Mr. Kelley stated that on Friday, the 23rd, TVA had called for a reduction of 5 percent of system load, from 9:30 a.m. until about 11:43 a.m. He stated that TVA had a problem with one of their large power plants, and when they went to get other generation to meet that need, within the Valley, a lot of those resources were not available, not functioning, and they were bringing power in from outside the Valley, and that helped them get through much of this rise, and then later in the morning, when the load started to fall, was when they had a problem, because as the weather event had spread east, it had impacted power systems outside of TVA, power systems TVA was importing power from, and when the weather got to them, they stopped that transmission of power to TVA. He continued that that was completely normal, that it was not a disastrous thing. He stated that then TVA was short, so there was the need to implement interruptions. He stated they had the loss of a power plant, and that

was understandable, that that happened, and some generation was not available, and then the importing of power was constrained due to transmission operations.

Mr. Kelley stated that in order to keep the system balanced, there was the call for ELCP Step 50. He stated that on Friday morning, Huntsville Utilities had implemented their voltage reduction system, which helped them drop their load, and they called their large industries and got them to shut down. He continued that they had not implemented rolling blackouts on Friday morning, that that was technically not what ELCP Step 50 called for. He continued that there were reviews going on about that, and Huntsville Utilities would be participating in those reviews. He stated they had not opened breakers on their substations on Friday. He stated that, as they could see, their load was in steady decline, but technically they were not in compliance with the ELCP Step 50 on Friday. He continued that there were reasons for that, and he stated they would go through those reviews and talk to the necessary people about that as those reviews were initiated.

Mr. Kelley stated they could see that it got to be nightfall, and the weather started to get cold again, and they had basically set another peak on Friday night. He stated this was their load and not TVA's load, that TVA's load started to have problems again in the morning on Saturday morning. He stated that Huntsville Utilities' load was lower, but TVA's load was higher. He stated the sawtooth pattern they could see on the display was where Huntsville Utilities was implementing their load reductions, so they could see visually the impact on the total system load. He stated that initially TVA had called for a 5 percent reduction, that that call had gone out at 4:51 a.m., and they were opening breakers at 4:56 a.m., so five minutes later they were opening those breakers. He stated that 5 percent reduction had gone to a 10 percent reduction at 5:12 a.m., so Huntsville Utilities had implemented its reductions from 4:56 a.m. and completed them at 10:30 a.m. He stated that at the

end, they had gone back from 10 percent to 5 percent.

Mr. Kelley stated that Huntsville Utilities had implemented the mandatory reductions through rolling blackouts, opening breakers on their 46 kV system. He stated they would be looking at a map in just a moment that showed the impact of that, which substations were impacted and which customers were impacted. He stated that most blackouts had lasted 30 minutes, but some had lasted 5 minutes, that a lot of that was tied to whether they were in a 5 percent curtailment or a 10 percent curtailment.

Mr. Kelley displayed another slide, stating this was a map showing the impact of this. He stated that when each of these things were done, it impacted about 8,000 customers, that every time they opened a set of breakers in the rolling blackouts, it impacted about 8,000 customers.

Mr. Kelley stated, concerning the map, that the green areas were all breakers that were operated as part of their ELCP 50 implementation. He stated the red areas were breakers they did not operate because they housed critical infrastructure, which he noted included any hospital, water treatment plant, the jail, and air traffic control facilities, et cetera. He stated if people happened to live around one of those things, they got lucky, that it was just that simple.

Mr. Kelley stated they had implemented this through their 46 kV transmission system. He stated they got power from TVA at 161 transmission lines, and then most of their system was fed out through stepping that down to 46 kV, and the power lines that ran down streets were about 12 kV. He stated that by using the 46 system, they could implement this very quickly and efficiently. He continued he was aware of one community that reported that when they opened their breakers, and when it came time to close them back in, 20 percent of them had not closed. He continued that he thought that by using the 46 system, it helped them with that load pickup, which he

noted was a problem during cold weather events.

Mr. Kelley stated the white areas on the displayed map were areas that were not connected to their 46 system, that they were distribution circuits that went straight from 161 delivery points to 12 kV delivery points, that they bypassed the 46 system. He stated they would have rotated them in as the situation got longer, but by the time they were ready to implement that, the rolling blackouts had stopped.

Mr. Kelley indicated a location on the map, and he stated that was not a large population center, that it was a large geographic area but not a large population center. He continued that some of these were just the way the distribution system was built. He stated the shaded green areas were operated twice, and the non-shaded green areas were operated once, and the difference was just how it fell in the cycle and when TVA said to start and when they said to stop.

Mr. Kelley stated that using the 46 kV system, they could open one breaker and shut down about four distribution substations at a time. He stated if they had done it differently, noting they were currently rewriting the entire plan to do it differently, it would have been a bit more intensive. He stated that since they were doing it for the first time, they had decided to use the 46 system because they could get the results TVA needed quickly, efficiently, and with a high probability of getting the load back on when it was time to turn it back on.

Mr. Kelley stated to the Council members that he was aware this map was very important to them, and he stated he could get them a larger version of it so they could look at it more carefully, noting that it was basically laid out the way the distribution circuits lay, as to how things fell out.

Mr. Kelley stated that in the midst of this event, they were doing the rolling blackouts, and that made it very difficult for customers to call in, but during the rolling blackouts, it would have been very confusing to respond to customer outages

anyway. He stated it was later in the afternoon on Saturday before their phone system issues were resolved, so they could start working with customers and working through the issues that resulted thereafter.

Mr. Kelley displayed another slide, and he stated the next thing he wanted to show them was a bit of an analysis on customers with electric heat versus customers with gas heat, to try to get an idea of how much of this peak was really set by electric strip heat. He stated if a customer had a heat pump system, that once the weather got cold, it switched to its auxiliary heat, or its emergency heat, and, therefore, the strip heat kicked on, the resistant heat kicked on. He stated what they could see on the display was the orange that was the load of the residential customers that were all electric, and they could see there was a very sharp rise on December 24th, when this event occurred.

Mr. Kelley stated the purple line was the load of all the residential customers that had natural gas heating, and he stated that theirs rose, maybe because they had space heaters, or maybe because they had natural gas in their house but it was not their furnace, that they might have natural gas in their house for their logs in their fireplace or maybe their stove, but they still had an electric furnace, so they had still seen some rise there.

Mr. Kelley stated if a customer was all electric, they had estimated the rise at about 600 megawatts, and they had set a new peak of 1400 megawatts, and 600 of that was just residential heating for electric customers. He stated that persons who were gas customers had basically rolled through the event, but, obviously, when the gas bill came, they would see that also. He stated that, unfortunately, when that strip heat kicked on, it drew a tremendous amount of energy.

Mr. Kelley displayed another slide, and he stated it laid out where they were going. He stated the county had grown significantly since the last cold weather event,

noting it was January 2, 2018, when they had set their previous peak. He continued that this new peak was only 2 percent higher than that peak. He stated the system had probably grown 15 percent since then, so the new peak was only 2 percent higher even though system growth had been much more than that. He continued that part of the reason for that was because they had been building infrastructure along the way, to help keep up with the growth.

Mr. Kelley stated that since the last big freeze, Huntsville Utilities had added 164 megawatts of additional distribution capacity, which was reflected in new substations built on Old Highway 431, Redstone Gateway, Ballpark, Steger, and Hazel Green. He stated those were substations that had been built since the last cold weather event in 2018, which was a pretty quick pace of new construction. He stated the green dots indicated where the substations were, and that by and large, there were no other colors around there, that there were no other big problems around there.

Mr. Kelley stated that was not the case where he was indicating on the map, which got them to a couple of other substations they had under construction. He stated they had the Capshaw Substation, where they had significant problems, and he stated that station would be on line within the next 30 days, and he wished it had been on line 30 days prior. He stated they also had the Old Monrovia Substation, and then the Burwell area, where they were doing some circuit upgrades, to help carry more load in that area as well. He stated those should be ready in the upcoming summer, so within the next six months or so, they should see improvements in this area as well.

Mr. Kelley stated they had quite a bit of stress in this part of their system, separate and apart from rolling blackouts, separate and apart from TVA, just local Huntsville Utilities issues. He stated what they saw in gold were circuits that were operating at over 100 percent capacity, which was not necessarily a big problem in the

middle of winter. He stated that when a circuit was running at 100 percent capacity, it meant it was getting hot, but in the middle of winter, they really did not care if it was getting hot, that they could do that for a while; however, if a circuit was at 100 percent capacity in August, that was a big problem because things would start to melt and shut down.

Mr. Kelley stated the gold areas on the map were areas where they had load they needed to deal with, greater than 100 percent capacity, and the orange was even worse, that those were circuits that tripped, that they went out, the lights kept blinking, that they kept having trouble keeping the power on in those areas due to the load. He stated these were projects that were going to be completed in the year.

Mr. Kelley stated the purple areas were ones they were working on, Walker Lane, Big Cove, Deposit, and later Hobbs Road, where he was indicating. He stated these were substations they were currently planning, and Walker Lane, Big Cove, and Deposit were about one to two years out, and Hobbs Road was further out than that, beyond one or two years.

Mr. Kelley stated these were currently what they had in the pipeline, but they were reevaluating the prioritization of these after this event and taking advantage of the data they had received from it. He stated they were also looking at where they had capacity issues that they did not have any projects planned, and he indicated an area he stated was toward the Ardmore area. He stated that each one of the stars on the display was where they had a significant load interruption, noting that they were scattered all over the system, and that each of the stars could be one customers or 100 customers, that it was where they had load problems.

Mr. Kelley stated the team was looking at this very carefully at this time, noting that a lot of the infrastructure they had put in in the last few years was very timely and had helped them avoid a much more critical problem. He stated they had

substations being constructed that were in the right places, that they were building them where they needed to build them. He continued that, as a matter of fact, the Big Cove improvement would actually help the systems in the north because it would allow them to shift some subtransmission resources to the north, that its upgrade would help areas farther north. He stated that in terms of their distribution system, where they had problems was generally north of 72. He stated that on Friday, they had about 8300 customers out, and on Saturday, they had about 7800 customers out, due to Huntsville Utilities specific issues, separate from the rolling blackouts. He continued that to put that in perspective, they had about 210,000 electric customers.

Mr. Kelley stated they had completed the bulk of their after action review, that they had a report they would be giving to their board at the January meetings, and they would be working with TVA as it conducted its after action reviews. He continued that TVA was conducting two reviews, one a very thorough internal review, led by TVA, that would include local Utility partners that were a part of that process, and TVA was also starting an external blue-ribbon panel, made up of national experts who would evaluate TVA's response, and the need for the rolling blackout.

Mr. Kelley asked if the Council members had any questions.

Councilmember Keith asked Mr. Kelley if during this time, they had seen an issue with people being able to pay their bills, and if he had seen any issue with the Share program.

Mr. Kelley stated there was some blessing in that December weather was fairly mild prior to the event, so that would help moderate the bill a bit, but when electric strip heat was on, people would get a big bill. He stated they were activating expansion of the Project Share program, to increase the benefit and the opportunity for those who qualified to partake in it more than once throughout this season, noting they were expanding that as a critical need at this time. He continued they were also

looking more long term, at how they could expand the Project Share envelope, as to how they could provide more to more people. He stated they had some programs going on at HU, which the Board had approved, that would allow them to expand that program, and they would be rolling that out during the year.

Councilmember Keith asked if there was a bylaw or a contractual statement that said during times such as these, utilities would not be shut off, in that time frame or in that situation.

Mr. Kelley stated that if the temperature was going to be below 32 degrees, Huntsville Utilities did not disconnect service for nonpayment. He continued that they would not disconnect service until the temperature was slated to be above 32 degrees, and if it was only going to be above 32 degrees for, like, a day, they would not disconnect, that they would wait until the weather had warmed up. He stated that, also, in the summer, if the temperature was going to be over 100 degrees, they would not disconnect for nonpayment.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling asked if Huntsville Utilities had had any complaints or concerns about problems when the power had been off, and then there would be a power surge, and he asked if there was anything they could do to minimize that surge when the power came back on, noting that sometimes appliances and equipment could be damaged.

Mr. Kelley stated that happened from time to time, but in this sort of event, he would have expected less of that because they were not, like, spicing up the system, so to speak, that they were working just to keep it working. He stated they did receive information from customers that something had broken and was not working, and they would talk to customers in those instances, but often there was not a whole lot they could do. He stated that, overall, when they put the breakers in, there was

usually not a surge, per se, on their system, but how that would play out in an individual customer's home, he could not really say.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Little.

Councilmember Little asked Mr. Kelley to explain the difference between when it was 100 degrees and when it was 3 degrees, the difference in load, why they had rolling blackouts when it was 100 degrees, when they could open their windows and sit in the shade. He asked if it was that simple.

Mr. Kelley stated that would help. He stated that what had proven to be an interesting challenge for this region in the last 10 to 15 years had been extreme cold, and not so much extreme heat. He stated they would probably have to go back to 2001, the blackout that had taken out the whole northeast United States, to really think of a large summer outage

Mr. Kelley stated one thing that was happening was that everything was becoming more energy efficient, and everything was becoming smarter, and that was good overall, that that was progress, but what it meant was the valleys were getting lower and the peaks were getting higher. He continued that what he meant by that was when he showed graphs that showed usage, they were using less power on a day-to-day basis because of smart, energy-efficient things, and if one did not need it, one did not use it, but when one needed it, it would fire up. He continued that that increased the peaks for instantaneous loads, and what that meant was if things were all energy efficient, and one was not using it, it would be real low, and then all of a sudden, all of the electrical devices, all the electric heat, all that, would turn on very quickly, and that would put a pretty sharp spike on the system. He stated it was very hard for any Utility, be it TVA or Huntsville Utilities, et cetera, to manage those spikes at times. He stated they had to decide if they were buying generation to meet the spike or if they were buying generation for the valley, or somewhere in the middle,

and where they wanted to land on that.

Mr. Kelley stated he believed the nature of the improvements and appliances and technology they were putting in a home was creating more instantaneous power draws, and that might be driving the demand up a little bit higher. He continued that there was a lot of research due to this event, because it did not just affect the TVA area, that it also affected other power systems, that it was a large event that affected, really, the eastern United States. He stated there would be a lot of research that would be going on as to why this had happened, why multiple regional power systems were impacted the way they were in this event. He stated he believed they would learn more about that, as to questions that had been asked.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated she had attended a meeting earlier in the day where Joe Gehrdes of Huntsville Utilities had presented, and one of the things talked about was utility assistance for people who were going to have some challenges paying those higher bills, and she stated it was good to know they had a community that was willing to step up and help with this, whether it was through Project Share or through the Catholic Center for Concern, Community Action, or any of the other organizations that were helping, just to know that help was available.

President Pro Tem Robinson thanked Mr. Kelley for the presentation, and she stated he had a great team working with him, and they were certainly appreciated.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to Be Set.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on the zoning of 2.56 acres of land lying on the north side of Oakwood Road and east of Research Park Boulevard to Residence 2-A District, at the February 23, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-01)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced Ordinance No. 23-02, zoning 2.56 acres of land lying on the north side of Oakwood Road and east of Research Park Boulevard to Residence 2-A District.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on the vacation of a right-of-way along Davis Circle, at the February 23, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-03)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced Resolution No. 23-04, consenting to the vacation of a right-of-way along Davis Circle.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced Ordinance No. 23-05, vacating a right-of-way along Davis Circle.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Mayor Comments. She recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle thanked Huntsville Utilities for all their hard work during the recent weather event, noting that it was on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and there were a lot of people out working very hard, that Huntsville Utilities was working hard to make sure people had the power that was needed, and then on the unexpected snow event on the day after Christmas, the City had mobilized people out to handle this event, and everyone had done their part, and they had gotten through it, although not unscathed. He stated a lot of people were stuck on the mountains for four to six

hours and finally had to walk to their homes or to other places of shelter. He stated they had done after action studies on this and had looked at actions they could take in the future for such events.

Mayor Battle stated that earlier in the day, he had the honor of hearing the keynote speaker at the UAH Martin Luther King Commemoration, and it had been a great message, a message he thought everyone needed to hear, with the quote by Martin Luther King: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." He stated it had been a very good presentation and a great celebration at UAH.

Mayor Battle stated that as they had this annual reflection and celebration of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., the City would be closed on Monday in honor of that. He stated there would be a special program, he believed from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Channel 54, when the Alpha Fraternity that yearly held this commemoration would be doing it online for one last time, and hopefully everyone would be back together for this event the following year.

Mayor Battle stated he and Councilmember Robinson had spoken at the Huntsville Rotary and the Grissom PTA forum about what they were doing with the City and where the City was going. He stated this was one of the conversations they needed to have once in a while, just to make sure people understood what they were doing, why they were doing it, and what they hoped to accomplish with it.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Councilmember Comments.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Keith.

Councilmember Keith stated that about two weeks prior, many residents in Terry Heights were burglarized, including himself, and a number of people had lost their Christmas gifts, noting that there were bikes and TVs taken. He stated these

were individuals who worked 65 hours a week who were living in that neighborhood, check-to-check, or no check, and these things that were taken had meant the world to them. He stated he had called some friends, and they had put some money together, and they were able to give back some of those Christmas gifts. He stated Huntsville had a spirit of giving in moments of need that he had seen nowhere else, and he certainly valued that, that in a moment of need, and without question, these people were willing to give everything they could to make Christmas reasonable, as best they could, after a traumatic moment. He stated he just wanted to thank everyone he had reached out to and who had made that happen, noting that it meant the world to him.

Councilmember Keith stated they had recently had a meeting about renter registration and accountability, and he just wanted to say, concerning the community that everyone cared about, that simply stated and as concise as he could make it, if someone was reaping the benefits of this great community, and people were taking time to care for the community, taking time to cut their grass and put their trash out, and some people were not, then they were going to be held accountable, as they should be, because some of the people outside of the community who reaped the benefits of being in the community were not being held accountable. He stated he wanted to thank everyone who had been in attendance at the meeting, and he stated that this year, they had to give the benefit back to the Huntsvillians who did their part, as tax-paying citizens, to live in the greatest community as best they could and make that community great every day. He stated they must do something in the current year to hold accountable absentee landlords and those people who were not doing their part to keep the standard and status of the city as high as it was.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Little.

Councilmember Little stated he would be holding his first Town Hall, in Hampton Cove, on February 28th, and he would be joined by Chris McNeese.

Councilmember Little thanked the department heads who were assisting him in helping his neighbors, noting that recently there had been a very good meeting with some citizens in Hampton Cove who were concerned about a new development, and they were able to get their questions answered, and everyone seemed to leave the meeting happy.

Councilmember Little stated his family had traveled to West Virginia on December 27th, and they had made a pit stop in the middle of nowhere, and everybody was out of water. He continued that it turned out they had drained their tanks dripping water during the cold weather. He stated he was glad that in Huntsville, they were able to get through the cold weather better.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Kling.

Councilmember Kling stated he had been continuing his effort, in between snow storms, of walking neighborhoods and calling in things such as dangling cable TV wires, clogged drainage inlets, potholes, et cetera, to various City department heads. He stated he certainly appreciated the great work the City department heads and Huntsville Utilities and other agencies did as far as responding to these concerns.

Councilmember Kling stated some people had spoken to him about things they wanted worked on, including a sidewalk on Holmes Avenue that stopped right at 413, and the residents of this area would like to see that sidewalk continued farther down. He stated that, also, the new Mapco at Governors and the Parkway had opened, and it had gone very smoothly, as far as impacting the adjacent neighborhood, noting they had been watching this very carefully to make sure there would not be any problems, such as noise, et cetera. He stated the piping along Monroe Street in that area was something that was already on the books, and it would be taken care of in the future, noting they would probably wait until the weather got a little better.

Councilmember Kling stated that during the past couple of weeks, he had

attended two neighborhood association meetings, McThornmor Acres and Sherwood Park, and he had the opportunity to meet with the residents, and he had gotten a good list of concerns. He stated that McThornmor Acres residents still had concerns about the impact of the apartment complex in that neighborhood, and they were working with the developer to see which of those concerns could be addressed.

Councilmember Kling stated he believed they were all hearing about recycling, that someone on Cherokee Drive had contacted him about his recycling bin not being picked up, and he hoped they could look into this and resolve this issue, noting that when recycling was missed for more than six weeks, it became a problem that needed to be addressed.

Councilmember Kling stated that the following Monday was the Martin Luther King holiday, and for that reason, the Library would be closed, so he would not be having his monthly town meeting, but he would pick back up on that during the month of February.

President Pro Tem Robinson thanked everyone who was involved with Christmas on the River at Ditto Landing, noting it was well-received by the community, that it was a tremendous event, and plans were already being made for a bigger and better event the following season. She continued that she particularly wanted to thank Commissioner Riddick, noting it was his brainchild.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the questions at the Grissom PTA meeting the previous evening had kind of surprised her, noting that they focused on three areas: dealing with traffic, baseball fields, and what was going on at Ditto Landing. She stated these were great conversations to have, and she stated they were going to continue these community conversations at her first quarterly Town Hall, on January 30th, at 6:30 p.m., at the Sandra Moon Complex, with a focus on homelessness and what the City, and in particular, Mr. Erwin and Community

Development, were doing to help people exit homelessness and become housed and stable. She continued that they would also have updates from Commissioner Reddick and the South Huntsville Business Association.

President Pro Tem Robinson thanked the City crews that were active during the snow and ice, and particularly Captain Jerry King of HPD. She stated that the morning following the event, on the 27th, she had gotten an urgent text from a resident on Green Mountain whose husband was scheduled to have surgery, and the road down Green Mountain was iced over in many places, and there were cars blocking it. She continued that she was in communication with Captain King to get that road cleared so that resident could get down off the mountain to have that surgery, and she wished the resident a speedy recovery.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that, also, HPD, and particularly the STAC unit, was in the right place at the right time to protect the community and get a fentanyl dealer off the streets. She stated that the more they did that, the better, because this needed to be taken out of the community.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Finance Committee Report.

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-06)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson asked if the Finance Committee had a report.

Councilmember Keith replied in the negative.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was

Board Appointments to be Voted On.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution reappointing Katie Beasley to the Land Trust of North Alabama, to her current seat, for a two (2) year term to expire December 31, 2024, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-07)

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

Councilmember Kling read and introduced a resolution reappointing Abby Owens to the Advisory Commission on Accessibility, Seat 8 (her current seat), for a three (3) year term to expire January 10, 2026, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-08)

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

Councilmember Little read and introduced a resolution appointing Traci Harris to the Madison County Department of Human Resources Board, Place 7, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Sharrise Gibson, for the remainder of a vacant six (6) year term to expire August 1, 2027, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-09)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Board Appointment Nominations.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated Councilmember Kling had nominated

Doug Martinson for reappointment to the Huntsville Public Library Board, to his current seat, for a four (4) year term to expire February 10, 2027.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated Councilmember Kling had nominated Collin Keller for appointment to the Animal Services Advisory Committee, Place 1, to the seat previously held by Gail Lee, for a three (3) year term to expire September 9, 2025.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Legal Department Items/Transactions.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced an ordinance vacating a Sewer Easement along 222 Washington Street, Lewter Hardware property, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 23-10)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilmember Keith moved for approval of Ordinance No. 22-1030, to declare property located south of Bob Wade Lane and east of Pulaski Pike, also known as Lot 2, Lanier Subdivision, consisting of 136.28 acres, as surplus and no longer needed for a municipal purpose, and authorizing the Purchase and Sale Agreement to Stanley Developers, LLC, which ordinance was introduced at the December 15, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 22-1030)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Pro Tem Robinson.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development.

(Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Davis stated there was an error in the description, that it was correct that the City owned 136.28 acres of this tract, but they would be selling only 3.9 acres of the tract. He stated the purchase price was \$110,320, and it was at appraised value. He stated the purpose of the sale of this property was to allow for a planned development. He stated they had been working on both sides of Pulaski Pike, noting he had the general area on the map he was displaying. He stated they had been working with the Master Plan in the Research Park Boulevard and Martin Luther King Boulevard area. He indicated an area which he stated would be C-4, commercial, and he stated there was opportunity for some logistic industrial on the west side of Pulaski Pike.

Mr. Davis stated what they were focused on at this time, however, was the east side, and he indicated on the map the 3.9 acres. He stated the remaining portion of this land was C-4, commercial and retail, and then multi-family where he was indicating, and a new, single-family, 200-lot residential subdivision, and then some townhomes, to be determined, probably in the 40 to 60 lot range.

Mr. Davis stated they were looking at about 250 residential homes, commercial/retail along the Northern Bypass and fronting Pulaski Pike. He stated what this would be for would be so they could maximize the Master Plan for development. He stated the 3.9 acres would be used for regional detention for the overall development.

Councilmember Keith stated to Mr. Davis that this was great work. He stated he usually liked to recognize the developer, but they were not present at this time. He stated they had been working with this developer from Day 1, and he just wanted to say hats off to them, noting that they had really maneuvered to make something like this happened. He stated he was looking forward to showing the renderings for this

project.

Mr. Davis that would be coming, and they would bring it to the Council. He stated they needed this property to be approved for sale so they could finish the layout and start to get ready for the Planning Commission and all the things that would go into motion.

Councilmember Keith stated there had been a question concerning the sewer.

Mr. Davis stated they had sewer along the northwest side of Research Park Boulevard and MLK, and they would actually be bringing sewer to serve the tracts he was indicating on the display. He stated those plans were in design, that Engineering was doing it, and they would provide that support to the project.

Mr. Davis stated there was something he wanted to mention about District 1 . He stated when they closed out 2022, District 1 had over 700 new residential lots that had gone through the Planning Commission, and that was the most for any district or ZIP Code in the city, so that in 2023 they would see a lot of houses going vertical, and that was really starting to make a difference in the North Parkway redevelopment and commercial opportunities they would be making some gains on.

Councilmember Keith stated that 700 was more than in the past six years combined. He stated the consideration was that everyone on the dais believed that every corner of Huntsville was a place that somebody could call home, and that in order to make that a true belief, they had to put effort and energy behind it. He stated his colleagues had been very supportive of the effort to increase home redevelopment and commercial redevelopment in Northwest Huntsville because any place in Huntsville should be a place that somebody felt they could call home.

Councilmember Kling asked if there were any long-range plans as far as the approximately 130 acres that were left out of that tract.

Mr. Davis replied in the negative. He stated some of it was encumbered. He

stated they could kind of see on the display the cut through the mountain and the indentation, and that was a TVA easement, that it was transmission lines serving north Madison County, and a large part from downtown north. He stated that some of it was encumbered in those easements, and the other was protected in the greenways on Wade Mountain. He stated there was a remaining piece where he was indicating on the display, and he stated there had been some talk with the Land Trust about building a structure that would have some bathrooms, almost like a welcome center for the greenway. He stated the design of the Master Plan was connecting those trails to the development, so people living in the development would be able to access those trails.

Mr. Davis stated that should the Council approve this, they would move forward with finalizing that, and they would bring that plan and some renderings to the Council in the coming months.

Councilmember Keith stated he had a question concerning MLK, and he asked if they had a timeline, noting that he was aware that would have a good impact on that development.

Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative. He stated that on the Council's agenda for this meeting, under New Business, there were several agreements between the City and the Alabama Department of Transportation, for the Mastin Lake overpass. He stated that had a bid opening of February 24th, and it was about a \$50 million project. He continued that they were in the final stages of the State determining the Northern Bypass letting, and they thought that would happen sometime in April.

Mr. Davis stated he and the Mayor had met with two outside development companies looking at some very large pieces of property in this area for mixed-use, residential-type development, due to these road projects.

President Pro Tem Robinson called for the vote on Ordinance No. 22-1030,

and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

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

President Pro Tem Robinson asked if there were any items any of the Council members would like to hold from the consolidation.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that items 20.h, 20.i, and 20.l would be held from the consolidation.

President Pro Tem Robinson moved for consolidation and adoption of the following items, which motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Keith and was unanimously approved:

Resolution authorizing travel expenses, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-11)

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-12)

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. 23-13)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to amend contract #101-2022-54B between the City of Huntsville and Donohoo Chevrolet LLC, approved on October 13, 2022, under Resolution No. 22-820, for the provision of Light Duty Vehicles, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-14)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to amend contracts the City of Huntsville has in place with Woody Anderson Ford (#101-2022-54A) and Donohoo Chevrolet LLC (#101-2022-54B), approved on October 13, 2022, under Resolution No. 22-820, for the provision of Light Duty Vehicles, to include a direct purchase option,

as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-15)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 22-736, by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 23-16)

Resolution amending Resolution No. 22-781 and Resolution No. 22-782, by appropriating carry-forward encumbrances and project budgets from Fiscal Year 2022 into Fiscal Year 2023, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-17)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facility Lease Agreement between the City of Huntsville and NSH Nextco, LLC, for lease of John Hunt Park practice facility for the Huntsville City Football Club, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-20)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, SJ&L General Contractor, L.L.C., for Huntsville Utilities Access Road at Ditto Landing, Project No. 71-22-SP36, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-21)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the State of Alabama Department of Transportation for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of Roadway Lighting for Memorial Parkway from Mastin Lake Road to Winchester Road, ALDOT Project No. NH-0001(610), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-23)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement for Maintenance between the City of Huntsville and the State of Alabama Department of Transportation for Memorial Parkway from Mastin Lake Road to Winchester Road,

ALDOT Project No. NH-0001(610), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-24)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Schoel Engineering Company, Inc., for Engineering Design and Consulting Services for Lowe Avenue Streetscape, Project No. 71-23-SP06, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-25)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Schoel Engineering Company, Inc., for Engineering and Hydraulic Consulting Services and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Submittal for Fagan Creek, Project No. 71-22-DR05, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-26)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and Rogers Group, Inc., for Periodic Bid for Various Construction Projects-2021, Project No. 71-22-SP06, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-27)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, REV Construction, Inc., for Periodic bid for Sanitary Sewer Projects-2023, Project No. 71-23-SS01, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-28)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Limited Standard Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Sain Engineering Associates, Inc., for Commissioning Services for the New City Hall, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-29)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Homeless Assistance Continuum of Care Program (COC) grant agreement, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-30)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-31)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 22-736, by changing the authorized personnel strength in a department and fund, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 23-32)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and CHECKR, Inc., for the purpose of obtaining background and credit checks, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-33)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Marsh & McLennan Agency, for renewal of insurance at 500 Church Street parking lot, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-34)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), for FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-35)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Program Funded State and Local Task Force Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-36)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke First National Bank Letter of Credit No. 573278400 for Retreat at Abbington Phase 2 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-37)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Robert W. Williams for the purchase of a boathouse, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-38)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-39)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-40)

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the Council would at this time consider the items that had been held from the consolidation.

Councilmember Kling read and introduced an ordinance approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 4 Council Improvement Funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 23-18)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the Council had these new Council Improvement Funds, and the agreement was they would need to come before the Council for approval. She asked Councilmember Kling to comment on the use of these funds.

Councilmember Kling stated the breakdown of the \$75,000 was as follows:

\$5,000 for the Angel of Hope Memorial that was being constructed at the City park off of Cleveland Avenue; \$25,000 to the City of Huntsville Animal Services Department, to be used as the department saw fit to reduce euthanizations of dogs and cats, and whatever could be done to improve and increase adoptions; and \$45,000 to the Public Works Department, to be used for road repairs/road resurfacing/sidewalk repairs/construction, within District 4.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that for the record, since the ordinance did not necessarily state it, that \$45,000 would be allocated for District 4.

Councilmember Kling stated that was correct.

President Pro Tem Robinson asked if there was any further discussion.

President Pro Tem Robinson called for the vote on Ordinance No. 23-18, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced an ordinance approving appropriations, goods, or services for District 1 Council Improvement Funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 23-19)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Keith.

Councilmember Keith stated that speaking for himself, the Council Improvement Funds were for things that might pop up, where they thought something was a great idea, that it was a program that supported all of Huntsville, while it might be channeled through a Council member's district. He stated that individuals in their districts had ideas to support Huntsville, and they might need just a little support to get those ideas or programs off the ground.

Councilmember Keith stated that before he would enunciate exactly who this

individual was, he was going to call on him, for just a couple of minutes, to explain the things he had done, and that he currently did, for all of Huntsville.

Councilmember Keith recognized the gentleman he had mentioned.

Mr. William Hampton appeared before the Council, stating he was honored to be before them. He stated he shared what he called the "Front Porch Experience," that he was a native Huntsvillian, and he was madly in love with Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, and the state of Alabama, and he shared stories, memorabilia, and photos through an endeavor called "Huntsville Revisited," and he had a brick and mortar at the H.C. Blake Art and History Center that he shared with two wonderful artists. He stated that in his portion of this building, he shared history, in the Huntsville Revisited Museum, and there were items there that he had archived through a number of years.

Mr. Hampton stated that, of course, the museum had needs, and he was hopeful the Council could help with some of those. He stated he shared Huntsville history; that he conducted tours; and did historic re-enactments, with character actors. He continued that he worked with the United States State Department, sharing history with exchange students from around the world. He stated that the State Department had also sent 25 environmental scientists from Indonesia, and he had the pleasure of spending two days with them the past April, showing them Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.

Mr. Hampton stated that was, in a nutshell, some of the things he did.

Councilmember Keith stated that Mr. Hampton was being very humble, noting that he was the person they went to to answer questions, for information the Library or Google could not give them. He stated that Mr. Hampton not only represented African American history, that he was very well-versed in when Elvis came to town, and other things as well.

Councilmember Keith stated he believed their support of the arts, their support of history, was, in a lot of ways, not just support through District 1 but also supporting individuals who became mascots in ways they could not as City Council members or regular citizens.

Councilmember Keith stated to Mr. Hampton that the love he had for this community was ever evident, and they would love to be of support to the work he did.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated to Mr. Hampton that they were grateful for his service to the community and honored to have him at this meeting.

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Councilmember Keith for an explanation of his appropriation.

Councilmember Keith stated this was a \$3500 appropriation to the Huntsville Revisited Museum, for the promotion and preservation of fine art and history of North Alabama. He stated that Mr. Hampton had become a magnet for people all across the city to find out about Huntsville.

President Pro Tem Robinson asked if there was any further discussion.

President Pro Tem Robinson called for the vote on Ordinance No. 23-19, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilmember Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the State of Alabama Department of Transportation, for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of Traffic Control Signals for Memorial Parkway from Mastin Lake Road to Winchester Road, ALDOT Project No. NH-0001(610), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 23-22)

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

President Pro Tem Robinson recognized Mr. Davis. She stated they had

touched on this subject, and the following two items on the agenda were also related to this, but she thought they could just have a presentation on this, and it would cover everything.

Mr. Davis stated that each time the Alabama Department of Transportation upgraded a portion of State-controlled highways that ran through the city and maybe touched some of the local streets, they brought these agreements before the Council. He stated that these, in particular, were for the Mastin Lake overpass, and there were three agreements concerning this on the agenda.

Mr. Davis stated this agreement was for the traffic signals that would be installed for the project. He stated the City maintained all traffic signals, both theirs and the State's, within the corporate limits of Huntsville. He continued that the reason they did this was that the City's Traffic Engineering Department had an ITS server, called "Intelligent Traffic Systems," where they linked all traffic signals, so they could monitor traffic flow, that they could change the timing of those traffic signals during certain events, whether it would be a natural disaster or they had an outage and they wanted to change the flow, or maybe it was just for peak hours, giving a certain road more green time. He stated they wanted all of these to be harmonious, so they agreed to maintain those, and they had for many decades.

Mr. Davis stated the second agreement was concerning the street lights, and he stated they were all interconnected, that Huntsville Utilities maintained the street lights. He stated that the State would install these, but this was a maintenance agreement saying the City would maintain them, within the city limits, for this project. He stated this was very typical.

Mr. Davis stated the last agreement was concerning the road project ALDOT would let in February, reconnecting some local side streets. He stated this just said the improvements ALDOT made to those local side streets would become the City's to

maintain because they were city roads.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated this was a project the community had waited on for a long time, and she believed great things would come as a result of it. She stated it was kind of like the South Parkway overpass, that nothing could happen until that was completed.

Councilmember Keith stated there were concerns about this that were very valid, that two perspectives concerned the signage, that there were two small businesses that were worried about identification, for signs that would say "Turn Here," and such. He stated that, also, he believed the school system should have "This is where the school system is" signage.

Councilmember Keith asked Mr. Davis if they could get a validation from ALDOT concerning a business wanting to put a sign on the exit ramp that would be there, such as "Mastin Lake coming up." He asked if there was a process to petition that. He stated he understood that could not be permanent, that he knew all the steps, but he asked if there was a way they could get another consideration of some sort.

Mr. Davis stated there absolutely was. He stated that he and Kathy Martin, Director of Engineering, had already been having that conversation with Curtis Vincent. He stated the business itself could not install that sign, but, much like it was on South Parkway, the City's Traffic Engineering Department would install and maintain those signs through construction. He stated there was a permitting process, and he stated that once that got started, they would work and get those signs. He stated this was like they had done on 72, on Zierdt Road, in Hampton Cove, and in other areas. He stated they would put those signs up, to try to help small businesses, and to let the general public know where they were going when they were going through a bunch of orange barrels.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning this project, that it might not feel like it, but it had been under construction for two years. He stated the way the State did a project was they would let a demo contract for parcels they had acquired, like Starbucks and a few other parcels, that they would let a demo contract to clear those. He continued that the part that had taken so long was moving a lot of private utilities, that they had spent the last 15 months moving a lot of fiber, a lot of phone lines, and Huntsville Utilities had moved some massive electric lines, as well as some gas and water, and the City had relocated some sewer.

Mr. Davis stated that, typically, ALDOT would open bids, get the low bid, and they would prepare a package, and it had to go to the Governor's office to be signed, and it would come back to ALDOT, and then they would hold a pre-construction meeting and let a contractor mobilize. He stated that process typically took about 60 days, so they would know the price in February, toward the end of the month, so they were looking at around early May for actually seeing some orange barrels and seeing construction mobilizing.

Mr. Davis stated that unlike the South Huntsville project, where ALDOT had wanted to try something, and they had combined all those phases, so they had demo, utility relocation, and trying to build a road all at one time, the good news was that this should go relatively quickly because all the impediments had been relocated, so it would be immediately hitting the ground and building an overpass, and widening the portion of the Parkway to the north, and leaving. He stated it should go a lot smoother, but he was not saying it was going to be a breeze because it was a \$50 million project. He stated the issue they had on South Parkway was not only that they were trying to build overpasses, that they were also building new service roads that existing businesses were connected to. He stated they did not have that with this project, and that would be a blessing to small businesses in that area.

Councilmember Keith stated the difference between this and South Huntsville was that there were houses there, and on the turnoff roads, where people were trying to get past the traffic, there had already been issues, that they had to fix somebody's sewer, fix somebody's yard. He asked if ALDOT had a process where people could complain, if they would have a better complaint process.

Mr. Davis stated there was a process, but the best course of action would be to call the City's Engineering Department because they would have an inspector on site, communicating daily. He stated that rather than going through a process that would probably take people to Montgomery and then back to Huntsville, they should just contact the City, and they would get some resolution.

Councilmember Keith stated they had already managed a number of such issues, but he would think now that the real construction was starting, some big trucks would track through persons' yards, et cetera.

Mr. Davis stated they could help coordinate that, noting they had those type incidents along Church Street that had recently been completed. He stated that was actually run by the State, but when local businesses and people had issues, the City had taken care of those.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that the South Huntsville Business Association had served as kind of the central point of contact with ALDOT and really facilitated the project. She stated she was not aware if there was a homeowners association that might help with this project.

Councilmember Keith stated that her name was Opal Meek.

Councilmember Keith stated they had done the best they could with this, but some of it was not the City tracking through their yards.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that communication was key on this.

President Pro Tem Robinson called for the vote on Resolution No. 23-22, and

it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Introduction.

President Pro Tem Robinson read and introduced Ordinance No. 23-41, annexing 4.50 acres of land lying on the east side of US Hwy 431 South and west of Wade Road.

President Pro Tem Robinson read and introduced Ordinance No. 23-42, declaring certain equipment surplus and to be sold at public auction.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated the next item on the agenda was Second Roster Public Comments.

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that persons who wished to speak should come to a microphone, and they would be given three minutes to address the Council. She asked that they state their name and address for the record, and that they avoid making any comments concerning anyone's character and refrain from entering into any kind of dialogue with Council members. She stated the Council members were happy to listen, and they could respond after the meeting.

Ms. Carol Thomas, 2210 Apache Drive, NW, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Education in School Systems/Population Growth."

Ms. Jan Neighbors, 7856 Walsingham Road, addressed the Council, having signed up to speak concerning "Angel of Hope/Partnership."

Mr. Andre Wilson addressed the Council, stating he was a District 2 resident and his address was correct on the sign-up sheet, and having signed up to speak concerning "Updates."

President Pro Tem Robinson stated that concluded the Second Roster Public Comments.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK-TREASURER

(Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on January 12, 2023.)