

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on July 16, 2012 at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by Mayor Bobby Herndon. 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.

Motion by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper to **approve the Agenda for the July 16, 2012 Council Meeting with the addition of 8(b)4 Awarding Bid File 12-08 FY 2012 City-Wide Street Resurfacing Project, and moving item 9(a) Police Department Management Review to 12(g) on the Agenda.** 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.**

President Tunnell opened the floor for the public hearing concerning the amendment to the Zoning Map.

President Tunnell closed the floor for the public hearing concerning the amendment to the Zoning Map.

Motion by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan to **approve Ordinance 1784 authorizing General Map Corrections to the Official Zoning Map of the City of Northport as attached in Exhibit A.** 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.**

President Tunnell opened the floor for the public hearing concerning the Conditional Use approval for Group Home Addition.

President Tunnell closed the floor for the public hearing concerning the Conditional Use Approval for Group Home Addition.

Motion by Councilman Webb, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan to **approve Resolution 12-91 granting a Conditional Use for the expansion of an existing group home at 1115 Hunter Creek Road in a RM-2 Zoning District.** 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 Councilman Harper, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan to **approve Resolution 12-92 granting a conditional use for a temporary classroom at 13650 Highway 43 in and I-O Zoning District.** 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 Councilman Harper to **approve Resolution 12-93 declaring certain equipment and vehicles as surplus and authorizing their disposal.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Acker, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Acker to **approve Resolution 12-94 approving General Fund Budget Amendment 12-02.** 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.**

Motion by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Acker to **approve Resolution 12-95 approving Water/Sewer Fund Budget Amendment 12-02.** 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.**

Motion by Councilman Webb, **Second** by Councilman Harper, to **approve the Consent Agenda for the July 16, 2012 Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, July 2, 2012, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, Lamar Advertising, \$6,000 - RD
4. PO Requisition, J & J Telephone, Phone Installation - Water
5. PO Requisition, Revere Controls WWTP, \$6,800 Overload Relays – Wastewater
6. Travel/Training, 1 Officer, Strategic Self-Defense & Grappling Tactics, August 13-17th, Helena, AL, \$500 - PD

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

President Tunnell opened the floor for the public hearing concerning the abatement of a weed nuisance at 5906 5th Court.

President Tunnell closed the floor for the public hearing concerning the abatement of a weed nuisance at 5906 5th Court.

Motion by Pro Tem Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper to **approve Resolution 12-96 ordering the abatement of a weed nuisance at 5906 5th Court.** 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 Councilman Acker, **Second** by Pro Tem Logan to **approve Resolution 12-97 Awarding Bid File 12-08 FY2012 City-Wide Street Resurfacing Bid to Central Alabama Asphalt and Construction Co. in the amount of \$718,825.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Acker, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Acker, **Second** by Councilman Harper to **deny Claim 12-39.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Webb, Yes; Pro Tem Logan, Yes; President Tunnell, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Robert Thomas from 13609 Old Ivy Drive appeared before Council to discuss Ordinance 1779 pertaining to political signs on the right-of-way. He said the Ordinance didn't specify and exact square footage of the city right-of-way and he asked for clarification. City Administrator Collins said most of the time you can go by the power lines and if the signs are behind those, they should be out of the city right-of-way. Mr. Thomas also wanted to make sure that the city was consistent with picking up any political sign that was in the city right-of-way and not just pick up certain ones. City Administrator Collins ensured Mr. Thomas that that would not happen and when the signs are picked up they are at City Hall for one (1) week and then taken to the Public Works Department. The candidates can check each location to retrieve their signs.

Ms. Karen Bunnell, from 4500 Kingdom Court discussed the bridge on Kingdom Court in the Vestavia East neighborhood. Ms. Bunnell said when she moved into the home six (6) years ago she was told by the previous owners that the city maintained the bridge on Kingdom Court. When she contacted the city to repair the bridge she was told the city

Did not maintain the bridge, and she would like to know what to do to get the city to maintain it. President Tunnell asked City Engineer Charles Swann about the bridge. Mr. Swann said when Ms. Bunnell contacted him he researched the bridge and found no record that the city had never maintained the bridge, had never accepted the bridge, consequently, the city garbage and trash trucks do not cross the bridge. President Tunnell suggested Ms. Bunnell research and see if she could find a record of a petition being made to the city, or of the city accepting the bridge into the jurisdiction and we could go from there. President Tunnell also suggested Mr. Swann and the city attorney doing more historical research on the bridge to find out if the city ever accepted the bridge. City Administrator Collins asked Mr. Swann to also check with Tuscaloosa County and see if they have any records of maintenance to the bridge.

Chris Hornick and Kathy Fox with CWH Research, Inc. presented a detailed report with the results of an audit they completed at the Northport Police Department. He said they met with several people including the Mayor, City Administrator, Council members, Civil Service Board, IIT Committee, Department Heads, City Attorney and Human Resource Director, as well as Police Department staff, and former Police Department staff. They also evaluated memos, emails and had access to harassment complaints within the department that was processed through the Human Resource Department during their research. He said they were concerned with the turnover rate of approximately 61% during the six (6) years that Chief Green was chief of the department. He said that is a very high turn-over rate and suggest that there were some significant issues going on in the department.

They found unfair and inconsistent discipline, fear of retaliation, employee favoritism, low morale, a dismantled chain of command, no clear understanding of the department's mission and goals, pay issues, etc.

Some of their recommendations are to reinforce the chain of command, recruit nationally and use a valid selection process to select a new police chief, continue researching pay equity issues, use a valid testing process for promotions, and create a strategic plan.

Mayor Herndon thanked them for the time and effort they put into the research for this detailed audit and the professionalism in presenting it to the council.

President Tunnell thanked the employees and staff for participating in this audit, and Mr. Hornick and Ms. Fox for their time and effort they put into the report.

Mr. Chuck Gerdau from 3909 Northwood Lake Dr. West appeared before the council with questions for Mr. Hornick and Ms. Fox pertaining to the audit of the Police Department.

Departmental Business:

The reports for the following departments were removed due to the Police Department Audit: Finance, Fire, Retail Development, Police, Water/Wastewater.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

Councilman Webb, District 1, None

President Pro Tem Logan, District 2, Gave an update on the Kennedy/Snow Drainage Project and said the construction phase is approximately 98% complete.

President Tunnell, District 3, None.

Councilman Acker, District 4, said there were several people from his district attending the meeting and he wanted to thank them for doing so.

Councilman Harper, District 5, None

Mayor Herndon announced that Big Lots will be having their grand opening on Friday, July 20th and will be having a ribbon cutting at 8:30 and encouraged everyone to attend. He also said that he talked to the highway department and they are in the process of getting signage along the Interstate exits for Northport. He also said he is working on a solution for the Salvation Army donation area next door to City Hall. He said several people have been concerned about the condition of the area. Mayor Herndon also mentioned the paving of Kentuck Park will be included in the FY2012 City-wide Street Resurfacing Project.

City Administrator Collins informed everyone that the Alabama Department of Transportation will be meeting Thursday, August 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with an update on highway projects.

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 7:55 p.m.

William Tunnell, President

ATTEST:

Scott Collins, City Administrator