The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2018, at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by President Logan. President Logan led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: President Logan, Pro Tem Sullivan, Councilman Davis and Councilman Hogg. Also present was City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham, and Mayor Aaron.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **approve the agenda for the April 17, 2018 Council meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Hogg. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Visitors to Address Council:

Walter and Allison White of 2514 22nd Street were visitors that addressed the Council. Mr. White stated he might be a little nervous addressing the Council but he saw many familiar faces. He thanked the Council for taking time hear his concerns. Two years ago circumstances changed in their neighborhood regarding a house directly behind their residence at 2207 26th Ave. Mr. White stated Northport's Code Enforcement Officer is aware of this residence. If this home meets the criteria, Mr. and Mrs. White would like to bring this home to the Council's attention. The home is rat infested. Mr. White stated other neighbors are present tonight and can attest to this. President Logan interjected that Northport's Planning Director, Scott Stephens, has this home in the pipeline to be condemned. President Logan informed Mr. and Mrs. White he has visited this property and it is a typical property that has been abandoned. President Logan stated the property may be heir property and that there may be some things about the property and process that can be a little confusing, but there is a timeline on condemnations that must be enforced and followed. Once a letter is sent to the heirs, they are given a certain number of days to remedy the punch list that our Inspection Staff has set forth. This being said, the house is in the process of being torn down. President Logan agrees that this home is in bad shape. Mr. and Mrs. White appreciate that the City is aware of the condition of this home and that they have "the ball rolling." President Logan thanked Mr. and Mrs. White for their patience during this process. Mrs. White interjected that the home is not always vacant and President Logan said this is what he calls "transient" coming in and out. President Logan thank Mr. and Mrs. White for coming and addressing the Council.

President Logan opened the floor for a Public Hearing on authorizing conditional use approval for a mini-warehouse located on the Northeast corner of Hwy 43 N and Northcreek Blvd in a C-3 zone.

There were no public comments.

President Logan closed the floor for the Public Hearing.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1963 Authorizing the conditional use approval of a mini-warehouse located on the Northeast corner of HWY 43 and Northcreek Blvd in a C-3 zone.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. Pro Tem Sullivan abstained from this vote. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Ordinance 1964 rezoning property from RS-11 to RM-2 and C-2 on Southwest Corner of 28th Street and 20th Avenue.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Logan offered for 1st Reading declaring a Back to School Sales Tax Holiday.

Item # 2 under New Business, items of a permanent nature was deleted.

Councilman Davis offered for a 1st Reading, Ordinance De-Annexing approximately 13 acres of property between Carolwood Lakeview Drive and Sleepy Valley Road.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg **to approve Resolution 18-18 reappointing Ms. Linda Chambers Harris as a member of the Ability Alliance Board of West Alabama with Ms. Harris' term expiring in April 2024.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes, Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carries Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg **to approve Resolution 18-19 reappointing Ms. Crystal Lovorn as a member of the Ability Alliance Board of West Alabama with Ms. Harris' term expiring in March 2024.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes, Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carries Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second by** Councilman Davis to **adopt the Resolution 18-20 authorizing the City Administrator to execute the renewal of the Pollution Legal Liability Insurance Policy and sign all documents and purchase requisitions necessary for the renewal of this policy.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second by** Councilman Hogg **to approve the Resolution 18-21 authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a 12-month contract with Verizon Wireless for the GPS on the Public Works Fleet in the amount of $1,460.00 for a base fee and a monthly recurring charge of $247.00.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis **to approve the Resolution 18-22 authorizing the City Administrator to file an application with Alabama Department of Transportation for FY 2019 TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and provide matching funds, if awarded and sign any necessary documents pertaining to said application.** Roll Call was as follow: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by Councilman Davis **to approve the Consent Agenda for the April 17, 2018 Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, April 02, 2018, Regular Minutes
2. Bill Listing
3. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Alabama Gang Investigation Conference April 9-11, Oxford, AL, $0-PD
4. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Agency Information Security Officer Certification Training, April 25, 2018, Montgomery, AL, $0-PD
5. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Interview and Interrogation, June 18-22, 2018 Camp Shelby, MS, $0-PD
6. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Basic Digital Forensic Imaging, May 9-10, Tuscaloosa, AL,$0-PD
7. Travel/Training, 5 employees, E-cite Train the Trainer, April 03, 2018, Tuscaloosa, AL, $0-PD
8. PO Requisition, ROW Land Purchase for Union Chapel Road Realignment Project, Tract No.4, $70,000.00-Legal
9. PO Requisition, Professional Consulting Services, Varnon Engineering, $13,225.00-Engineering
10. Travel/Training,1employee, FBI Firearms Instructor School, May 7-18,2018 Huntsville, AL, $420.00-PD
11. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Commercial Vehicle Interdiction, May 15-17, Camp Shelby, MS, $0-PD
12. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Missing Person Alert Training, April 26, 2018, Montgomery, AL, $0-PD
13. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Active Shooter Threat Instructor, August 27-31, 2018, Glynco, GA, $0-PD
14. PO Requisition, Galls, Outer Vest, $3,757.00-PD
15. PO Requisition, Galls, Traffic Division Uniforms, $2,619.92-PD
16. PO Requisition, Annual Chart& Transmitter Calibration, ISC Technologies, Inc., $5.838.00-Utilities
17. Travel/Training,2 employees, AAFM 2018 Spring Workshop-North May 17th, 2018, Cullman, AL, $90.00-Engineering
18. Travel/ Training, 1 employee, AAFM, 2018 Spring Workshop-North May 17th, 2018, Cullman, AL, $50.00, Planning
19. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Essentials of Economic Development, May 10th, 2018, Hoover, AL, $75.00-Planning
20. PO Requisition, Professional Environmental Services, BKI, MLK, Jr Blvd Road Improvement Project, $10,873.00-Engineering
21. PO Requisition, Emergency Pump Purchase, Morrow Water Technologies Inc., $10,795.43-Utilities
22. Travel/Training,1 employee, Public Works Bidding Webinar, April 24th, Northport, AL, $37.00-Legal

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

Reports of Special Committees to Council:

Councilman Hogg reported from the Retail Committee. He relayed to the Council and audience that last October Mayor Aaron and Council decided to put out an RFP for the current City Hall property. A couple of bids were turned in; a period of time was awarded to the Beeker Group to see if it was a viable option for both parties. The Beeker Group and the Retail Committee met last week to discuss the status of the development or the idea currently. Inge Beeker, a representative of the Beeker Group was present and addressed the Council. Mr. Beeker requested an additional 6 months of their due diligence period. There were a few items they wanted to address to the Council in the extension. Mr. Beeker stated they have made great strides in this project; it has been phenomenal with the interest they have seen with national retail stores. The Beeker Group broke the topics down into 2 groups: does there need to be a temporary relocation and where is the most economical location for City Hall to move. They have possibilities to explore and need to share these with the Council. They have restaurants, grocers, and necessity based retailers interested and have explored several options. At this point, they feel they have narrowed down the option they need to go to. They have had verbal communication with these retailers and these retailers are actually asking the Beeker Group for a projected delivery dates. They have decided to enter into a joint agreement with GBT out of Nashville. GBT has had their engineers in Northport helping out with site plans and reaching out to retailers. Beeker Group just needs a little more time to elaborate on this process. Councilman Hogg read an excerpt from the Beeker Group's bid letter. The letter stated, "Our goal is to find and attract the best possible new to market, goods and services, that Northport lacks, especially sit-down restaurants." Councilman Hogg agrees that Northport does lack those types of places. And according to Councilman Hogg, "everyone likes new to market." President Logan addressed Mr. Beeker with his concern for the location of Firestation 1. Mr. Beeker said this has been looked at in the relocation of City Hall.

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second by** President Logan **to enter into another 6-month extension agreement with the Beeker Property Group, starting on April 17,**

2018 and ending on October 17, 2018. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carries Unanimously.**

City Administrator's Business:

City Administrator Higginbotham discussed the annual meeting of Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation will be May 19 at the League of Municipalities in Montgomery. Part of the process is the City of Northport nominating a voting delegate to participate in that procedure. According to City Administrator Higginbotham, this is part of the City's insurance and the City has the right to provide a voting delegate at the May 19th Meeting. Mr. Higginbotham wanted to point out the voting delegate nominated needs to be an elected official or the Mayor. The nomination needs to be decided on by May 9th, 2018. The Council has the option of making the nomination tonight or the decision can carry over until the next meeting which will be May 07, 2018. The League Meeting is set to be held on Saturday, May 19th at 1:00 pm at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel. President Logan stated the vote for Alabama League of Municipalities voting delegate and alternate would be held over until the May 07th Council Meeting.

Department Business:

John Powell Webb, Director of Utilities, addressed the Council about the opportunity of a no cost Pollution Prevention Grant with the University of Alabama. Mr. Webb stated the purpose of this grant is to identify opportunities to reduce and prevent pollution during regular operations and sanitary sewer overflow events. It is a collective effort between the University of Alabama, City of Tuscaloosa, and the City of Northport. It will be a two-year study where they will review documents, process reviews, do independent sampling, and hold round table stakeholder meetings.

Motion Councilman Davis, **Second** by Councilman Hogg **supporting the University of Alabama in pursuing a Pollution Prevention Grant and authoring the Utilities Director and Development Coordinator to send a letter of support on behalf of the Northport City Council.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes, President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Blake Miles, 2700 26th Avenue, came before the Council about the property at 2207 26th Avenue, the same property that Mr. and Mrs. White addressed the Council about. He had additional questions. He inquired about the timeline about the condemnation process. President Logan deferred these questions to Planning Director Scott Stephens. Mr. Stephens responded that the title search had been completed, post notice and send certified letters for all interested parties for about 45 days, pass a City Ordinance, and take bids for the demolition. Mr. Miles requested extra police presence if the process was going to be over 30 days due to what he and other neighbors have witnessed to what they suspect narcotic activity in the neighborhood. Mr. Miles has children in his house and there is a ballpark across from the property. He stated this type of activity is not needed in the neighborhood nor is it needed in the City. Mr. Miles explained his home is on the corner of 26th Avenue, so his residence is by the stop sign. He hears cars pull up to the stop sign, stop for 2 or 3 minutes, and then pull back around. He feels it is obvious what it is taking place, but he stated he may be reading into too much. For a second time, he requested extra police protection and thanked Council and Staff for moving on this. President Logan thanked Mr. Miles for being patient.

Elle Shaaban-Magana, 2510 22nd Avenue, addressed Council by thanking them for their service. Ms. Shaaban-Magana came before the Council to reiterate and support the request of her neighbors in regard to the property at 2207 26th Avenue. She stated there is a rodent infestation, as well as much debris that poses health and safety concerns with regards to fire hazards. Also, with the number of residents, given the space and zoning it might pose a concern to the City. She relayed her concern of safety to Council that there are generators going at all hours of the night and she does not know the power source of the home. Ms. Shaaban-Magan reiterated the same sentiment as her neighbors had prior, extra police presence was needed in the neighborhood. Many of the neighbors are afraid about retaliation and retribution for coming forward. She did state she is not a law enforcement officer, but from a layperson standpoint there is suspicious activity that might have a criminal nature to it. For those reasons, Ms. Shaaban-Magan, wanted to express her concerns. She also wanted to thank the Council and wishes the issue be addressed as expediently as possible. President Logan thanked her for coming.

Kurt Porter, 13729 Hwy 69 N, addressed the Council on behalf of the de-annexation of the 13 acres on Highway 69 N. Mr. Porter is a property owner at this address and states since sewer isn't going to be made available to property owners at this location and things are well as they are, he would like to see this property go back into the County.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

District 1- Vacant

President Logan, District 2, President Logan announced that BKI is starting the next phase for MLK Improvement Project. President Logan requested a 10 minute executive session in regards to the sale of City Property. Before adjournment, President Logan stated he would ask for a quick executive session. He announced on April 28th he would have a District 2 Clean-Up Day. He said it is just a way to spruce up District 2. He said that he has sent a long list of homes to be demolished or condemned. He welcomed the public to come out, cut a little grass, and pick a little trash up. He also announced to Dollar General on Lurleen Wallace and 20th that they must do better.

President Pro Tem Sullivan, District 3, Pro Tem Sullivan announced that Harbor Freight has started demolition on their site by the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market. He did not have a timeline to share; he believed it is a little bit further in the year than they initially thought. Pro Tem Sullivan thanked Ms. DuBose for her work on the Tuscaloosa Regional Airshow this past weekend. He also thanked all of the City's Staff, PD, Public Works and everyone that was involved; he really appreciated the hard work and it was a lot of fun- even though it was really cold. Pro Tem Sullivan thanked the City's staff for all they do and all they they did for that event. He felt the event was successful even for the weather being as it was.

Councilman Davis, District 4, Councilman Davis stated that it was good to be back home after being gone for a month.

Councilman Hogg, District 5, Councilman Hogg thanked Whitney and Staff for the work on the Tuscaloosa Regional Airshow. Councilman Hogg asked City Administrator Higginbotham the status of choosing a representative for Council Seat District 1.

City Administrator Higginbotham responded that the City is reaching the end of the 60-day window to fill the Council District 1 Seat. He suggested that Council look at when they want to make a formal nomination. According to City Administrator Higginbotham, looking at the calendar, if it is not decided on tonight, April 27th is the last day that Council could convene as a Special called Meeting and this could be a lunchtime meeting. If not, the absolute last day is April 29th. Mr. Higginbotham stated that a Special Called Meeting needed to be set before the 27th or count on the 27th at lunchtime.

Councilman Hogg responded that next week would not work for him; he followed that statement with his feelings that District 1 needed representation and District 1 has been without representation long enough. He replied that some action should be taken tonight. He stated that it is bad enough that they have had to endure losing two Council representatives already. Councilman Hogg asked the other Council Members if they have anyone they had to put up to vote for the District 1 Council Seat.

Councilman Sullivan responded that all interviewees did very well and that he just had a few follow- up questions and he was not prepared to vote on anything tonight. He had a few things he still wanted to cover.

Councilman Davis countered that he felt the same as Councilman Sullivan. He also wanted to follow up with one of the candidates who could not make it to the interviews due to a work emergency.

Councilman Logan followed up Councilman Hogg's questions by saying Council need a little more time to make a final decision.

Councilman Sullivan stated that the last thing he wanted to do was put it off any further and he did agree with Councilman Hogg. He mentioned that it had been tough on District 1 citizens and tough on all of the Council. He declared again, in his opinion, that everyone interviewed pretty well but he did have a few follow up questions.

Councilman Hogg said that, if there was not vote tonight that it was probably going to have to be the decision of President Logan, Pro Tem Sullivan, and Councilman Davis because he would be traveling.

President Logan confirmed that April 28th is the drop dead to have District 1 Council seat filled. City Administrator Higginbotham reaffirmed. President Logan asked if it pleased Mayor and Council that April 27th at noon would be the date and time for a Special called Council Meeting to vote on Council District 1 Representative. Councilman Hogg stated that he personally disagreed. Councilman Hogg repeated that it was unfair to the citizens of District 1. He acknowledged there was a sole purpose of calling the Tuesday night, April 17th meeting and that was to vote on the District 1 Council Seat ,many Staff were missing their children tonight, and many people had other plans tonight but chose to be here. Councilman Hogg expressed his sentiment that that Council was just kicking the can on down the road. President Logan dually noted Councilman Hogg's feelings on this.

Motion President Logan **Second** Councilman Davis to **call a Special Called City Council Meeting on April 27th, 2018 at noon appointing a member to Northport City Council to fill the vacancy in District 1.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, No. **Motion Carries.**

Mayor Aaron, Mayor Aaron stated that as usual most of the topics had been covered by the time it gets to her. She also expressed her opinions on the topic of Representative for District 1 and she agreed with Councilman Hogg; District 1 does need a representative, but they need the right one. Everyone needs to be on the same page. She did clarify that she does not have a vote. She stated that she has tried, in a sense, to be the Councilman for the people of District 1 and she will continue to do so. She also commended Mrs. DuBose for her hours and hours of hard work on the Tuscaloosa Regional Airshow. She told the crowd Ms. DuBose has answered my four million questions, always pleasantly. Mayor Aaron said this was Ms. DuBose's first stab at this event and she didn't have a blue print to go by and she did a great job. Public Works did an outstanding job keeping the flags up on the weekend, the work in the Right of Ways, the Police were standby, and Fire Department doing all they do. She expressed praise to all the departments working the Tuscaloosa Regional Air Show and what a great team we have working together.

Motion by President Logan **Second** Councilman Davis to adjourn into Executive Session at **6:45 pm** to discuss the **potential sale** of **City property**. **The session should take no longer than 10-15 minutes and no vote will be taken.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

The Council reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:

Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator