

**MINUTES OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE EUFAULA CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.**

The Eufaula City Council met in a scheduled session on Monday, January 4, 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 Pastor Alan Cassady 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, John Robinson, and Ben Garrison.

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 amended agenda for January 4, 2021. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

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 amended regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2020.
- (b) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Claims Docket dated December 30, 2020 in the amount of \$32,656.97.

Mr. Garrison moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

VISITORS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Council President Register introduced Resolution 1-2021 (Adopting Rehab Policy Guidelines for CDBG 2020 Program). Council President Register noted that these policy guidelines aid in the selection of qualified residents for participation in this project. Mr. Garrison offered a motion to adopt Resolution 1-2021. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

RESOLUTION
1-2021

WHEREAS, the City of Eufaula, Alabama has been approved for 2020 Community Development Block Grant funds with which to implement a housing rehabilitation program within the confines of the approved Kent Drive – Biscayne Drive Target Area within its existing corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the rehabilitation program (# LR-CM-RR-20-002) necessitates the adoption of Rehabilitation Policies and Procedures that will govern the implementation of the housing rehabilitation activity; now

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Eufaula, Alabama does hereby approve and adopt the following:

City of Eufaula Rehabilitation Policy and Procedures Guide.
CDBG Program Number: LR-CM-RR-20-002

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Eufaula, Alabama on January _____, 2021.

THE CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Register introduced the first reading of the Stephenson/Shah Rezoning Proposed Ordinance – 431 north for discussion. City Attorney Joel Smith gave the proposed ordinance its first reading. This proposed ordinance amends the classification of a zone district from C-4/Highway Commercial and FAR/Forestry-Agricultural-Residential to C-4 (Highway Commercial), said property owned by Mitesh H. Shah and Vishal H. Shah and located on U.S. Highway 431 across from Tiger Drive.

Council President Register called for comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience. The second reading for this proposed ordinance will be held at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

City Attorney Joel Smith gave an overview of the authorization to move forward with publication of notice for incentives for the Bluff City Inn project. City Attorney Smith stated that this is a \$15,000,000 RAM Hospitality proposal that will completely renovate the existing Bluff City Inn structure from the inside out. Additional development to the existing structure expanding on the adjacent property could result in a 96-room hotel. The structure will be a 55,000 square foot facility that will be a part of Marriott Tribute portfolio with approximately 25 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. RAM Hospitality has asked that the City donate the adjacent property to the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, and to grant a five-year incentive payment equal to the hotel lodging tax collected on the hotel. Payment made back to RAM Hospitality would be an incentive from those funds.

City Attorney Smith then explained that the City would convey the property to the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. RAM Hospitality would need to acquire the adjoining property from the property owner located next to the Bluff City Inn, and negotiations are currently in progress. The Redevelopment Authority would then become the owner of that property and bonds would be issued to cover the financing and construction of the project delegated to a contractor used by RAM Hospitality. They would build the project through the bond issue and subsequently lease it to RAM Hospitality. Because the Downtown Redevelopment Authority is the owner of the hotel, it is not subject to sales tax on materials bought for the construction. A restaurant and coffee shop will also be located in the hotel. The project could take 1½-2 years with a tentative completion date scheduled for June 2022.

Mr. Garrison then offered a motion to move forward with the publication of notice for incentives for the Bluff City Inn project. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

Council President Register noted that the next regularly scheduled council meeting falls on the third Monday of January, Dr. Martin Luther King holiday. President Pro Tem Hill offered a motion to reschedule the Monday, January 18, 2021 meeting due to Dr. Martin Luther King holiday to Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

REGULAR AGENDA (NEW BUSINESS)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Garrison announced that the deadline for renewing business licenses is Monday, February 15, 2021, and due to COVID, please mail or phone in payments to city hall.

Council President Register reported that city schools will start virtual schooling on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 through Friday, January 15, 2021. AMMS and EHS pick up iPad equipment Tuesday, January 5, 2021. In-person schooling is scheduled to begin Tuesday, January 19, 2021, but with the increase in COVID cases, this start date will be unlikely. January is also School Board Member Appreciation month. Ronnie Smith, Director of the Carnegie Library is scheduled to give a report at the next scheduled city council meeting.

Mr. Robinson stated that basketball will be postponed for a couple of weeks due to the rise in COVID cases. The next parks and rec meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to pursue leads for opportunities here in Eufaula. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the Martin Luther King parade, breakfast, and work service day has been postponed.

Mr. Brown reported that the construction crew continues to carry out daily duties in Edgewood, Chewalla, and Cherokee areas. The sweeper has been through Cypress Cove and Hunter's Inlet. The garbage crew collected and hauled 54.8 tons of garbage. Trash crews picked up and hauled 51.23 tons of debris to the Barbour County landfill. The litter crew picked up 44 bags of trash throughout the city. The shop crew had 30 work orders entered for vehicle and/or equipment repairs. Ten bales of cardboard and 1 bale of plastic was recycled.

President Pro Tem Hill reported that there have been multiple car break-ins and urged everyone to keep vehicles secured at all times. Car break-ins have been on the rise over the last few weeks in various neighborhoods. President Pro Tem Hill also reported a significant rise in COVID cases for fire/rescue since the holidays. Fire Chief Feggins reported that the grant for a new department ambulance has been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the same was on motion by Mr. Garrison duly made and seconded by Mr. Hill, adjourned this 4th day of January, 2021.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer