

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Council President Dykes at 5:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was delivered by Jon Guthrie, Director of West Alabama Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Dykes.

**ROLL CALL:** The following members were present:

- Councilor Pro Tem Washington
- Councilor Smith
- Councilor Conger
- Councilor Higdon
- Council President Dykes

A quorum was declared present.

Mayor Phillips and City Administrator Tubbs were also present.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Phillips presented proclamations recognizing The Brayden House; The Toy Shoppe as the January Business of the Month; and National Parent Leadership Month.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Approved as printed.

**Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Washington      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**

Walker Baker, Guest of President Dykes - Discuss Crosswalk from Clear Creek to TCHS. Walker was unable to attend and rescheduled to February 16, 2026.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**First Reading – Ordinance declaring 2026 “Back-to-School” Sales Tax Holiday.** This ordinance would provide a “Back-to-School” Sales Tax Holiday beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2026, and ending at twelve midnight on Sunday, July 19, 2026. The “Back-to-School” Sales Tax Holiday would exempt covered items from sales and use tax for these dates.

**Offered by:** Higdon

**Resolution 26-28 Authorizing Water Service Outside the City Limits for Property Located at 15970 Stoneridge Drive.** Mr. Caleb Little has property located at 15970 Stoneridge Drive, that cannot presently be annexed into the city because the property is not contiguous. The address is outside of the city limits and outside of the planning jurisdiction. He is requesting city water service. The Municipal Code allows this with the majority consent of the city council. The staff recommends this access be allowed. Per city code, all costs of this connection would be paid by the applicant and not by the City. In addition, we are adding the requirement that if, in the future, the property can be annexed, the property will be annexed into the city. If the property is not annexed, the City retains the right to terminate water services at that point.

**Motion:** Smith | **Second:** Conger      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 26-29 Appointing Ms. Kristen Lee Turner as Temporary Municipal Judge to Serve at the Request of and when the Municipal Judge is Unavailable.** Resolution 25-100 re-appointed Mr. Paul Patterson to serve as the Northport Municipal Judge with authorization to utilize the service of Attorney Chris Allen and Attorney Jay Stuck in his absence. This resolution will authorize the addition of Ms. Kristin Lee Turner as temporary Municipal Judge to serve at the request of Judge Patterson as well.

**Motion:** Washington | **Second:** Conger      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 26-30 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute Change Order No. 1 with Dominion Construction Co., Inc for Downtown Sidewalk & Streetscape Improvements, Phase III.** The scope of the change order includes undercutting of unexpected unsuitable material, backfill of undercut areas, Alabama Power Company lighting controller, maintenance gate, sodding, handrails, and rain days, in the amount of \$126,903.13. The revised contract value will be \$1,529,175.82. The City was awarded an additional \$200,000.00 in TAP Grant funding during the project construction, which more than offsets the cost increases.

**Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Washington      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 26-31 Appointing Ms. Heather Dill to the Northport Redevelopment Authority.** Ms. Jaime Conger is resigning from the Northport Redevelopment Authority due to being elected to the

Northport City Council. Ms. Conger was an excellent board member and served honorably and with distinction in her dedication to the board. Ms. Heather Dill expressed interest in serving on the Board. The attached resolution will appoint Ms. Dill to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Conger which will expire in June 2026.

**Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Conger **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 26-32 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Professional Service Contract with A Studio for City of Northport Design and Branding Services.** The City of Northport is developing facilities and elements to promote tourism, which is desired to maximize. This resolution will authorize the City Administrator to execute a Professional Service contract with A Studio for City of Northport Design and Branding Services. The scope of the contract will be on an as-needed basis and include the design and branding of new projects, logos, and exploratory design projects. The contract is not to exceed more than \$5,000 a month and/or \$60,000.00 a year. Funds are allocated for this in the FY25 Northport First Strategic Communications.

**Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Conger **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved as printed. **Motion:** Conger | **Second:** Washington **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

Items included:

1. Minutes of January 20, 2026 – Tera Tubbs
2. Bill Listing – Tera Tubbs
3. Purchase Requisition: Outsourced legal services through December 31, 2025 in relation to public finance and related advice. Bradley, Arant, Boult, Cummings, LLP in the amount of \$8,760.00.
4. Purchase Requisition: Sansom Equipment Company, in the amount of \$19,440.36, for the repair of the pump that has locked up on Wastewater Vactor Truck #9156. The pump is currently inoperable.
5. Purchase Requisition: In 2023, the City Council entered into an automatically renewing, year-to-year lease agreement with Northport Properties for approximately 32 parking spaces located on Main Avenue, just north of the Kentuck Museum in downtown Northport, at a cost of \$12,000 per year. Northport Properties for lease years 2025 and 2026 in the amount of \$24,000.00.
6. Purchase Requisition: Invoice #2 for Audit Expenses related to Fiscal Year 2025 Audit conducted by LeCroy Richardson. The audit will include multiple components that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the City for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. Total amount is \$59,765.00 split between water and sewer, \$11,953.00, and general fund, \$47,812.00.
7. Purchase Requisition: Once a year, the Public Works Department provides its current employees with shirts, sweatshirts, and headgear that not only provide a uniform look but also help to identify them as City of Northport employees while they work, as well as provide a layer of safety with their high visibility color when needed. One Source Office Products in the amount of \$10,592.06. This amount covers the cost of four shirts and two sweatshirts with the City of Northport logo, and three pieces of headgear for employees during the 2026 calendar year and is part of an approved budget item included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.
8. Purchase Requisition: River Run Park — Earthwork Stockpile project with GFC Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$96,013.43. Bond funds have been exhausted and the resulting need to fund the remainder of the encumbered amounts for River Run Park packages from the FY23 and FY26 Northport First funds allocated for the park.
9. Purchase Requisition: Site Work from River Run Park — Package No. 1 with CivilCON, LLC, in the amount of \$424,049.93. Bond funds having been exhausted and the resulting need to fund the remainder of the encumbered amounts for River Run Park package from the FY23 and FY26 Northport First funds allocated for the park.
10. Purchase Requisition: Fields from River Run Park — Package No. 2 with Sports Contractors Unlimited, in the amount of \$119,675.02. Bond funds having been exhausted and the resulting need to fund the remainder of the encumbered amount for River Run Park package from the FY 23 and FY26 Northport First Funds allocated for the park.
11. Purchase Requisition: Vertical Construction for River Run Park — Package No. 4 with WAR Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$624,702.04. Bond funds having been exhausted and the resulting need to fund the remainder of the encumbered amounts for River Run Park package from the FY23 and FY26 Northport First funds allocated for the park.
12. Purchase Requisition: A/V and Electrical for River Run Park — Package No. 5 with Taylor Electrical Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$110,871.53. Bond funds having been exhausted and the resulting need to fund the remainder of the encumbered amount for River Run Park package from the FY23 and FY26 Northport First funds allocated for the park.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:** None.

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT:** None

**PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Second Reading – Ordinance 2292 declaring a temporary moratorium on new car wash and automobile repair uses.** The City has received an influx of development inquiries associated with car washes and automobile repair uses. Staff have concerns that the overdevelopment of these use types could be detrimental to the overall development of the City and our ability to attract diverse types of businesses. There are also concerns regarding the aesthetics and traffic patterns associated with these uses. The temporary moratorium would be enacted for a period of one year. During that time, the City would hire a professional consultant to conduct a study to determine the effects of over saturation of these types of uses on the overall development of the City and revise the zoning ordinance and maps, if needed. Businesses that have received an approved building permit, Land Development Permit, or business license would not be affected by the temporary moratorium. This moratorium shall be effective upon passage and publication and shall continue through February 2, 2027, unless terminated or extended by action of the City Council. Establishments which have a current business license shall be allowed to continue at the licensed location as otherwise allowed by law. Establishments which have had a pre-design meeting prior to January 13, 2026, under the zoning ordinance adopted on December 16, 2024, and have received a building permit or Land Development Permit approval prior to August 1, 2026, may proceed as allowed by the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations and will be excepted from the terms of this Ordinance; provided, however, that any licensed business claiming such exception must not have been vacant, inactive, or closed for more than six (6) months prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. This ordinance does not affect the renewal or transfer of ownership of a business license from a currently licensed car wash or automobile repair business so long as the use remains the same and no construction is proposed.

Tyler Hendon, Express Oil Change explained they have had their pre-design meeting and would like an extension on the April 2026 date that staff proposed to receive their building permit or land development permit. He was hopeful to have the permits completed by August 1, 2026.

**Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Washington      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Growmore Holding and Management Corporation – ABC License Approved.** An application was made to the City of Northport for the transfer of an ABC license. Pursuant to the investigation on Manish Ambalal Prajapati of Victoria, British Columbia of: Growmore Holding and Management Corporation LLC dba McFarland Food Mart 1921 McFarland Blvd Northport, AL 35476. A criminal history investigation was made by this department and no record of the individual was found. There were no speakers to address the council.

**Motion:** Washington | **Second:** Higdon      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S BUSINESS:** None.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMBERS’ BUSINESS**

Councilor Smith shared the Brayden House would be hosting an event on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Potential Litigation**

Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss retail development. The session is expected to take 30 minutes, and the council will take no action after executive session is concluded.

Time: **6:15** p.m. **Motion:** Dykes | **Second:** Higdon      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE**

The Council reconvened in regular session at **7:15** p.m.


**ADJOURNMENT**

Time: **7:15** p.m.      **Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Washington      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**ATTEST:**



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Tera Tubbs, City Administrator



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Jamie Dykes, It’s President