

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Council 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: None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Approved as printed.

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

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL: William Scott Hamner, 6923 43rd Street, requested increased enforcement of handicapped parking regulations throughout the City. Mr. Hamner recommended contacting Chris at The University of Alabama for potential guidance and enforcement suggestions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Ordinance Ordering Demolition of an Unsafe Structure located at 1002 10th Street. The Chief Building Official has found that the structure located at 1002 10th Street is unsafe and dangerous to public health. We are recommending the structure be demolished. All necessary procedures have been followed pursuant to Act No. 80-410.

Offered by: Dykes

First Reading – Resolution consenting to the Vacation of Public Right-of-way for a portion of Bridge Avenue. Green Acres Capital, LLC is the owner of property located on Bridge Avenue. The owner has filed with the City a Declaration of Vacation of Right-of-Way for a portion of Bridge Avenue, as attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The Code of Alabama requires that the Council, after advertising in a paper of local circulation, conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider written objections prior to taking action on the proposed vacation. The notice of public hearing was published in the Gazette for four (4) consecutive weeks as required and the petitioner, as well as the various utility companies, and adjacent property owners have been notified of the hearing date. To vacate a public right-of-way, the Council must adopt a resolution of permanent nature which requires a first reading and second reading. If offered for a first reading tonight, the resolution will appear for a second reading and public hearing on April 20, 2026.

Offered by: Higdon

Resolution 26-54 authorizing the City Administrator to execute contract for Legal Services pertaining to AFFF PFAS Litigation. This resolution will allow the City Administrator to enter into a contract for Legal Services to allow the City to collect monies from DuPont and 3M for damaging certain municipal public drinking water systems throughout the country. While damages to the Northport drinking water system are minuscule at worst, nonetheless the city may be entitled to receive a portion of these settlement funds. There is no legal downside or no financial downside for the city to participate in this settlement.

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

Resolution 26-55 authorizing the City Administrator to Execute ABC Approval Letter to Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Spirits 1 for Sale of Consumable Hemp Products. Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Spirits 1 has requested approval from the City Council for the sale of consumable hemp products at its store located at 6 McFarland Blvd., Northport. New state regulations which went into effect on January 1, 2026, require any stores selling these products to be licensed by the Alabama ABC Board. The ABC Board requires that the municipality where the store is located agree to allow the sale of such products at that location before it will grant the application. This resolution would provide Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Spirits 1 with that approval so it can continue with its ABC application.

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

Resolution 26-56 authorizing a Supplement to the Tax Certificate and Agreement relating to the General Obligation Warrants Series 2023. On April 17, 2023, the City Council authorized the 2023 General Obligation Warrant Series 2023 by Ordinance 2178. This supplement to the Tax Certificate and

Agreement does not modify anything related to those bonds. Instead, this supplement will more specifically identify the capital improvements financed with the proceeds of the Warrants.

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

Resolution 26-57 authorizing the City Administrator to execute a lease agreement with Warrior Baseball for Kentuck Park. This Lease Agreement allows Warrior Baseball to continue using the baseball and softball fields at Kentuck Park to practice and play games.

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

Resolution 26-58 authorizing City Administrator to execute Merchandise Operator License Agreement with Prep Baseball for merchandise sales at River Run Park. This agreement allows Prep Baseball to sell merchandise and operate the Park Store(s) at River Run Park.

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

Resolution 26-59 authorizing the City Administrator to execute Real Estate License and Sponsorship Agreement with Baseball Lifestyle 101, LLC for merchandise sales at River Run Park. This agreement allows Baseball Lifestyle 101, LLC to sell merchandise at River Run Park Store.

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

Resolution 26-60 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for Funds for Engineering and Design Services for a Fishing Facility at Northport Shore. This resolution will authorize the City Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) for a Fishing Facility at Northport Shore. The City of Northport desires to develop a fishing tournament facility, with the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to construct a public pavilion, restrooms, weighing facilities, a parking lot, and related capital improvements. ADCNR wishes to contribute \$150,000.00 to offset the costs directly associated with the design and engineering of the boating access project in order to collaborate with the City of Northport. This will promote and expand local fishing and recreational opportunities and support responsible stewardship of Alabama's waterways. The scope of the services from the City of Northport will be to utilize the funding to contribute to the cost of engineering and design services of the fishing tournament component (boating access), received from ADCNR, not to exceed \$150,000.00. The term of the agreement shall be in effect until February 1, 2027, unless otherwise amended.

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

Resolution 26-61 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Master Service Agreement and Task Order Directive No. 1 and No.2 with TTL, Inc. for the City of Northport Tournament Fishing Facility at Northport Shore. A proposal has been received from TTL, Inc. for a Master Service Agreement for the City of Northport Fishing Facility with Task Order Directive No. 1 and No. 2. The scope of the master service agreement includes project management, environmental and permitting services, design phase services, and bid and construction phase services for the City of Northport Tournament Fishing Facility at Northport Shore. Task Order Directive No. 1 will include project management in the amount of \$110,000.00 and Task Order Directive No. 2 will include environmental and permitting services in the amount of \$40,000.00 for a total of \$150,000. Fees up to \$150,000 for these services are eligible for reimbursement under a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the City of Northport and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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

Resolution 26-62 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute Change Order No. 2 with Dominion Construction Co. Inc., for Downtown Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvements, Phase III. Change Order No. 2 with Dominion Construction Co. Inc, for the Downtown Sidewalks and Streetscape Improvements, Phase III. The scope of the work is a final balancing change order, in the deductive amount of 4,076.39. The revised contract total is \$1,525,099.43.

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

Resolution 26-63 Requesting Classification of Hospital Drive and a portion of 3rd Street under the Highway Functional Classification System. The City of Northport is requesting the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to reclassify Hospital Drive and a portion of 3rd Street. The request includes a classification of minor arterial for Hospital Drive from McFarland Boulevard to 5th Street, a length of 6,113 feet. The request also includes a classification of minor collector for Hospital Drive from 5th Street to 3rd Street, a length of 1,201 feet, and for 3rd Street from Bridge Avenue to Hospital Drive, a length of 2,028 feet.

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

Resolution 26-64 Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Agreement with Duncan Coker Associates for Smithfield Gardens Storm Drainage Improvements. This resolution will authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Duncan Coker Associates for the

Smithfield Gardens Storm Drainage Improvements. The scope of this project is to repair the eroded areas and stream bank stabilization in the Smithfield Gardens residential community that also impacts access to the City's pump station. The scope of the services in the proposal includes the engineering design and services for the project in the amount of \$116,676.

Motion: Conger | **Second:** Washington **Vote:** Motion carried. Higdon, abstained

Resolution 26-65 Authorizing the City Administrator to maintain the cooperative service agreement with United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Wildlife Services for wildlife services. In the past, we have had an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services to help alleviate beaver caused flooding adjacent to city roadways and alleviate and address other animal damage issues. The police department would like to renew this agreement.

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

Resolution 26-66 Authorizing City Administrator to Execute Engineering Services Contract with Espy Professional Services for Hightown Water Tank Rehabilitation. On March 2, 2026, the City Council approved the 2026 Water & Sewer Capital budget ordinance. Hightown Water Tank Rehabilitation is a project included in the 2026 Water & Sewer Capital budget. The Utilities Department received a proposal from Espy Professional Services for engineering services associated with this project to include preliminary design, final design, bid phase services, and construction administration. This resolution authorizes the City Administrator to execute an Engineering Services Contract with Espy Professional Services in the amount of \$65,000.00.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved with the deletion of Item 21.

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

Items included:

1. Minutes of March 2, 2026 – Tera Tubbs
2. Bill Listing – Tera Tubbs
3. Purchase Requisition: Boardman, Carr, Petelos, Watkins, Ogle & Howard, P.C., outsourced legal services rendered through January 2026, in relation to City Council orientation, \$17,755.50.
4. Purchase Requisition: Bishop Brooks, LLC, outsourced legal services rendered in February 2026, in connection with the University Beach Project, \$6,562.50.
5. Purchase Requisition: ByteSpeed, six (6) computers as part of the 2026 Computer Replacement Project. These computers are for multiple departments, \$7,800.00.
6. Purchase Requisition: Dell Marketing, ten (10) computers for the 2026 Computer Replacement Project. These computers are for multiple departments, \$19,978.30.
7. Purchase Requisition: LeCroy Richardson P.C., Invoice #4 for Audit Expenses related to Fiscal Year 2025 Audit. The audit will include multiple components that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the City for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Total amount is \$16,175.00 split between water and sewer, \$3235.00, and general fund, \$12,940.00.
8. Purchase Requisition: Morrow Water Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$33,728.43, is for two (2) Ebara submersible pumps for the Upper Smith Creek Pump Station. One of the existing pumps has reached its useful life. The station works with three (3) pumps but is currently running with only one (1) pump. These pumps are necessary in order to continue normal operations at this pump station.
9. Purchase Requisition: Electric Machine Control, Inc., in the amount of \$5,230.00, is for replacing the chemical level monitoring system for sodium hypochlorite at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The existing chemical level monitoring panel components are obsolete and no longer serviceable. EMC will provide the materials, installation of new panel and removal of the existing panel.
10. Purchase Requisition: Misc. Metals & Fabrication, LLC., in the amount of \$7,960.00, is for the inspection of two (2) headworks slide gates at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
11. Purchase Requisition: Stivers Ford Lincoln, in the amount of \$39,926.00, is for a 2026 Ford F-150 4x2 Pickup Truck for the Utilities Department. The prices are determined by State Bid Contract. This is part of the FY2026 Capital Budget that was approved by Council on March 2, 2026.
12. Purchase Requisition: Stivers Ford Lincoln, in the amount of \$115,572.00, is for a 2026 Ford F-550 Crew Cab 4x2 Chassis Cab Crane Truck for the Utilities Department. The prices are determined by State Bid Contract. This is part of the FY2026 Capital Budget that was approved by Council on March 2, 2026.
13. Purchase Requisition: Southland Transportation Group, in the amount of \$152,490.16, is for a 2027 HV607 SBA Dump Truck for the Utilities Department. The prices are determined by State Bid Contract. This is part of the FY2026 Capital Budget that was approved by Council on March 2, 2026.
14. Purchase Requisition: Bobcat of Tuscaloosa, in the amount of \$56,798.37, is for a S76 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader for the Utilities Department. The price was determined by Sourcewell Contract

#020223-CEC. This is part of the FY2026 Capital Budget that was approved by Council on March 2, 2026.

15. Purchase Requisition: One Source, \$6,749.60 for 12 new chairs for the PD Conference Room.
16. Purchase Requisition: Paradise Marine Center, one Alweld 1856 Boat, one Tohatsu 40HP Tiller Handle Motor, and one Loadmaster Trailer for a total of \$14,696.00. This is part of the FY2026 Capital Budget that was approved by Council on March 2, 2026.
17. Purchase Requisition: Central Alabama Training Solutions, two Task Force Tip Deck Guns with Detachable Bases (one for EN1, one for EN4), \$13,990.00.
18. Purchase Requisition: AFS Foundation & Waterproofing Specialist, \$18,613.32. The foundation of Fire Station #3 has been settling and shifting for over ten years. More recently, issues such as cracking sheet rock and stretching expansion joint caulking indicate that parts of the building may be separating. This type of movement can lead to roof leaks, cracks in the ceilings and walls, and even the bending or breaking of the building's wooden frame. This expense has been designated as a Capital Funds budget item.
19. Purchase Requisition: Southern Heating & Cooling \$35,274.00 for new heating equipment and the labor and materials to install a new heating system at the Northport Community Center. This expense has been designated as a Capital Funds budget item. The Northport Community Center's heating equipment is over twenty years old and has reached the end of its expected service life. Some parts are considered obsolete and are no longer available. Recently, the heat exchanger failed, preventing the system from being able to operate in heating mode and forcing the building to rely on a temporary piece of equipment for its primary heat source.
20. Purchase Requisition: Epic Equipment & Service Solutions, LLC, \$12,548.82 to make the necessary repairs for two lifts to become safely operational and to remove and replace the lift that is now obsolete. During a recent inspection of the Shop, two lifts were tagged and require repairs to be made before they can be used, and a third lift was tagged as condemned and must be replaced. The Shop is currently operating with only one functioning lift, which limits the amount of work our mechanics can do simultaneously, leading to slower turnaround times for repairing vehicles. This expense has been designated as a Capital Funds budget item.
21. DELETED: Purchase Requisition: New Zero-Turn Mower; Tuskaloosa Lawn Equipment, \$15,634.00. This cost includes the addition of airless tires and the installation of flash lighting, as required for safety. This expense has been designated as a Capital Funds budget item. The Public Works Department relies on a fleet of zero-turn mowers to maintain the City of Northport's various properties, right-of-ways, and parks. An additional zero-turn mower will help to keep up with the City's expanding portfolio and to compensate for aging equipment. The new mower will enable us to cut more effectively, as well as use the older mowers on a more limited basis and as backups.
22. Purchase Requisition: 2027 International Knuckle Boom Truck; Ingram Equipment Company; \$261,601.00. This price includes all needed accessories and equipment, the installation of a tarp system, which is needed to cover loads to keep debris from blowing out, and the freight charge. To ensure reliable curbside bulk trash collection for Northport residents, a minimum of three knuckle boom trucks is essential to operate each day. The current fleet has an average age of 14 years, and several units are nearing the end of their service life, increasing the likelihood of equipment failures and service disruptions. An additional knuckle boom truck will improve operational efficiency, reduce downtime caused by aging equipment, and help maintain consistent and dependable bulk trash collection services for the community.
23. Purchase Requisition: Elevator Door Repairs for the Public Safety Compound; Otis Elevator Company, \$22,100.00. Since 2024, the elevator at the Public Services Compound has been non-operational numerous times due to a malfunctioning door glide and solid-state starter. The door glide and starter have been declared obsolete, and due to the age of these parts, reliable repairs are no longer feasible. Installing a new glide door operator and a solid-state starter is the recommended course of action to improve elevator reliability, eliminate the costs associated with repeated service calls, and enhance elevator safety. This will provide labor and materials to install a new door operator and soft starter on the elevator in the Public Safety Compound. This expense has been designated as a Capital Funds budget item.
24. Purchase Requisition: 95 Gallon Residential Garbage Carts; Otto Environmental Systems - \$31,500.00. purchase 560 new residential garbage carts from Otto Environmental Systems for \$31,500.00. This amount includes the cost of the carts, the fee to have the City Seal imprinted on each cart, as well as shipping. This is a planned expense and was approved as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The new carts will match the current carts' navy blue color and style, but will have the new City of Northport City Seal in place of the old version. The Public Works Department stocks garbage carts on hand to replace carts that are damaged, stolen, or to fulfill requests from customers needing a new cart. Carts are kept in circulation and reused until they are no longer suitable for use. The last time new carts were ordered was in 2023.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT: None.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT: None.

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Second Reading – Ordinance 2296 adopting amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. These amendments follow a quarterly review of the zoning ordinance that was adopted on December 16, 2024. These updates serve to correct errors, clean up and clarify minor issues that have been discovered since adoption.

There were no speakers to address the council.

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

Second Reading – Ordinance 2297 annexing 1.27 acres located south of Old Union Chapel Road and west of Union Chapel Road. Longleaf Engineering is requesting annexation of approximately 1.27 acres located south of Old Union Chapel Road and West of Union Chapel Road. The original zoning designation for this property will be RS-1 Single Family Residential. This property lies within the priority growth area identified by the comprehensive plan. The future land use map depicts this area as High Density Residential. The request is not in conflict with the comprehensive plan. The annexation request was given a positive recommendation from the Planning Commission.

There were no speakers to address the council.

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

Second Reading – Ordinance 2298 approving a Conditional Use for property located at 2403 10th Street. Levi Campbell is requesting conditional use approval for an indoor recreation facility in a Limited Manufacturing (M-1) zone for the property located at 2403 10th Street. The proposed business would operate as a "rage room." No exterior construction is proposed with this request. The Planning Commission gave a positive recommendation with the stipulation that the hours of operation be limited to 5pm-10pm, Monday-Friday, 8am-10pm on Saturdays, 12pm-10pm on Sundays.

There were no speakers to address the council.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

West Alabama Food and Wine Festival – ABC License Approved. An application was made to the City of Northport for an ABC license. An application was made to the City of Northport for an ABC Temporary Non-Profit Special Event Retail License for the West Alabama Food and Wine Festival that will be held on April 19, 2026. This is a one-day, rain or shine event, on April 19th beginning at 3:00 p.m. in downtown Northport on Main Avenue. Pursuant to the investigation of the Executive Director Amy Martin of Northport, AL, of: West Alabama Food and Wine Festival 318 Main Avenue Northport, AL 35473 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: Conger | **Second:** Washington **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S BUSINESS: None.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Tuscaloosa County High basketball team congratulated for winning the 7A state championship, their first since 1960. Special mention of Coach Weeks for his commitment and achievement; awarded "Coach of the Year" for 7A boys basketball.

Northport Farmers Market grand opening scheduled for Saturday, March 28th.

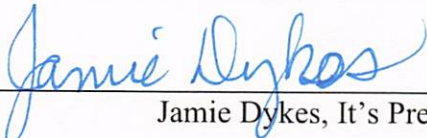
Easter wishes extended to all, with mention that the holiday falls in two weeks.

Northport Bunny Trail event is ongoing in downtown Northport; winding down soon. Pet Eggstravaganza event planned for March 29th.

Promotion of an upcoming food and wine festival within the district; tickets available for purchase.

ADJOURNMENT

Time: 6:02 p.m. **Motion:** Higdon | **Second:** Washington **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.



Jamie Dykes, It’s President

ATTEST:



Tera Tubbs, City Administrator