

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on August 20, 2012 at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by President Tunnell. President Tunnell led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: President Tunnell, Councilman Webb, Pro Tem Logan, Councilman Acker, and Councilman Harper. Also present were City Administrator Scott Collins and Mayor Bobby Herndon.

Mayor Herndon welcomed Terry & Paul Humphries with Billy's Restaurant to Northport. They are opening a new restaurant in downtown Northport. Mr. Humphries said he is excited to be in Northport and looks forward to the opening.

Mayor Herndon presented a proclamation to Mr. G's Restaurant for the business of the month for August.

Mayor Herndon presented a proclamation to Mr. Cephus Ward for his dedicated service to his community and proclaimed August 21, 2012 to be Mr. Cephus Ward Day in the City of Northport.

Mayor Herndon thanked our Police Department for their diligent work in capturing a murder suspect from a recent murder on Old Bridge Avenue, and also capturing a robbery suspect in a credit union robbery a couple of months ago.

Senator Greg Reed came before the council and mayor and gave them an update on the Alabama Legislature.

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Webb **to approve the Agenda for the August 20, 2012 Council Meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan **to approve Resolution 12-112 declaring certain equipment and vehicles as surplus and authorizing their disposal.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Harper, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Webb, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan **to approve Resolution 12-113 adopting an employee pay plan.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Webb, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper **to approve Resolution 12-114 authorizing the City Administrator to enter an agreement for E-Cycle Day.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Webb **to approve the consent agenda for the August 20, 2012 Council meeting.**

#### Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, August 6, 2012, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. Travel/Training, 2 employees, PATC Training, August 28-30<sup>th</sup>, Columbiana, AL, \$700 - Fire
4. Deleted
5. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Traffic Crash Reconstruction School, Oct 15-26<sup>th</sup>, Jacksonville, FL, \$2,510 - PD

Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

### **Reports of Special Committees of Council**

Mr. Richard LeCroy, with LeCroy, Hunter & Company presented the 2011 Audit Report.

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Acker to **approve Resolution 12-115 accepting the 2011 Audit Report**. Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

### **City Administrator's Business**

City Administrator Collins said he would like to clear up some issues that were discussed at a recent Mayoral forum about the city's budget. One of the issues had to do with the reserve funds being borrowed funds. He said this is not the case, and the reserve funds are actually cash deposits generated from sales tax revenue, business license, general fund, and water and sewer revenues. As of today, the reserve funds on the general fund are \$2,001,000; the water and sewer is \$700,000; the general fund is \$1.9 million in operating funds; and water and sewer operating funds is \$325,000. The health insurance has an adjusted balance of \$435,000. He said there was also a question brought up about the location of bond money for future projects, such as capital improvements and those funds are in a separate account at Regions Bank and not a city owned bank account and they are available and accessible for our capital projects. Any increase we have had in business license, sales tax and the water and sewer revenues have gone directly into these reserve accounts.

He said Senator Reed spoke a few minutes ago about a bill that would allow businesses to continue to receive certain funds from the state in the event of a natural disaster so that those businesses will continue to operate. Three years ago before the April 27<sup>th</sup> tornado, the city purchased insurance on our largest sales tax providers in the city, to ensure that if a natural disaster did occur, that any lost revenue would be covered by that policy if a natural disaster were to take those revenues away.

There was a question about the city's debt, and how we were going to pay for certain things when they come due. He said when the city did refinancing in 2009 and 2012, it included leveled refunding for the debt service, which means the payment stays the same through 2029 and will conclude in 2029. The payments are approximately \$1,247,000 on the general fund, and the water and sewer fund is \$2.7 million and will also be conclude in 2029. He said this refinancing resulted in a total interest savings to the city of approximately \$6 million, and added that the city should be debt free in 2029.

There has been some perception, that when the city purchased vehicles in the past three years that we have added to our fleet, when actually we have reduced the fleet by eleven (11) vehicles. The vehicles that were replaced were worn out, some with 273,000 miles on them. To put it in perspective, Mr. Collins said he actually got a phone call in the middle of the night a few years ago and was told that a police unit broke down while transporting an inmate, so it was imperative these vehicles be replaced. He stated that the new vehicles were purchased with cash and not borrowed money.

He thanked the current administration for their efforts to ensure that the public safety employees have good operating equipment and vehicles especially during emergency situations like that of the April 27<sup>th</sup> tornado. He said it is far more valuable to provide services to citizens in emergency situations than to debate how much money was spent on the emergency vehicles/equipment at a political forum.

City Administrator Collins asked that the September 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting be adjusted due to the Labor Day holiday.

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper **to adjust the September meeting schedule to Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at noon for canvassing election results and regular meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Second by Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan **to approve the ABC License for 43 North Texaco.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Harper, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper **to approve the ABC License for Northport Package Store.** Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

#### **Departmental Business:**

**Finance:** This report will be given next month.

**Fire:** Chief Wheat presented a report for the Fire Department.

**Water/Wastewater:** Larry Ingram presented a report for the Water/Wastewater Department.

**Retail Development:** Alan Harper presented a report for the Retail Development Department.

#### **Mayor & Council Member's Business:**

**Councilman Webb, District 1,** None

**President Pro Tem Logan, District 2,** Thanked Terry & Paul Humphries for choosing Northport to open Billy's Restaurant. He also recognize Mr. Rick Thornton with Little League International and thanked him for working with one of the local little leagues and helping them to get involved with the Little League Program.

**President Tunnell, District 3,** President Tunnell said there was a representative from the League of Women Voters in the audience and invited her to talk about the upcoming forum. She invited everyone to the forum on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Community Center from 6:30 until 8:30. She said the first hour will be for the candidates running for Mayor, and the second hour will be for the candidates running for council and invited everyone to attend.

**Councilman Acker, District 4,** None

**Councilman Harper, District 5,** None

**Mayor Herndon** said he was grateful for the new businesses coming to Northport and thanked the staff for all the hard work they do for the city. He also expressed his appreciation for the Fire and Police Departments for all their hard work as well.

**Motion** by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Acker to **adjourn the meeting**. Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes, President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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William Tunnell, President

ATTEST:

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Scott Collins, City Administrator