

**MINUTES OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE EUFAULA CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.**

The Eufaula City Council met in a scheduled session on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. in the Police Department Courtroom at 545 East Barbour Street. Council President Register called the meeting to order, and Dr. Ken Jackson offered the invocation. Council President Register led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Council President Wes Register, President Pro Tem Otis Hill, Marvin Brown, Ben Garrison, and John Robinson.

Also present: Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer, and Joel Smith, City Attorney.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Robinson offered a motion to approve the order of the agenda for the meeting of August 2, 2021. President Pro Tem Hill seconded the motion. Council President Register announced that the agenda was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Register reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for council approval.

- (a) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the regular session minutes of July 19, 2021.
- (b) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Claims Docket dated July 28, 2021 in the amount of \$19,689.62.

Mr. Garrison offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the Consent Agenda was adopted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

VISITORS

Pastor Richard Hunter addressed the council with concerns about crime in the city and the salaries of city staff and first responders. Pastor Hunter thanked the council president, president pro tem, and the city clerk/treasurer, for giving him the opportunity to address his concerns before the Council and audience. He emphasized that he was deeply concerned about the salary of all city workers, primarily, first responders (police and fire fighters). He noted the consistent commendations expressed towards first responders, but the inconsistent salary in connection to the dangers associated with their service. He expressed that a decent salary helps to deter poverty and crime. He listed numerous credentials as an active supporter of police and fire fighters over many years and stated his full and continued support for first responders and an increase in their salary.

Council President Register responded that this matter is under consideration within the 2021-2022 budget. He also thanked Pastor Hunter for his concern and involvement over the years. Councilman Brown then asked what the amount of salary is for first responders. The general response was that the amount of salary varies for first responders, but would be clarified upon verification.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Council President Register introduced Resolution 74-2021 (Transportation Plan for State Gas Tax Funds). He noted that these additional excise taxes are distributed to the City for infrastructure purposes and will be retained for a major project in the future. Mr. Garrison offered a motion to adopt Resolution 74-2021 (Transportation Plan for State Gas Tax Funds). Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced that Resolution 74-2021 was adopted.

RESOLUTION 74-2021

WHEREAS, Legislative Act 2019-2, an act to levy an additional excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel; to provide for the collection and distribution of the proceeds from the additional excise to the state, county, municipal and Alabama State Port Authority transportation for infrastructure purposes; and

WHEREAS, the additional excise tax is a total of 10 cents per gallon increase over a (3) three year period; and

WHEREAS, municipal governing bodies of each qualified municipality shall adopt an annual Transportation Plan not later than August 31 for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eufaula received \$ 51,808.32 in 2020 and is estimated to receive \$ 82,500.00 in 2021 and \$ 103,000.00 in 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the FY2022 Transportation Plan for the City of Eufaula is to retain the funds to be used for a major project in the future.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of August, 2021.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Register introduced Resolution 73-2021 (Weed Abatement – Keith & Helen Kuhnsman, 187 Sandy Lane West). He explained that there is a zoning issue with this abatement and recommended that this resolution be tabled until the issue is resolved. President Pro Tem Hill offered a motion to table Resolution 73-2021 (Weed Abatement – Keith & Helen Kuhnsman, 187 Sandy Lane West). Mr. Garrison seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced that Resolution 73-2021 was tabled.

REGULAR AGENDA (NEW BUSINESS)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Garrison requested that the Chamber of Commerce and MainStreet give at least a quarterly report to the Council. He stated that records would possibly indicate that during the pandemic and the payout of PPP, CARES Act, etc., people in Eufaula shopped Eufaula first, and that promoting “Shop Eufaula first” would help the city’s revenue.

Council President Register reported that children’s story time continues on Monday mornings on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. There were 34 participants in the summer program that met their reading goals. The library auditorium is currently available for community meetings, but with the resurgence of COVID/Delta variant, that is subject to change. New teacher orientation was held today. There will be a vaccine clinic at the Admiral Moorer Middle School and the Eufaula High School on Thursday, August 12, 2021, and Thursday, September 2, 2021. The Teacher Institute will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021, and the first day of school will be Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

Mr. Robinson announced that the final day to register for soccer is Saturday, August 7, 2021. The Jaxon Life Senior Center is opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but a call in is essential to maintaining a safe environment through social distancing. Alabama Power Company is installing street lighting in essential locations.

The City of Eufaula and the Chamber, partnered through adopted Resolution 77-2020 on August 3, 2020, requesting that Retail Strategies conduct an update on the recruiting and retail strategies for business. The Chamber continues to work on its five-year strategic plan through its committees consisting of economic development, tourism, community development, and membership services. Mr. Robinson reported on the number of unemployment claims against the number of jobs that are actually available, and currently there are numerous jobs available.

Mr. Brown also reported that the garbage crew collected and hauled 65 tons of garbage. Trash crews picked up and hauled 59 tons of debris to the Barbour County landfill. The litter crew picked up 114 bags of trash throughout the city. The shop crew completed 18 work orders entered for vehicle and/or equipment repairs. The department produced 11 bales of recycled cardboard.

President Pro Tem Hill stated that crime has increased in recent weeks. He stated that local law enforcement is working to deter or eliminate any crime or violence as it occurs, and activity will continue to be monitored and assessed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the same was on motion by Mr. Robinson duly made and seconded by Mr. Garrison, adjourned this 2nd day of August, 2021.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer