

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 12:00 p.m. on July 24, 2019, at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by Patrick Cooley. President Logan led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: President Logan, Councilman Roberts, Councilman Hinton, Councilman Davis, and Pro Tem Hogg. Also present was Mayor Aaron and City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham.

Mayor Aaron, and Police Chief Gerald Burton swore in new Police Officer, Mr. Jeremy Ledlow.

Motion by Councilman Davis, **Second** by Councilman President Logan to **approve the agenda for July 24th, 2019** . Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Yes; and Pro Tem Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Rezoning from RM-2 to C-3 located at 3811 Street.

Pro Tem Hogg offered for 1st Reading, Annexation of ½ acres located at 6600 Flatwoods Road.

Councilman Hinton offered for 1st Reading, Annexation of 0.83 acres located at 6724 Flatwoods Roads.

Pro Tem Hogg offered for 1st Reading, Accepting Maintenance of Infrastructure at Wildcat Drive.

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **approve Resolution 19-77 to adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with AT&T for internet service upgrades to five existing city buildings while providing new service at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and to authorize the City Administrator to execute the necessary documents and requisitions pertaining to this agreement.** Roll call was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hinton, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hinton, **Second** by Pro Tem Hogg to **approve Resolution 19-78 declaring certain equipment , electronics, and furniture as surplus and authorizing their disposal.** Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hinton, Yes; Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Hinton to **approve the Consent Agenda for the July 24th, 2019 Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, July 1st , 2019, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. P O Requisition, Software Support, Tyler Technologies, \$22,906.26- Finance
4. Travel/ Training, 3 employees, Alabama Prosecutorial Traffic Homicide Conference, September 26-27, 2019, Pelham, AL., \$75.00- PD,
5. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Remington 870 Armorer Course, November 4-5, 2019, Tuscaloosa, AL., \$475.00-PD
6. Travel/Training, 1 employee, ESGR Boss Lift, July 17-19, 2019, Fort Benning, GA., \$0-PD
7. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Remington 700 Armorer Course, November 6, 2019, Tuscaloosa, AL., \$250.00-PD
8. Travel/Training, 1 employee, CPS Basic P2P Investigations, July 29-31, 2019, Tuscaloosa, AL., \$0- PD
9. PO Requisition, Upgrades to circuit panel at Shirley House, Premier Electric, Inc., \$5,200.00-PW
10. PO Requisition, June GIS Services, West Alabama Regional Commission, \$2,190.00-Admin
11. PO Requisition, Professional Consulting Services, Varnon Engineering, \$8,540.00 -Eng
12. PO Requisition, Phosphate for WTP, Carus Corporation, \$15,732.00 – Utilities
13. PO Requisition, Lime for WTP, Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Inc. \$7,612.56 – Utilities
14. PO Requisition, Odor Control for WTP, Trayco Services, LLC \$7,506.00 – Utilities
15. PO Requisition, Testing at WTP, Pace Analytical, \$8,500.00 – Utilities
16. PO Requisition, SCADA Upgrades, Electronic Machine Controls, Inc. \$74,641.92 – Utilities
17. PO Requisition, Clearwell Roof Repairs at WTP, Industrial Coatings Group, Inc. \$51,000.00 – Utilities
18. PO Requisition, Professional Engineering Services, UCR Pump Station Improvements Invoice No. 2, Cassidy Company, \$7,549.60 - Utilities
19. Travel/Training, 2 employees, AWPCA Conference, Sept. 16-18th, Orange Beach, AL, \$1,806.28- Utilities

Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Mr. Jody Jobson, 1534 Bellwood Lane, Northport, AL., addressed the Mayor and Council regarding several topics. He stated he had a few brief questions he would like answered. His first question he posed to Mayor and Council, he wanted to know who the official designated election official for the City of Northport.

President Logan answered that based on State Code, the City Clerk or in Northport's case the City Administrator will be the designated election official of his or her appointee.

Mr. Jobson also expressed his concern for the upcoming 2020 election in regard to training and personnel to run the election. He asked if Northport's personnel were trained and ready for the upcoming election?

President Logan stated that this is an ongoing question but "off the cuff" he would have to say that Northport is prepared. He went on to say that things will change with the number of candidates, polling places, and things of that nature. He also reminded Mr. Jobson that Northport would be governed by the Tuscaloosa County elector, which would be the Probate Judge. The

Probate Judge would also give Northport direction if some things needed changing. Even Alabama's Secretary of State might implement some changes if need be. Mr. Jobson continue to direct his following question to Mayor and Council. He presented the question as to whether the Mayor and Council voted to approve the raises for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and if the raises enacted administratively and paid to employees.

President Logan responded stating he would have to divert the question to staff because he could not clearly remember the details. City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham replied he could not remember the year but every raise that has been instated has been voted on. He assumed it was voted on in 2018.

Mr. Jobson presented his next question stating this was second time he had presented this request to the Council. He , again, requested a list of all committees, boards, authorities and appointments, both internally and externally, be made available on the City of Northport's website. He specifically mentioned that example of external entities are ones such as Tuscaloosa County Development Board, and Black Warrior Solid Waste. Examples internal entities would be council committees, administrative committees, Public Safety, retail and other. One of the boards Mr. Jobson specifically mentioned was the Tuscaloosa County Special Tax Board. He inquired who was the current Northport appointee on this tax board and when was that appointment made.

President Logan interjected he would have to get that specific information concerning the Tuscaloosa County Special Tax Board, unless any other member of Council wanted to offer insight. Mayor Aaron stated she had pursued research into the Tuscaloosa County Special Tax Board. She communicated to the Mr. Jobson that it had been quite some time since Northport has had an appointee; she recalled it being 2012 being the last time an appointment was made to this board. To her knowledge, in the last 2 ½ years, the current appointee has never "darkened the doors" of City Hall to give any type of report. She also stated, to her understanding, the appointments do not have a term limit and a reappointment can be appointed at any time. She declared it was time for Northport to make an appointment and it should be a member of Council. She advised Council to take this appointment into consideration and decide on a member of the City Council to serve in this capacity. She affirmed that the Mayor cannot hold a position or the appointment for the Tuscaloosa County Special Tax Board. President Logan insured Mr. Jobson he would advise staff to get all committees posted on the City's website, as well as obtaining lists of external committees and boards. The DCH Board appointment should also be included in this list.

Mr. Jobson continued with his list of concerns and questions. He requested an update regarding the communication lines on 21st. He asked was this still current on someone's list of concerns or was it just "a dead duck in the water" like it has been for 4 years? President Logan advised him this issue has been communicated to the company and they have placed it on their "to do" list. Mr. Jobson rounded up his list of concerns by wishing City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham the best of luck as he pursues his new career opportunity. He expressed his feelings on the hiring of Mr. Higginbotham's replacement, stating he hoped the hiring process would be a positive one; he requested the search for the City Administrator be not only on a local level, but regional and national. He strongly believes that Northport and its employees deserve good leadership. Mr. Jobson ended by thanking the Mayor and Council for their time and allowing him to speak.

Mr. Jobson also added an amended comment towards the end of the meeting. He stated he was for the tax increase and that all members of Council should consider putting a portion towards the kids in this town.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

Mayor Aaron, Mayor Aaron suggested the City hold a Public Hearing on July 29, 2019 for citizens to come and give thoughts on the 1-cent Sales Tax. She stated the purpose would be to hear the concerns of the citizens and decide whether to proceed with the vote at a later meeting.

City Attorney advised the Mayor and Council that if the tax was approved, Montgomery would need a 60-day lead time to implement the change. He urged the Council to decide at the next meeting stating City of Tuscaloosa's tax change goes into effect on October 1st. It would be preferable if we implement our change at the same time, if the tax was approved.

Councilman Hogg charged the City Administrator's office to get with department heads to present their "Wish Lists" by Friday, July 26, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Councilman Roberts, District 1, None

President Logan, District 2, None

Councilman Hinton, District 3 , Councilman Hinton announced Collins-Riverside Middle School would be hosting a Back to School Rally on Friday, July 26th at 5:00 pm. He encouraged Council and citizens to come out and support the event.

Councilman Davis, District 4 , Councilman Davis wanted the residents of Glen Crest and Forest Glen to be aware that water service would be turned off starting at 10:00 pm due to a water main transfer. This could last upwards to 8 hours. Water should be turned back on for residents between 6:00 am- 8:00 am.

Pro Tem Hogg, District 5, Pro Tem Hogg stated to the crowd that City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham has decided to go into another career choice. Pro Tem Hogg feels it is important to go ahead and advertise locally, regionally, and nationally for this position as soon as possible.

There were several minutes of general discussion regarding the job description of City Administrator and when the final revisions could be voted on. The Council decided to move forward with voting at the next Council Meeting on July 29, 2019, the same night as the scheduled Public Hearing on tax increase. Councilman Roberts requested HR Director Joseph Rose to send the Mayor and Council the current job description for City Administrator. President Logan determined that Mayor and Council should have their recommended changes into Mr. Rose by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 26.

Pro Tem Hogg also stated it would be a good idea be thinking about an Interim City Administrator and to also think about increasing Northport's Lodging Tax.

City Council Meeting

July 24 , 2019

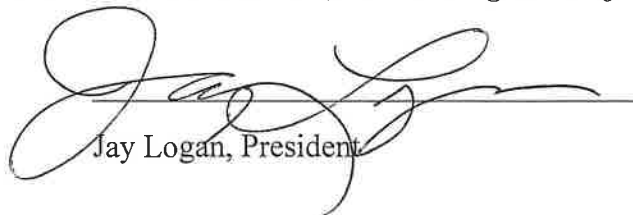
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Motion by Councilman Hinton, **Second** by Pro Tem Hogg to adjourn the meeting Executive Session at 12:42 p.m. to discuss potential retail development. The meeting should last no longer than hour and no action is anticipated after meeting. Staff does not have to remain. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hinton, Yes; Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

The Council reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Yes; and Pro Tem Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:



Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator