

**MINUTES OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE EUFAULA CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 AT 5:15 P.M.**

The Eufaula City Council met in a scheduled session on Monday, December 21, 2020, 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 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, John Robinson, and Ben Garrison.

Also present: Mayor Jack B. Tibbs, Jr., 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 December 21, 2020 agenda. Mr. Garrison 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 regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2020.
- (b) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Prepaid Claims Docket dated November 30, 2020 in the amount of \$1,359,852.11.
- (c) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Claims Docket dated December 16, 2020 in the amount of \$62,660.73.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tibbs reported that there are several positive activities currently taking place in the City of Eufaula:

- (a) The city paving project is progressively coming to a close with approximately fifteen (15) streets left for paving.
- (b) The northern Industrial Park paving has been completed. The ADECA grant contributed to this project due to the tornado that struck the city in March 2019. Mayor Tibbs also commended the horticulture department for tending the entrance grounds of that area.
- (c) The southern Industrial Park paving is also complete. The industrial access grant will contribute to the upcoming installation of the turning lane at the entrance of the industrial park.

- (d) There are fourteen (14) members on the Southeast Alabama Gas District Board. Thirteen (13) of the fourteen (14) members are current mayors. The Board will distribute an additional \$47,000 to the City of Eufaula.
- (e) Retail recruitment for the City is very active and progressive at this time. The previous Council appropriated \$15,000.00 per year over the next three (3) years to the Chamber for retail strategies. A new strip mall will be built on the south end of the city near the Old Hair South business. Oak & Alley, an up-end restaurant, is tentatively expecting to locate downtown.
- (f) The EDA grant with the Water Works & Sewer Board will help to improve the infrastructure/sewer line upgrades at the southern Industrial Park back to the wastewater treatment plant. Including the (WWSB) Water Works & Sewer Board's match, this project totals \$3,000,000. The City of Eufaula had previously requested ownership of the wastewater treatment plant with the assistance of Representative Martha Roby. The initial lease was \$500.00 per month and increased to \$10,000 per month. This request has passed the House of Representatives and going to the Senate for a vote.
- (g) Mayor Tibbs mentioned an upcoming work session that will update the new council members about the current hospital and its functions along with the presentation of a new hospital and additional updates on other city business.
- (h) Mr. Garrison requested an update on the Bluff City Inn hotel. Mayor Tibbs stated that the purchase of the vacant structure near the hotel has to be purchased. This area will provide additional parking. The Bluff City Inn will be a 90-room hotel with an attractive restaurant, bar, and coffee shop. Although the planning phase has begun, the process will take upwards of two (2) years.
- (i) The Friends of the Martin Theatre was awarded a grant from Alabama Power Company in the amount of \$45,000 that will help with the expense of the theatre marque. The inside of the theatre also requires renovations of the 10,000 square foot space. This venue will complement the Bluff City Inn hotel accessible and accommodating to ceremonial activities such as weddings, etc.

VISITORS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Council President Register introduced Resolution 123-2020 (Authorizing Bidding of Guardrails Project – 12.01.2020). Council President Register noted that the passage of this resolution would initiate the bid process for this project. Mr. Garrison offered a motion to adopt Resolution 123-2020. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

RESOLUTION 123-2020

WHEREAS, the City of Eufaula obtained professional engineering and consultation services to prepare plans and specifications for construction of guard rails on Spruce Drive, in the Forest Hills Subdivision, and at the intersection of Benjamin Drive and Anderson Drive, off of Fox Ridge Road; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eufaula, based on recommendations from the engineers, has obtained estimates of construction costs for the guard rails.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eufaula to authorize moving forward with the bid process to construct the guard rails.

DONE THIS 21st day of December, 2020.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

Council President Register introduced the Barbour County Commission memo that explains the Commission's intention to renovate the buildings located at 405 East Barbour Street. The Commission's correspondence addressed to the mayor and council requested that the required permits necessary for the renovation be waived along with the fees associated with the permits. Mr. Garrison then offered a motion that this correspondence be accepted and adopted to waive the required fees associated with the issuance of the necessary permits required for renovation. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

REGULAR AGENDA (NEW BUSINESS)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Garrison stated that sales tax is steady and continues to trend upward. He stated that he is encouraged and has a positive outlook on the future of the city. He did note that "shop Eufaula first" strongly contributes to the increase of revenue and disposable income staying here in the city versus patrons going to Dothan or Columbus to shop.

Council President Register reported that he attended the December 14, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Council President Register acknowledged and congratulated Mr. Buster Padgett who received the Alabama Association of Agriculture Teacher of the Year 2020 Award. He continued that Mr. Padgett was and continues to be a great teacher and that his award is

well-deserved. He announced that school board members visited the individual schools and surprised the employees with bonuses last week.

Council President Register announced that the library will be closed for Christmas on December 24-26, 2020 and New Year's Day, but resume business on Saturday, January 2, 2021. The library will host Christmas programs and the children's story time on their Facebook page and Council President Register encouraged the audience to utilize this available service.

Mr. Robinson stated that the limitations on the night landings at the airport have been resolved and that the airport is expecting the State's approval soon to resume the night landings. The new terminal that was discussed during a council meeting last month has been tabled until a later date for council members to get more clarification and detail about the matter.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Chamber has attended virtual meetings about retail strategies that Mayor Tibbs discussed earlier in the meeting. He continued that Mr. Hawkins has been meeting with Southeast Alabama Works. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Clayton are both on various boards relating to retail strategies that represent Eufaula for economic development opportunities that would be good for the City of Eufaula.

Mr. Robinson commended Mrs. Ann Sparks for the beautiful tree lightings located on Broad Street. Mr. Robinson also presented to the Council the idea of surveillance cameras in specified areas of the City of Eufaula as a deterrence to crime and theft, and a precautionary measure of safety for the city.

Mr. Robinson commended Dixon Lumber Company for the \$16,000.00 donation to the community center that can get the fields ready for ball games and beautify the park. He stated that he is hopeful that there will be a 2021 baseball season. Basketball season will begin Monday, January 4, 2021. Work continues on the community center's roof and dehumidification system. The community center is attempting to have more tournaments in 2021 to offset some costs during COVID.

Mr. Brown reported that the garbage crew collected and hauled sixty-eight (68) tons of garbage to the Henry County Transfer Station. Trash crews picked up and hauled eighty-three (83) tons of debris to the Barbour County landfill. The litter crew picked up fifty-four (54) bags of trash throughout the city. The shop crew had fifteen (15) work orders entered for vehicle and/or equipment repairs. The construction crew has been doing a great job in assisting in the city. Mr. Brown thanked Public Works Manager Tim Brannon and his department for keeping the city clean and attractive.

President Pro Tem Hill reported that the police and fire departments are going well. Fire Chief Feggins reported that each city is allotted an amount of funding through their city. There is a grant with no match or cost that can potentially be attained for a new department ambulance.

Mr. Robinson stated that the City has lost several citizens this week, and asked that everyone keep those families in their prayers.

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. Robinson, adjourned this 21st day of December, 2020.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Wes Register, City Council President

ATTEST:

Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer