

MINUTES

Montevallo City Council Work Session

April 8, 2013

5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Mayor Hollie Cost, Council Member Rusty Nix, Council Member Willie Goldsmith, Council Member Don Hughes and Council Member Dee Woodham were in attendance. Council Member Sharon Gilbert was absent.

Mayor Cost called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. She then invited UM Art Professor, Min Lee, to make her presentation. Ms. Lee informed the council that her students developed ideas for way finding signage for downtown Montevallo. She then invited 7 groups of her students to present their concepts to the council.

After the presentations, Council Member Woodham thanked Ms. Lee and her students.

Chief Littleton then presented his report:

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104 Total Cases

75 Criminal Cases

29 Non- Criminal Cases

10 Auto Burglaries

15 Traffic Accident

85 Traffic Citations

5 DUI Arrest

24 Misdemeanor Arrest

1 Felony Arrest

95 Foot Patrols in Schools

721 Zone Checks

Conducted interviews for new dispatchers today. Will be conducting interviews for part-time officer in a couple of weeks.

Everything went smoothly with the Farm Day Parade.

I have received 1 estimate (David Mims \$750.00) for roof repair and in the process of looking for another estimate.

Owner of trailer that damaged weather siren and pole was located. Report is being completed.

Everyone is doing a good job!

Chief Reid reported that we did not receive our grant for the new fire truck. The reason they gave was that our overall fleet was too new. He also reported that the proposed EMS pilot program did not receive funding from Shelby County. On the brighter side, he reported that the light package is being installed on Rescue 21 and it should be ready shortly. Other than that, he said they are saying very busy.

Council Member Nix asked about this year's no-burn order. The Chief said it normally goes into effect May 1 to November 1. However, this year we may not fall under no-burn conditions. He said they are awaiting a determination from ADEM.

Council Member Woodham asked about the status of the proposed southwest Shelby alliance. The Chief said that because of the lack of funding they have to look at other potential alternatives. Mayor Cost added that because of this we will need to consider some options for Montevallo in our upcoming budget process.

Montevallo City Council Meeting

April 8, 2013

6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Mayor Hollie Cost, Council Member Rusty Nix, Council Member Willie Goldsmith, Council Member Don Hughes and Council Member Dee Woodham were in attendance. Council Member Sharon Gilbert was absent.

Mayor Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She noted that public hearing regarding the proposed removal of traffic signals on Middle Street at Oak and Valley Streets is being postponed until the next council meeting – April 22nd – at 6:00 p.m.

Approval and/or corrections of the minutes

Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve the Minutes from March 11, 2013. Council Member Nix seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve the Minutes from March 25, 2013. Council Member Nix seconded. Council Member Woodham Abstained. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Opportunities for citizens to speak to the Council

Franklin Bell asked about the status of removal of the non-compliant shed near the Middle School. The Mayor said she instructed our planning officials to pursue the removal of the shed but that she would need to contact them for an update on their progress. She said it does not comply with our codes and needs to be removed.

Committee Reports and Consideration of Bills:

Public Health & Safety (Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Housing Abatement) – Discussed earlier.

Sustainability (Streets & Sanitation, Recycling, Arbor & Beautification, ValloCycle, Environmental Preservation Initiatives) –

Council Member Hughes mentioned a complaint he received about the pole at the recycling center where our camera ids mounted. He said it is a hazard and needs to be marked with reflective tape or something because people have hit it with their cars.

Council Member Hughes also said he is looking at an attachment for our Bobcat which grinds pavement. He said it is an excellent tool to help properly repair potholes. Related to that, he reminded the council that Mr. Belk at Public Works and Mr. Harman at the Water & Sewer Board are working to develop pothole repair procedures. He said this is very important because a lot of the ongoing problems we are having with our streets are the result of improperly repaired utility street cuts.

Courtney Bennett reported for ValloCycle. She reminded everyone that they will have a meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at 12:30 p.m. She also reminded the council that ValloCycle will once again be co-sponsoring the upcoming Family Fun & Fitness Day. She said they have 19 new bikes. In addition, she reported that they have adopted a section of the walking trail.

Council Member Hughes said he will make sure the council has a copy of the proposed Complete Streets initiative. He hopes the council will be ready to consider it at the next meeting.

Recreation, Preservation and Community Development (Parks & recreation, Golf Course, Youth Athletics, Trails, Historical Commission, Planning & Zoning, Annexations) –

Council Member Nix reported that there were approximately 421 people at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. He said the event went very well. He noted that it seemed as if most of the attendees left there and went over to Farm Day, which was also a huge success.

Council Member Nix reported that the Golf Board has agreed to increase its rates slightly which will hopefully get them back on track financially. He said we still need to keep a close eye on their progress.

Council Member Hughes noted he has made a number of suggestions to them in the past.

Council Member Nix reported that the Youth Athletics programs are doing well. He did not have a trail report.

Council Member Woodham noted that Tim Dollins has agreed to chair the Trail Committee. She handed out a map prepared by Shelby County which shows points of interest and businesses around Montevallo. She said they still need to add the loop around the lake. Once the map is

completed, she hopes to add it to our website and have printed versions available at various kiosks.

Mayor Cost noted that the ValloCycle map also includes a similar list of area businesses and points of interest.

Council Member Hughes suggested that we need to stripe a bike lane on the walking trail around the park so that people will know where they can bike versus walk. Aaron Traywick suggested we simply add instructional signage along the trail.

David Belk informed the council that there will be boys' baseball and girls' softball tournaments in town this coming weekend, along with the Montevallo Art Show.

Council Member Hughes said he has suggested the fraternities consider hosting a bicycle race in Montevallo. Council Member Nix noted that the Birmingham Bicycle Club holds its race in Montevallo. Council Member Hughes said he envisions the UM race being strictly a local event.

Council Member Nix asked about the status of the pavilion at Orr Park. Mr. Belk said they are looking at the problem and will report back to the council. Council Member Nix said we need to try to save the pavilion if at all possible.

Council Member Nix reported that the Historical Commission expects to receive the designation for downtown sometime this month.

Education, Arts & Outreach (Schools, UM, Boys & Girls Club, Library, American Village, Sister City Commission, Artwalk, Middle School Grant) –

Allie Williams presented her report:

PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MONTHLY REPORT
MARCH 2013

CIRCULATION:	4482 Items Charged (Decreased by 8% from last year)	
EXPRESS CHECK OUT:	286 Items Checked Out (Decreased by 14%)	
COMPUTER USE:	995 Users (Increased by 6%)	
STORYTIME/4:	62 Children (Increased by 24%)	
MOVIES/4:	159 People Attended	
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS/4:	86 People Attended	
ADULT PROGRAMS/5:	57 People Attended	
ESOL CLASSES/4:	108 People Attended	
TAX HELP:	34 Patrons Assisted through March 28th	
WEBSITE VISITS	March 12 – April 8: 2,626 visits (1,358 visits from 3/26)	
DEPOSITS:	3/1/2013	\$83.05
	3/4/2013	\$94.20
	3/6/2013	\$169.13
	3/11/2013	\$133.30
	3/19/2013	\$154.70
	3/22/2013	\$82.05
	3/26/2013	\$56.60
	3/28/2013	\$90.05
	3/28/2013	\$76.95
	Total	\$920.03

Council Member Hughes asked about the gas bills at the library. Ms., Williams indicated they are pretty high, as are the electric bills in the summer. Council Member Hughes suggested we need to get quotes on installing tinting on the library windows.

Mayor Cost informed the council that the Big Event was a tremendous success with over 500 UM students volunteering on projects throughout Montevallo.

Finance, Economic Development & Tourism (Finance, MDCD, IDB, Chamber) –

Council Member Woodham reminded the council that the Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Council Member Woodham informed the council that our Sales Tax revenue for March was down \$3,700 over the same period last year. However, she noted we should still be ahead on Sales Tax revenue for the year. Of the larger bills in this meeting's packet, she pointed out a \$1,500 legal bill, mostly for Planning & Zoning related work.

Council Member Woodham also distributed information regarding proposed loan refinance alternatives. Debby Raymond explained our loan automatically converts to permanent financing on Friday, so we need to make our decision regarding the loan by Thursday. Council Member Woodham explained we have already drawn \$650,000 +/- . We will need some additional funds to complete the Promenade project. TrustMark has given us a quote at 2.14% for 6 years.

Mayor Cost said she would like to have a Special Called meeting to discuss this issue. She said there are additional capital needs which she would like to see us address. She said we need to consider the big picture as well as these small pieces.

Council Member Hughes noted that when a city says it doesn't owe any money, that isn't necessarily a good sign. He said there may be capital needs which are being ignored. He said we need to make improvements. Borrowing money for capital needs and paying it back is a continual process. He said we particularly need to consider borrowing money to make needed improvements today because of the incredibly low interest rates.

Mayor Cost said we are in a better position today to utilize debt because we have a way to pay back that debt.

Council Member Hughes said we need to remember that as we make improvements to our infrastructure that will help to spur additional investment and economic activity in our city. If our economy improves, everyone in Montevallo will do better.

The council decided to discuss this issue in greater detail at a Special Called Meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, April 10th at 4:30 p.m., during the time set for the Finance Committee meeting.

Council Member Nix made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Council Member Hughes seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Mary Lou Williams reminded everyone that the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is April 18th. She invited the council, as well as all city employees, to stop by for lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She also reminded the council the Chamber is sponsoring walking tours in Montevallo every Saturday during April at 10 a.m. May 15th there will be a special Chamber luncheon, and she encouraged everyone to attend.

Council Member Hughes commented that the Chamber Banquet was very enjoyable. Ms. Williams thanked those who were able to attend.

Consent Agenda: NONE

New Business:

Downtown Signage Project – Presented during Work Session.
Traffic Signals – Discussed earlier.

Janitorial Bid Award – Mayor Cost pointed out that we received one bid, in addition to a quote we received earlier. Both of those bids/quotes were higher than what we expected. She said we only have \$30,200 available to pay for these janitorial services. Instead of outsourcing these services, she recommended we hire a fulltime employee to do this work. As far as a vehicle is concerned, she said the Police Department has an old cruiser which is available. The availability of funds is dependent upon the council approving the increase in park rental fees.

Council Member Nix said the Park Board has expressed their support for the fee increase.

Council Member Hughes suggested that one benefit of going with a company is they clean at night.

Mayor Cost said the main reason for her recommendation is that we do not have sufficient funds budgeted to hire an outside contractor.

Council Member Nix asked how much additional money the increase to the park fees would generate. Mayor Cost said they expect an extra \$5,500 or so per year. She said this something we need to address immediately.

Council Member Hughes made a motion to hire a new employee as a custodian. Council Member Nix seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Waive Vendor Fees at High School Softball Tournament - April 12-13 – Council Member Nix made a motion to approve the waiver. Council Member Hughes seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

IT Services - Authorization to purchase Barracuda Web Filter - \$1,418 City Hall Computer Budget. Council Member Hughes made a motion to purchase the equipment. Council Member Woodham seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Purchase of PD Patches \$560 from Forfeiture Fund - Council Member Woodham made a motion to approve the purchase. Council Member Nix seconded. ALL AYES . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of the Golf Course Beer License – Council Member Woodham clarified that all of the net revenue from the sale of beer at the Golf Course would go to the city. Council Member Hughes expressed his concerns about selling beer at the course. Chief Littleton said he investigated the request and sees no reason to deny it. He said he talked with the course manager about the importance of tightly controlling who is able to purchase beer.

Council Member Nix made a motion to approve the ABC Board On & Off Premises Beer License for the Golf Course. Council Member Woodham seconded. Council Member Hughes voted NO. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Transfer of remaining Code Enforcement Funds to Police Department – In order to pay the cost of the Code Enforcement Officer, who will be an APOST Certified employee and administered under the Police Department, there was a request to transfer the remaining funds in the Code Enforcement Officer (Building Inspector) budget to the Police Department.

The Mayor informed the council that Mike Wilder will be transferred into that position. Council Member Hughes suggested that since Officer Wilder has just officially retired from the city, he cannot legally transfer into that position. Therefore, it must be advertised. The Mayor said she would look into that and proceed as appropriate. However, she said the issue tonight involved the transfer of funds within the budget.

Council Member Goldsmith made a motion to transfer the funds. Council Member Nix seconded. Council Member Hughes voted NO. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Proclamation Declaring April as Sexual Violence Awareness Month – The Mayor informed the council that she had signed this proclamation.

April 9th Mayor’s Day of National Service Reception – The Mayor invited everyone to attend a reception the following morning at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall to honor our local volunteers. She said we expect 40 to 60 volunteers to attend.

Authorization to drawdown remainder of Regions Loan – Will be discussed at the Special Called Meeting.

Old Business:

CDBG Grant Amendment – Council Member Goldsmith made a motion to approve the following resolution amending the CDBG grant scope of work. Council Member Nix seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 04102013-202

WHEREAS, the City of Montevallo has received a CDBG Grant to construct improvements to the Dailey Park Neighborhood;

WHEREAS, the City of Montevallo is requesting to amend the scope of the Dailey Park Neighborhood Improvement Project that will eliminate the proposed improvements to a section of Samford Street which is located in front of Montevallo Middle School.

THEREFORE, the Montevallo City Council is submitting a Formal Amendment request to the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs requesting approval to eliminate improvements to the above referenced section of Samford Street; and

THAT, Hollie C. Cost, Mayor, is hereby authorized to sign and submit all required documents to this affect requesting approval of the formal amendment.

READ AND ADOPTED this the 10th day of April 2013.

FOR THE MONTEVALLO CITY COUNCIL:

By: _____
Hollie C. Cost, Mayor

Attest:

Herman Lehman, City Clerk

The Mayor called for discussion.

Council Member Woodham had questions about who actually owns the street in front of the Middle School.

Franklin Bell from the Shoal Creek / Prentice Village Neighborhood expressed his concerns about the School Board's plans for the neighborhood and suggested the city may be better served waiting to do anything with regard to its CDBG grant until we know exactly what the School Board intends to do.

Council Member Hughes pointed out that we are only modifying our grant to leave out the portion of Samford St which is actually School Board property.

Council Member Goldsmith said that he served on the council before when the city lost a CDBG grant. He said we've worked too hard to obtain this grant over the past 4 years and did not want to see us lose this too.

Council Member Hughes said the tax map clearly shows the street is owned by the School Board. The Mayor pointed out that is why that portion of the street cannot be part of the grant.

Mayor Cost said she would check with the City Attorney to see if there is any reason not to move forward with this with regard to the ownership of Samford Street. Council Members Goldsmith and Nix withdrew their respective a motion and second. The item was carried over until Wednesday's Special Meeting.

Victory Building Purchase – No movement.

Duke Net Rental Agreement (w/Finance Committee) – No action.

HVAC Upgrade (w/Finance Committee) - No action.

Electrical Upgrade (w/Finance Committee) - No action.

Approval of increased rental rates to cover cleaning fee for park rentals – Increase of \$50 per event – Council Member Nix made a motion to approve the increase. Council Member Woodham seconded. Council Member Hughes ABSTAINED. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE . . . MOTION APPROVED.

Mayor’s Administrative Appointment to Planning Commission - No action.

Mayor’s Representative on Planning Commission - No action.

Emergency Policy - No action.

Residential Leased / Rental Property Code - No action.

Complete Streets Initiative – Discussed earlier.

Board Appointments: Mayor Cost said she was working toward posting the opening on the website.

Other Business

Council Member Hughes said he still hasn’t received a copy of the board member list. Mayor Cost said she will get that to him.

Council Member Hughes said he is also still waiting for a report from Mr. Belk on the cost of replacing street signs throughout the city and having the council approve a compliance plan as required by federal law.

He also mentioned the need to institute a work order system. Mayor Cost said she has a work order system in place. However, she pointed out that is an administrative function and not the responsibility of the city council.

Citizen Participation

Aaron Traywick brought up the Complete Streets proposal. Council Member Hughes said the council as a whole had not had the opportunity to read the proposed resolution, so he asked the consideration be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Traywick commented that it was a good thing that the council permitted concerned citizens to express their views during its meetings.

David Nichols addressed the council regarding several issues, including: a question regarding the location of the Bicentennial time capsule; a recommendation that the council open its meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a comment that our garbage rates are too high.

There being no other business before the council, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Herman Lehman
City Clerk