

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on August 06 ,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 Mayor Aaron and City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **approve the agenda for the August 06, 2018 Council meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Visitors to Address Council:

Mr. Joe Calvin, candidate for Tuscaloosa County Board of Education District 3 position, addressed the Council. He stated District 3 of the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education encompasses a large area of Northport. There are many issues within the school system, not just within Northport but within the State. He stated the people within District 3 do not get listened to. His children attended the County Schools, two graduated and one still attends. Mr. Calvin expressed there is little to no progress being made in the school system. There is a decrease in academics and athletics and very little pride. At one time, County High was a name everyone knew. He expressed the need for the community, City and County Board of Education to all work together. He stated that schools dictate the success of a City. The County Board must be able to communicate with the City. The County Board is making decisions, but they are not conveying why these decisions are being made to the citizens or the City. He strongly suspects that if citizens just were given an understanding of why some of these decisions were being made by the County Board things would be better. He believes in setting standards higher within the County Board of Education, not just accepting in being average. He stated for the Board of Education to set the bar higher to be better than average. Mr. Calvin thanked the Council for allowing him to speak this evening.

President Logan opened the floor for a **Public Hearing Authorizing Conditional Use Approval for an office warehouse development in a C-3 zone, located at Lot 1 Union Station.**

There were no public comments.

President Logan closed the floor for the Public Hearing.

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan **Second** by Hogg to **adopt Ordinance 1973 authorizing Conditional Use Approval for an office warehouse development in a C-3 zone located at Lot 1 Union Station.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Logan opened the floor for a **Public Hearing Authorizing Conditional Use Approval for a mini-warehouse warehouse development in a C-3 zone, located at Lot 2R Union Station.**

There were no public comments.

President Logan closed the floor for the Public Hearing.

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan **Second** by Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1974 authorizing Conditional Use Approval for a mini-warehouse development in a C-3 zone, located at Lot 2R Union Station.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Logan opened the floor for a **Public Hearing Ordering the Demolition of an Unsafe Structure located at 5121 Northwood Lake Drive West.**

William A. Nowell, 5217 Northwood Lake Drive West, Northport, AL, addressed the Council regarding the property at 5121 Northwood Lake Drive West. Mr. Nowell questioned about the future of the property if it was voted for demolition. He questioned if the property was turned

over to Northport. President Logan explained that a bid is put out for the demolition of the home and then a lien is put out against the property. President Logan confirmed this with City Attorney Ron Davis. Mr. Davis confirmed that this property would still be owned by the property owner. Mr. Nowell wanted to know if at any time the property would be turned over to the City. Mr. Davis confirmed again that the property owner would be in ownership of the property.

Ms. Kay Holden, 3010 Natchez Landing Court, Northport, AL, addressed the Council regarding the property at 5121 Northwood Lake Drive West. Ms. Holden stated this property has been in deplorable conditions for quite some time, beyond 5 years. She wanted to know if Council could give a deadline for when something could be done to the property. She had heard the homeowner was going to let the home be foreclosed on, but she had to confirm the validity of the information. President Logan, Pro Tem Sullivan, and Councilman Davis agreed staff try to use all resources and reach the property owner one last time and push back the vote until next Council Meeting to make sure that all resources had been used in trying to reach the homeowner. At that time, the Council would vote on the 2nd reading for demolition.

President Logan closed the floor for the Public Hearing.

There was discussion concerning deferring the vote on this item until next Council Meeting, August 20, 2018. Planning would due diligence to contact the property owner regarding this property. It was agreed to table the vote and place on next Council Agenda.

Motion by Councilman Davis , **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **suspend the rules in order to immediately consider amending the Northport City Code pertaining to the one-time move for tattoo parlors**. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1975 with the text amendment to the regulated business ordinance allowing tattoo parlors a one-tome move within their current zones**. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Councilman Hogg offered for 1st Reading Resolution Accepting Maintenance for Municipal Improvements on Sidewalks in Hidden Meadows Phase:IV.

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by Hogg to **adopt Resolution 18-50 approving the General Fund Budget Amendment 18-01 regarding the reallocation and distribution of currently budgeted items**. Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes, and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Resolution 18-51 approving the Water/Wastewater Budget Amendment 18-01 regarding the reallocation and distribution of currently budgeted items**. Roll call was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes, President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **approve the Consent Agenda for the August 06, 2018 Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, June 18, 2018, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, professional services, Lawrence, Hitt, & Pugh, LLP, \$22,000.00- Finance
4. PO Requisition, Membership Dues, Alabama League of Municipalities, \$7,405.09- Administration
5. Travel/Training, 2 employees, LASD SEB SWAT Training, November 5-9, 2018, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$0-PD
6. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Low Light Handgun, August 21-23, 2018, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$0-PD
7. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Low Light Carbine with Shoot House, October 2-4, 2018, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$0- PD
8. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Southeastern Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, September 24-28, 2018, Florence, AL, \$2,151.12- PD
9. PO Requisition, Annual Software Maintenance, IAPro and BlueTeam, \$2,450.00-PD
10. PO Requisition, Shop Equipment for twin post vehicle lift, O'Reilly, \$5,675.00-PW
11. Travel/Training, 1 employee, 2018 Alabama Association of Floodplain Managers Conference, October 21-24, 2018, Orange Beach, AL, \$460.61- Utilities
12. PO Requisition, Semi-Annual Payment for Economic Incentive, Northport Corners, LLC, \$93,750.00-Administration
13. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Alabama Water Resources Symposium & Conference, September 5-7, 2018, Orange Beach, AL, \$537.64 Utilities
14. Travel/ Training, 1 employee, 2018 Alabama Water Resources Symposium & Conference, September 5-7, 2018, Orange Beach, AL, \$697.64- Engineering
15. Travel/Training, 1 employee, AAFM 2018 Conference, October 22-24, 2018, Orange Beach, AL, \$633.74- Engineering
16. Travel/Training, 1 employee, THRP Leadership Workshop, August 17, 2018, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$95.00-HR

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

Departmental Business:

a. Legal Department

1. **Motion** by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan **to approve Claim 18-58 in the amount of \$832.03.** Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Mr. William Nowell, 5217 Northwood Lake Drive West, addressed the Council with questions regarding City Ordinances. His concerns were if the City kept records of citizens breaking ordinances and if people were just “slapped on the wrist” if they broke ordinances repeatedly. Mr. Nowell stated he is troubled with a citizen allowing silt to run into Northwood Lake. Mr. Nowell also requested that a Yield Sign be changed to a stop sign on Northwood Lake Drive West; he was concerned there will be a serious accident from people speeding and not adhering to the Yield Sign. Councilman Davis was familiar with this area of Northwood Lake and said he would investigate it.

Mr. Tim Beasley, 5605 Clearbrook Drive, Northport, AL began with thanking Council for allowing him to speak. He also appreciated and thanked Holly Phillips for all the hard work she has done. He stated his concerns with the City placing his home in a flood zone. Mr. Beasley stated he has lived in the same home for 32 years and just recently the City placed his home in this flood area. This has put him in a higher rate of insurance coverage. According to Mr. Beasley’s engineer, he stated the City needs to do a Base Flood Elevation Study and in direct contrast the City told Mr. Beasley his engineer needs to do the Base Flood Elevation Study. He expressed his appreciation of the City keeping the ditch behind his home cut because for many years he had to perform this duty. Mr. Beasley simply requested help from the City to get the Base Flood Elevation Study. President Logan and Ron Davis advised him this would be something his engineer would have to handle due to the fact it would start a precedent of the City performing all of these studies for its citizens.

Ms. Kay Holden, 3010 Natchez Court, Northport, AL, stated Union Chapel is a problem area for Northport. She adamantly expressed speeding is a huge issue and people running the stop signs are creating dangerous areas for residents. She requested that speed tables be installed, or police presence. She stated she has started petitions in the neighborhood, already collecting several hundred signatures. Ms. Holden wanted to know what could be done to help the situation.

Councilman Davis requested Ms. Holden give him a list of the intersections that are of concern.

Mr. LaFedrick Gay, 10431 Jones Road, Northport, AL, addressed the Council regarding the paving update of Jones Road. Councilman Davis stated the City is searching for another company to spray that road because that particular contract had been lost.

Mr. Jody Jobson, 11534 Bellwood Lane, Northport, AL, came before the Council asking for help. Mr. Jobson spoke on the deplorable school conditions at Riverside Junior High School. He stated the plumbing and air conditioning are terrible for the children. He believes Northport needs to join together and get something done. He stated, "it is the kids' turn." He declared the school is bacteria infested and the county has one plumber covers 34 schools.

Mr. Ray Glenn, 6700 Barnes Settlement Road, Northport, AL, addressed the Council regarding the terrible school conditions. Mr. Glenn stated that Northport has the 3 oldest schools Tuscaloosa County. He declared that Northport has set back and let this happen. Mr. Glenn indicated Tuscaloosa County Board of Education borrowed 90 million dollars based on future revenue and cannot borrow any more money for 20 years. The Board cannot build the children of Northport any new schools. According to Mr. Glenn, the new school being built was decided upon because it was cheaper, saving 5 or 6 million. Mr. Glenn declared he is tired of Northport putting money into the County School System and Northport receiving the negative and minimal results we receive. Mr. Glenn pointed out, according to a study done by the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education, there have been 8 schools built in Tuscaloosa County since Northport's last school, which was Northport Elementary. The City of Northport has 90% of the growth taking place in Tuscaloosa County. Mr. Glenn firmly believes Mr. Joe Calvin, candidate for District 3 County Board of Education who addressed the Council earlier in the meeting, will stand and fight for the children of Northport. The only issue, the vote is 6-1. There will be 6 of them and 1 of him. Mr. Glenn believes there is optimal growth in Northport, but people are leaving the City because of the issues taking place. He cannot understand the reason for the County Board deciding to bus children from one end of Tuscaloosa County to the other. He questioned Mayor Aaron about the Transportation Study the County Board was going to do conduct, proposing to save money on the idea of bussing students. He went on to say no results would be shown because the study would not show money being saved because this method would not save money. He expanded on his ideas by saying 5 schools are needed in the City of Northport right now. Riverside, Matthews, and Crestmont are needing to be replaced along with a new elementary and middle school where all of the growth in Northport is taking place. However, Mr. Glenn knows Northport will not get that because the County does not have the money to do that. He said they have borrowed every dollar they can borrow. He thanked the Council for letting him speak.

President Logan responded stating the community must get involved. He has seen the community of Northport pack the Council Chambers out for less important topics. For instance, if the City announced they were going to stop cutting grass in Downtown Northport, he said there would be 1,000 citizens in the Chambers. However, when it comes to the topics that are large and important, the community is not as engaged as it should be. President Logan stated the City has contacted the County Board with concerns; the County Board has the power. The citizens must push the County Board. The citizens must push the County Board to change the agenda; the citizens must be the driving force.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

District 1- Vacant

President Logan, District 2, Councilman Logan followed up on his comments from Mr. Glenn regarding the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Northport. President Logan challenged Jody Jobson and other citizens to “make noise” with the County Board, get groups together and engage the County School Board. He believes it is going to take the citizens and the community to move the school board. The Tuscaloosa County Board has put Northport in a 20- year stunted non-growth corner. How Northport, as a community responds, all 25, 046 of us, will dictate the outcome. Matthews and Riverside are the two oldest schools in the County School System. Once the new school is built, President Logan is concerned that citizens will begin bringing issues to the Council that clearly need to be addressed with the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education. He stated citizens need to reengage with the Tuscaloosa County Board. He announced the groundbreaking of a Habitat for Humanity Home. He stated it has been 15 years since a Habitat home had been built in Northport and the City was extremely excited about this project. Mayor Aaron and Whitney DuBose had been working with Kathie Carnes with Capital Growth Buchalter, Judy Holland with High Socks for Hope, and Ellen Potts with Habitat for Humanity on this project. The groundbreaking will be Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 10:00 am at 3425 24th Street. President Logan revealed the property was donated by the Buchalter Family and High Socks for Hope is raising money for the building of the home. President Logan requested Council help offset the cost by deferring payment of Water/Sewer Tap fees and building permit fees. The Mayor agreed to pay the building permit fees from her discretionary funds and a motion was posed to defer payment of Water/Tap and Sewer Development Fees, \$3,257.00. Total fiscal impact: Tap Fee: \$ 550.00, Water Development Fee: \$ 1,254.00 and Sewer Development : \$1,453.00.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Resolution 18-52 deferring Water and Sewer Tap/Development Fees for the Habitat for Humanity Home being constructed at 3425 24th Street.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Pro Tem Sullivan, District 3, Pro Tem Sullivan thanked Joe Calvin, candidate for District 3 County Board of Education for his willingness to serve. He told Mr. Calvin to get ready. He reminded the crowd that school was beginning this week, watch out for busses, children and stay safe.

Councilman Davis, District 4, Councilman Davis echoed the ideas of public comment from Mr. Calvin, Mr. Jobson, and Mr. Glenn. He stated the schools in Northport were of great concern to him. He wished Mr. Calvin the best of luck in campaign and stated he would support him 100%.

Councilman Hogg, District 5, Councilman Hogg resonated the ideas that had been heard much of the night by citizens and Councilmen; he felt that something had to be done about the Board of Education and the schools in Northport. He strongly agreed with President Logan regarding citizens taking their concerns straight to the County Board of Education. Councilman Hogg stated that parents and people in the community must be persistent, present at weekly County Board of Education Meetings, packing out the meetings, and “being in their face” with concerns and addressing the sentiment of how citizens feel about the treatment of the children of Northport. He stated that Mayor and Council are 100% behind the citizens and children of Northport. He wished Mayor Aaron and Mr. Sonny Aaron a happy anniversary. He also asked City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham the progress of the paving project for each district that was passed at the last Council Meeting on August 06, 2018 to get an idea of the timeline for the project.

Mr. Higginbotham responded there has been movement but stated there needed to be discussion regarding District 1 since there was no representative. He also stated discussion would take place at the next Project’s Committee Meeting which would take place on the 2nd Monday in September, September 10, 2018.

Councilman Hogg asked if there was any way to speed this process up. Mr. Higginbotham stated he would look into it. Councilman Hogg also discussed the topic of the vacant Council seat of District 1. He encouraged anyone that had interest in this position to submit a letter in interest to the City Administrator.

Mayor Aaron, Mayor Aaron stated the best thing to do for the school situation would be to load some of the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education members up and visit some of the deplorable school conditions. Let these members see what the children are having to learn in daily.

Motion by Councilman Hogg, Second by President Logan to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss possible sale of City property. The session should take no longer than fifteen minutes, and Council may or may not take action after Executive Session. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

City Council Meeting

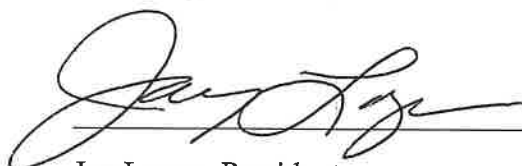
August 06, 2018

Page 8

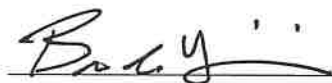
The Council reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:



Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator