

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 12:00 p.m. on September 13, 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.

Mayor Aaron presented a proclamation to Phoenix House for recognizing September as National Recovery Month.

Councilman Tony Roberts was sworn in by the Honorable, Probate Judge Hardy McCollum, Tuscaloosa County.

Mayor Donna Presented Judge McCollum with a Proclamation and plaque for his tenure as Probate Judge with Tuscaloosa County.

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to **approve the agenda for the September 13, 2018 Council meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by President Logan to **adopt Resolution 18-63 re-appointing Mr. Bruce Davis, a current board, to the Williamson Cemetery Board.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes, Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, abstained. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Councilman Davis, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Resolution 18-64 re-appointing Mr. Sam Faucett, a current board, to the Williamson Cemetery Board.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to **adopt Resolution 18-65 appointing new board member, Mrs. Flora Gay, to the Williamson Cemetery Board.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Resolution 18-66 appointing new board member, Mr. Willie Lewis, to the Williamson Cemetery Board.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Davis, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Resolution 18-67 terminating the contract with Meggs Lawn Care for failure to adhere to Section C, Specifications of the bid contract documents for Bid File 17-01, Furnishing of Grounds Maintenance for the Williamson Cemetery.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Davis, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Resolution 18-68 awarding the bid for Furnishing of Grounds Maintenance for Williamson Cemetery (Bid File No. 17-01) to Dixie Service and Supply, and to authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Dixie Service and Supply.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt the Resolution 18-69 authorizing the City Administrator to execute a cooperative maintenance agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for the maintenance of the right-of-way along Highway 82 and Highway 43, from the eastern city limits to the western city limits, for 2019.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adopt Resolution 18-70 authorizing the Northport Police Department to participate in the Community Traffic Safety Program (CTSP) Grant and authorize the Mayor to execute all paperwork pertaining to said grant.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by President Logan to **approve the Consent Agenda for the September 13, 2018 Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, August 27, 2018, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, Outsourced Legal Services, Trussell, Funderburg, Rea & Bell, \$8,373.39 – Legal
4. PO Requisition, Professional In-House Consulting Services, Varnon Engineering, Invoice 38-39- \$19,665.00-Engineering
5. PO Requisition, Network Switches and Racks, C-Spire, \$27,453.00-IT
6. PO Requisition, Network and Dispatch Station Writing, Minuteman, \$7,850.00- IT
7. PO Requisition, Updated Dispatch Terminals, CDW, \$17,740.00-IT
8. PO Requisition, Move Essential Motorola Operation, AllComm, \$15,000.00-IT
9. DELETED
10. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Alabama Mississippi American Planning Association Annual Conference, October 10-12, 2018, Oxford, MS, \$1,056.00-Planning
11. PO Requisition, Tactical Pants, Plus One Tactical, \$5,855.04-FD
12. PO Requisition, 2 Ford Explorer Interceptors, Stivers Ford Lincoln, \$ 63,118.00-FD
13. PO Requisition, Repair& Paint Fire Station 3, Jeff's Pro Painting, \$6,405.00-FD
14. PO Requisition, 55th Street Drainage Improvements, Dominion Construction, \$33,437.00-PW
15. PO Requisition, Carpet Cleaning, Ceramic Floor Cleaning and Window Cleaning, Beacon Cleaning, \$4,477.00-PD
16. PO Requisition, 5 Meter Reader Trucks, Strivers Ford, \$94,090.00-Utilities

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

Reports of Special Committees:

Beeker Properties requested that City of Northport dissolve the RFP with the City until members of the Council decide to open it back up. Many factors played into the request, costs, the location of City Hall, and density in this area. There is a possibility in the future the RFP will be opened up again in the future.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to dissolve the current RFP with Becker Properties of the sale of Northport City Hall. Roll call was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; and Councilman Davis. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Ms. Deloris Whitfield, 3902 Biscayne Hills, Northport, Alabama, addressed the council wanting clarification regarding statements made By Mr. James Barnett at the Tuscaloosa County School Board of Education Meeting. She also stated that Riverside Junior High School and Matthews Elementary School needed to be condemned. She suggested since the Board of Education is not being responsive to the Council's nor the public's concerns, these concerns should be taken a step further since the schools are being funded by Federal and State money.

Mr. Robert Lewis, 5216 Briarcliff Drive, Northport, Alabama, began by thanking the Council for electing someone for their district. Mr. Lewis has been in the position as Briarcliff's HOA President. When Councilman Hambright was living and in office, he had started the process of helping Mr. Lewis try to obtain lighting at the corning of the entrance of Briarcliff and 43. It has since fallen by the wayside. Mr. Lewis requested a meeting with the Mayor and Councilman Roberts to discuss the lightpole and other issues.

Ms. Lauren Peabody, 3105 Killarney Lane, Northport, AL 35473, addressed the Council concerning the topic of Northport's schools and the Tuscaloosa County Board. She believes that we need a feasibility study completed in Northport. As a Northport citizen, what is our future?

Mr. Ray Glenn, 6700 Barnes Settlement Road, Northport, AL 35473, addressed the Council on the topic of the school system and the meeting that was held by the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education. He reported he walked away from the meeting very disappointed and that he felt was a "dog and pony show." Mr. Glenn pointed out, in Tuscaloosa County, we tried to have an ad valorem tax 25 years ago. It was voted down almost 2 to 1 in all but one tax district; that district was Northport. All the schools around us in Tuscaloosa County have gotten new schools in Tuscaloosa County except Northport. He also stated that a Public Relations position that has been vacant for 20 plus years had been recently. Mr. Glenn recalled that past boards decided not to fill that position because they felt that the \$100,000.00 salary was much needed in other places. He felt that the Public Relations salary could currently be more suited in hiring 2 plumbers for the Tuscaloosa County Schools. Mr. Glenn declared we are witnessing a mass exodus and that everyone knows people in Northport that is moving out of Northport due to the school system. Most people are headed north, going to a community where people take pride in their school. We have fallen on hard times. Mr. Glenn requested two things. The first request the Council to petition the County Board to delay work on the new middle school until we can come up with a plan to address the critical problem we have in Northport. The middle school can wait; the schools here in Northport cannot. I also ask the Council to revisit the feasibility study of Northport forming our school system. This does not mean we are forming our school system. Mr. Glenn thanked the Council for their time and for listening to his concerns.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

Councilman Roberts, District 1, No Business

President Logan, District 2, President Logan wanted to give an update on the MLK project. He stated they are 30-40% complete on design and submitted it to ALDOT and then wait for approval. Russ and his Staff will work on the Environmental Document Process which will be submitted the Federal Government. From that point, right of way acquisition will begin. The process and project are going really well. He also wanted to give thanks for parents and the community coming out to show support for the children of Northport on the Tuscaloosa County School Board issue. This Mayor and Council have engaged this County School Board really well. He wanted to show clarification; it is not a good plan to leave Riverside open. He declared the Tuscaloosa County School Board has a tough job, but they have no vision. If we really feel strongly about it, then all need to come together

President Pro Tem Sullivan, District 3, Pro Tem Sullivan stated he had been looking for the feasibility study that was conducted years ago and had not been able to locate it. When he does locate the study, he will revisit it and look at the numbers. This does have to be citizen driven. He also wanted to welcome Councilman Roberts to the board.

Councilman Davis, District 4, Councilman Davis wanted to welcome Councilman Roberts to the board and thanked him for his willingness to serve. He thanked Ms. Whitfield, Ms. Peabody, and Mr. Glenn for coming to the Council and addressing their concerns. He assured them there was no whispering the day they visited the County Board's meeting. He stated the conversation consisted of, shutting Riverside down, build the new school, moving the kids out of Riverside and putting them up at Echols, and getting the new school built.

Councilman Hogg, District 5, Councilman Hogg welcome Councilman Roberts to the board. He reminded the public that the Council is on their side. The Council is adamantly opposed to what is going on with the school system. However, it has to be recognized that the Council is not the school board. The Council represents the people of Northport. If the people of Northport wants the Council to look at a feasibility study, the Council can do that. It will take more than 3 people to do that. The citizens must get together and be together as a whole. It must a collective decision or a compromise. Councilman Hogg encourages the citizens of Northport to push the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and hold their feet to the fire, continue to push the issue.

Mayor Aaron, Mayor Aaron stated she taught in the Tuscaloosa County School system for many years. She stated that in the 90s, when she was on the City Council, it was unprecedented for the City to give the Tuscaloosa County Board 5 million dollars to help build Tuscaloosa County High School. That was the only way there was ever going to be a new Tuscaloosa County High School. If you walk down the halls and look outside every room, classroom, lunchroom, library, you will see something that is not in any other school building in this county. There are name plaques that state, "This room is in honor of or this room is in memory of." That is because that money was raised by money from the community. That is the only way that school was ever built. It is absurd we are still being treated as the red headed step child. Mayor Aaron also challenged the Council and Staff to spend some time at the Habitat Home over the next couple of weeks. She also announced the City had received another grant for our Downtown Area, Transportation Alternative Program. The grant will go towards improving areas from 4th to 1st; the total amount of the grant is \$594,000.00. The grant will include street improvements, sidewalks, and landscaping.

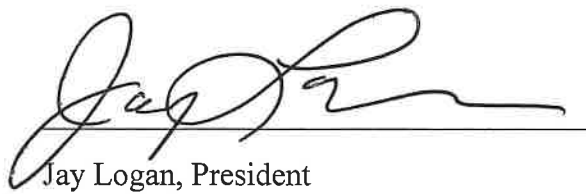
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Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis **to adjourn the meeting.** Roll call was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; and Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried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

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:



Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator