

The regular called Meeting of the Northport City Council convened at **5:30 p.m.** on **Monday, September 23, 2024** at Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd, Northport, AL, 35476, in the Council Chambers. The invocation was offered by Mayor Hinton and President Bobo led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: Pro Tem Washington, Councilman Wiggins, Councilman Aiken, Councilwoman Dykes and President Bobo. Also present at tonight’s meeting, Mayor Hinton and City Administrator Webb.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hinton read aloud a proclamation Recognizing Pursuit of Tree City USA Designation and Recognition of Arbor Day. He also presented a proclamation to the September 2024 Business of the Month, Rhubarbs Real Living.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Pro Tem Washington, **Second** by Councilman Wiggins to approve the agenda for September 23, 2024, **as printed. Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

VISITORS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Bart Harper, 4035 Harper Road – How did the resolution come about? Why are we doing this?
Lee Boozer, 4105 Flatwoods Road – Lives within 200 yards of development. Concerned he going to have problems with the creek and floodplain property.
David Philmore, 3725 71st Avenue – What is the proposed revenue going to be and will it be used to assist Flatwoods Elementary?
Tuffy Holland, 3314 Mayberry Landing Drive – Stated the current lawsuit is requesting documents from the City, it is not related to this District. Have studies been done for this project?
Bobby Johnston, 5615 Bridle Lane – He grew up in Tuscaloosa and moved to Northport because it was different. He feels like Northport is getting away from the way it has always been.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to adopt **Ordinance 2237 FY2025 General Fund Operational Budget.** These budget appropriations are for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to adopt **Ordinance 2238 FY2025 Water & Sewer Fund Operational Budget.** These budget appropriations are for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilwoman Dykes, **Second** by Councilman Aiken to adopt **Ordinance 2239 Declaring Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday.** This Ordinance would provide a “Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday” beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025 and ending at twelve midnight the following Sunday, February 23, 2025. This tax holiday would exempt “covered items” from sales and use tax. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilwoman Dykes, **Second** by Councilman Aiken to adopt **Ordinance 2240 authorizing the City Administrator to enter a Cooperative Agreement with Tuscaloosa County for Public Infrastructure Repair, Rehabilitation, and Construction.** The City of Northport and Tuscaloosa County wish to enter into an agreement, pursuant to respective statutory authority, where the parties will share in the cost of certain infrastructure projects involving repair, rehabilitation and construction. The City of Northport and Tuscaloosa County believe that cooperatively working together for repair, rehabilitation and construction of public infrastructure projects will benefit the prosperity and general welfare of the community and will confer a public benefit of a reasonably general character to a significant part of the public. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Aiken, Second by Councilman Wiggins to adopt Ordinance 2241 Amending Chapter 54 Pertaining to Inspection of Hotel Register. This ordinance amends Chapter 54 to require hotel managers to certify hotel guest registers when providing those guest registers to police officers. This ordinance is intended to assist in the prevention of prostitution and other criminal activity. This ordinance amends Ordinance 1643, passed on June 11, 2007, to add said requirement. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, Second by Pro Tem Washington to adopt Ordinance 2242 Amending Chapter 74 Pertaining to Fees for Water and Sanitary Sewer. This Ordinance corrects various rate codes in the Water Administrative Fee Schedule and the Sewer Administrative Fee Schedule to be consistent with the rate codes listed in Utilities Billing Office software. This Ordinance also amends water and sewer administrative fee schedules, new water meter connection and material charges, and water and sewer capital charges equal to the increase in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South, all items, not seasonally adjusted, annual average for the preceding calendar year. This Ordinance also codifies that the abovementioned fees will be subject to an annual adjustment in accordance with the CPI-U beginning October 1, 2025. This amendment has no effect on the commodity (usage) rates, which have been in effect since 2011. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Pro Tem Washington, Second by Councilman Wiggins to adopt Resolution 24-141 authorizing an agreement with ESO Solutions, Inc. for NFRIS and EHR Compliant Reporting Software. This is software for NFRIS (Fire) and EHR (Medical) reporting to the State. This agreement is for a period of one-year (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025). **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilwoman Dykes, Second by Councilman Wiggins to adopt Resolution 24-142 authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement between City of Northport Fire Rescue and W.E. Crawford, MD, LLC for a period of one-year. This agreement will enable Dr. Crawford to continue to serve as the Medical Director for our department for a period of one-year (January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025). **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Aiken, Second by Washington to adopt Resolution 24-143 Ratifying Acceptance of the Scrap Tire Marketing Fund Grant through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The Engineering department has been awarded a grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for the Scrap Tire Marketing Fund Grant for rubber playground mulch at the Northport Community Center in the amount of \$23,711.85. This is a reimbursable grant. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, Second by Pro Tem Washington to adopt Resolution 24-144 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Agreement with Local Government Services, LLC for Additional Cable Franchise Services. This resolution authorizes the City Administrator to enter an agreement in the amount of \$6,000 to retain expert services from Local Government Services, LLC to negotiate a new cable franchise agreement with Southern Light, LLC. Local Government Services, LLC (LGS) offers cable franchise management advisory services for municipalities through a Joint Service Agreement with the Alabama League of Municipalities. LGS has recently provided services to the City including supporting the rewrite of the City's cable ordinance, cable franchise auditing, and renegotiation of existing cable franchise agreement. This process uncovered an additional service provider, Southern Light, LLC, with whom the City needs to establish a franchise agreement. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to adopt **Resolution 24-145 for Special Appropriation for District Attorney's Office and PARA Foundation**. The amount of \$15,000 to the District Attorney's office and \$50,000.00 to the PARA Foundation for Mason's Place, the all-inclusive playground. The total amount of special appropriations is \$65,000. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Aiken, **Second** by Councilman Wiggins to adopt **Resolution 24-146 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Agreement with Thompson Engineering, Inc. for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Roadway Project**. The Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Roadway project was bid in early September. Since receipt and approval of bids, Thompson Engineering, Inc. has provided its fee for construction engineering and inspection services for the project. The fee has been reviewed by the Engineering department as acceptable. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Roadway is a MPO project, and thus, an 80/20 split between MPO and City funds. The City's portion of funds (20%) for construction engineering and inspection services has already been submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Abstain; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Pro Tem Washington, **Second** by Councilman Wiggins to adopt **Resolution 24-147 Authorizing the City Administrator to sign the resolution complying with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 as outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS)**. The National Incident Management System provides the structure and mechanisms for federal support to state and local incident managers. The Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 requires adoption of the National Incident Management System by local organizations as a condition for federal preparedness assistance (through grants, contracts, and other activities) beginning in FY 2005. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilwoman Dykes, **Second** by Councilman Wiggins to adopt **Resolution 24-148 authorizing the Northport Police Department to participate in the Community Traffic Safety Program Grant**. The Northport Police Department has been awarded a grant from the Southeast Alabama Highway Safety Office for participation in the Southeast Region's Community Traffic Safety Program. The grant pays for allowable rates of pay plus allowable FICA fringe for traffic safety enforcement dependent upon approval of applicable grants. The term of the contract is October 1, 2024 through September 15, 2025. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to adopt **Resolution 24-149 approving the formation of the University Beach Improvement District and the Articles of Incorporation thereof and appointing the Initial Board of Directors of the District**. In the University Beach Development Agreement adopted by the City Council in February 2024, Section 5.02 references the formation of an Improvement District by the Developer as allowed by Chapter 99A of Title 11 of the Code of Alabama (1975). The city agreed it would consider in good faith any petition filed to form this Improvement District by the Developer. The attached resolution approves the formation of the University Beach Improvement District, the Articles of Incorporation of the Improvement District and the Initial Board of Directors of the District. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, No; Councilman Aiken, No; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to approve the Consent Agenda as printed for the September 23, 2024, Council Meeting:

1. Minutes, September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting - Glenda Webb
2. Bill Listing - Glenda Webb
3. Purchase Requisition, Outsourced Legal Services, Phelps, Jenkins, Gibson & Fowler, L.L.P., \$6,563.00. This is for legal services rendered pertaining to an employment matter.

4. Purchase Requisition, ERP Pro Invoicing Module, Tyler Technologies, \$13,175.00. This is for an additional module in ERP Pro 10, our current financial software. The module is A/P Automation Capture. This is an annual software.
5. Purchase Requisition, New Flagpole & American Flag for the Northport Community Center; Alabama Flag & Banner, \$36,436.25. The flagpole at the Northport Community Center is broken and tilted at its 40-foot joint, making it unsafe to fly any flag on the pole. It has been determined that no repair work is guaranteed to restore the flagpole to a safe condition. Price includes a new 80-foot flagpole, which is the same size as the current pole, and an accompanying 20-foot by 38-foot American flag and installation of the pole.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

There were no reports.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. There were **no** Public Hearing items on the agenda for the **Engineering Department**.
- B. There was **one** Public Hearing items on the agenda for the **Legal Department**.
 1. **Ordinance Repealing Ordinances 2225 and 2226 Ordering Demolition of 1207 15th Street Court**

- i. President Bobo opened the floor for item 11.b.1.
- ii. Jason Avery, Mrs. Mayfield's Attorney from Birmingham – Was retained in early summer. Conservatorship situation has been resolved. Plans have been made for the home and if tabled tonight has a contractor lined up to start work tomorrow.
- iii. President Bobo closed the floor for item 11.b.1.

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to **Table Ordinance Repealing Ordinances 2225 and 2226 Ordering Demolition of 1207 15th Street Court**. Ms. Debra Mayfield, the majority owner of 1207 15th Street Court, respectfully requests repeal of the demolition ordinance for said property. The City Council adopted the demolition ordinance with a 60-day extension, which has now expired. During the 60-day extension, Ms. Mayfield completed some work on the house, retained legal counsel, and began legal proceedings in probate to acquire full control of the heir property, which was previously owned equally between seven heirs. Ms. Mayfield is now the majority owner of the property. Ms. Mayfield has retained a contractor and scheduled full repairs with an estimated completion timeline of October 28, 2024. Ms. Mayfield has a pending request for a building permit from the City. Staff recommended tabling consideration of this repeal ordinance to the November 4, 2024, Council Meeting to allow Ms. Mayfield time to demonstrate substantial progress without requiring the City to complete the condemnation process again if rehabilitation plans prove infeasible. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- C. There were **two** Public Hearing item on the agenda for the **Planning & Inspection Department**.
 1. **Second Reading**, Ordinance of Conditional Use approval to locate a service station in a C-3 (General Commercial) zoning district located at the south of Owen Parkway and east of U.S. Highway 43.

- i. President Bobo opened the floor for item 11.c.1.
- ii. Tom Sims, Longleaf Engineering on behalf of the developer. The developer has multiple locations and is looking forward to beginning this development.
- iii. President Bobo closed the floor for item 11.c.1.

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to adopt **Ordinance 2243 Conditional Use approval to locate a service station in a C-3 (General Commercial) zoning district located at the south of Owen Parkway and east of U.S. Highway 43**. Prince Oil Company made the request and was considered by the Planning Commission on August 13, 2024, and a recommendation for approval was made to the City Council. In addition to meeting the standards of the Zoning Ordinance, the following conditions for a favorable recommendation were added to allow a service station located at south of Owen Parkway and east of U.S. Highway 43: no overnight parking will be allowed, there shall be a 20 foot landscaping buffer along U.S. Highway 43, the south property line shall have a 10 foot landscape buffer, and all facades of the building must match. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

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2. **Second Reading**, Ordinance of Conditional Use approval to locate an automotive service station in a C-3 (General Commercial) zoned for a property located at 2511 Lurleen B. Wallace Boulevard.

- i. President Bobo opened the floor for item 11.c.2.
- ii. Justin Duck, Express Oil Change – Wanted to ensure there were no concerns and questions that needed to be addressed.
- iii. President Bobo closed the floor for item 11.c.2.

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Councilman Aiken to adopt **Ordinance 2244 Conditional Use approval to locate an automotive service station in a C-3 (General Commercial) zoned for a property located at 2511 Lurleen B. Wallace Boulevard**. Express Oil Change request was considered by the Planning Commission on August 13, 2024, and a recommendation for approval was made to the City Council. In addition to meeting the standards of the Zoning Ordinance, the following conditions for a favorable recommendation were added to allow an auto service station in a C-3 zoning district located at 2511 Lurleen B. Wallace Boulevard: all facades shall match as shown in Exhibit “A” as attached to this ordinance. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, No; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, No; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

D. There were two Public Hearing items on the agenda for the **Police Department**.

1. **Northport Tobacco Outlet - ABC License**

- i. President Bobo opened the floor for item 11.d.1.
- ii. There were no speakers.
- iii. President Bobo closed the floor for item 11.d.1.

Motion by Pro Tem Washington, **Second** by Councilman Wiggins to approve an ABC License to Lina Majed Husseini of Northport, Alabama, Northport Tobacco Outlet located at 2001 Lurleen B Wallace Boulevard Suite 6 Northport, Alabama. **Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

2. **Yassin, LLC DBA Northport Shell - ABC License**

- i. President Bobo opened the floor for item 11.d.2.
- ii. There were no speakers.
- iii. President Bobo closed the floor for item 11.d.2.

Motion by Councilman Wiggins, **Second** by Pro Tem Washington to approve an ABC License for Ahmed Al Atassi of Northport, Alabama for Yassin, LLC DBA Northport Shell located at 1325 Lurleen B Wallace Boulevard, Northport, Alabama 35476.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S BUSINESS

There was no City Administrator’s Business.

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS

There was no departmental business.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS

Mayor Hinton – Thanked staff for the hard work that was put into creating FY 2025 budgets. Noted 6% step raise and 3.75% COLA raise for employees and also 6% increase in agency funding.

President Bobo, District 1 – Thanked Joseph Rose, HR Director for keeping insurance cost down for employees. Also shared that the Main Avenue project has progressed into the acquisition phase.

Pro Tem Washington, District 2 – Thanked staff for a good job on the FY 2025 budgets. Noted that he was proud that insurance premiums have not increased.

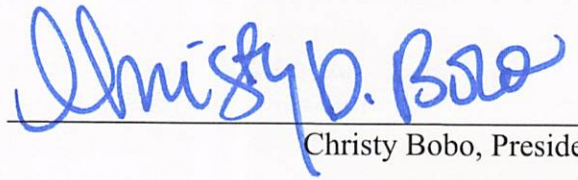
Councilman Wiggins, District 3 – No official business to discuss for District 3.

Councilwoman Dykes, District 4 – No official business to discuss for District 4.

Councilman Aiken, District 5 – Thanked Mr. John Rea, Mr. Pope for their time and President Bobo for allowing comments.

Motion by Pro Tem Washington, **Second** by Councilwoman Dykes to **adjourn the meeting. Roll call was as follows:** Pro Tem Washington, Yes; Councilman Wiggins, Yes; Councilwoman Dykes, Yes; Councilman Aiken, Yes; President Bobo, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was **adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**


Christy Bobo, President

ATTEST:


Glenda D. Webb, City Administrator