

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on September 18, 2017, at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by President Logan. President Logan led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: Councilman Boozer, President Logan, Pro Tem Sullivan, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Hogg. Also present was Mayor Aaron and City Administrator Bruce Higginbotham.

**Motion** by President Logan, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **approve the agenda for the September 18, 2017, Council meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

### **Visitors to Address the Council**

Mr. Bobby Herndon, 5925 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Northport came before Council to discuss several items. Mr. Herndon explained that the Tuscaloosa County School Board has been promising the City of Northport since 2008 they will build a new middle school in Northport. Mr. Herndon urged the City Council to hold the County Board to the promise of a new middle school. Mr. Herndon also discussed the recent news article in the Tuscaloosa News pertaining to selling Northport City Hall. He said the city needs to have a specific plan in place so that it will be money well spent for the citizens of Northport. He said in his opinion, if a new City Hall is built, that it should be in the northern portion of Northport, where the most recent growth is, and not in the downtown area. Lastly, Mr. Herndon expressed his disappointment with the recent audit report and said that he has contacted the State Attorney General's office to investigate. President Logan thanked Mr. Herndon for his comments and said that Pro Tem Sullivan would like to address the audit report at this time.

Pro Tem Sullivan addressed the recent news article in the Tuscaloosa News regarding the 2016 Audit Report. He said that while the article was well written, the headlines were deceiving by referencing that officials possibly broke state law, he said he did not break the law. Pro Tem Sullivan went over in detail, each of the material weaknesses listed by the auditors in the report, and gave the solution that is already in effect, or that will take effect promptly to solve the issues. He said it is time to move the city forward and his number one goal is to improve the quality of life for the Northport citizens. He urged the Mayor and Council to refocus their attention on making Northport the thriving city they know it can be.

Mayor Aaron applauded Pro Tem Sullivan for his comments and said she appreciated him for his candor.

**Motion** by Councilman Boozer, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1937 amending and establishing speed limits along all U.S. and Alabama Highways within the City Limits of Northport.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Boozer, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Davis, **Second** by Councilman Boozer to **adopt Ordinance 1938 granting the annexation of approximately 41 acres located south of Northwood Estates and north of Biscayne Hills.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Boozer, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1939 granting the rezoning of approximately 53 acres located south of Northwood Estates and north of Biscayne Hills from AG (Agricultural) to RS-9 (Single Family Residential).** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Boozer, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Councilman Hogg offered for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Ordinance adopting Rules and Regulations for Williamson Cemetery.**

**Councilman Davis offered for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Ordinance rezoning 13 acres located between Carolwood Lakeview Drive and Sleepy Valley Road.**

**Motion** by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Boozer to **adopt Resolution 17-87 authorizing the City Administrator to enter an agreement with NetMotion in the amount of \$3,543.75, for the yearly maintenance of the Mobility Mobile VPN Software, and to authorize the City Administrator to execute the necessary documents and requisitions pertaining to said agreement.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Boozer, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to **adopt Resolution 17-88 modifying the City's policy on payment of new Workman's Compensation Claims to follow Alabama State Law.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Boozer, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Boozer to **adopt Resolution 17-89 increasing the employees and retirees portion of health insurance costs by no more than five percent.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Resolution 17-90 appointing Mr. Mike Manson to the Tuscaloosa Public Library Board with his term expiring in August, 2019.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Boozer, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to **adopt Resolution 17-91 authorizing the City Administrator to execute an agreement with BKL, Inc. for Design Services associated with the Charlie Shirley Road/Highway 69 Improvement Project and authorize the City Administrator to sign all necessary documents and requisitions pertaining to said agreement.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Boozer, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion** by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Resolution 17-92 authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation in the amount of \$250,000.00 pertaining to Improvements to SR 13 (U.S. 43) at Mitt Lary Road and execute all documents pertaining to said agreement.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Mayor Aaron commented that this project will be a huge benefit to this area.

**Motion** by Pro Tem Sullivan, **Second** by Councilman Hogg to **approve the Consent Agenda for the September 18, 2017 Council Meeting.**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes, September 11, 2017, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, In-House Consulting Services, Varnon Engineering, \$5,002.50 - Engineering
4. Travel/Training 1 employee, Alabama Animal Control Academy, Oct. 31-Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hoover, AL \$300.00 - PD
5. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Attorney General's Summit, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, Montgomery, AL \$0 - PD
6. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Gangs in Alabama, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuscaloosa, AL \$0 - PD

7. PO Requisition, Hunter Creek Road Drainage Repair, L&D Moore Contracting, \$45,448.00 - PW
8. Travel/Training 2 employees, ADEM Surface Water Meeting, Oct. 25-26<sup>th</sup>, Montgomery, AL \$344.22 - Utilities
9. PO Requisition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Testing at WTP, TTL, Inc. \$8,500.00 – Utilities

Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

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

Councilman Hogg explained that the Retail Development Committee has considered accepting Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the potential sale of the City Hall property. He said this is not something that has to be done, however, the Committee would like to see what interest there is in the property. He said the location of the property would be great for a retail development and he asked Council for their consideration of accepting Requests for Proposals (RFP's). He clarified that if the Council makes the decision to accept RFP's, that this won't necessarily mean they will sell City Hall, but this will be a good indicator as to who is interested in the property.

City Attorney Davis said that he has a "DRAFT" of an advertisement for RFP's and will finalize it after review of the City Council and explained all the details.

**Motion by Councilman Hogg, Second by President Logan to authorize the City Administrator and the City Attorney finalize the RFP for the sale of the Northport City Hall/Civic Center location along the general guidelines of the draft that has been circulated to the City Council and that the City Administrator be authorized to advertise the RFP in the Tuscaloosa News and the Northport Gazette.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

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

City Administrator Higginbotham explained that Mr. Ron Price, on behalf of Bill Lunsford came to the previous Council meeting to ask for consideration and approval of a change in a retail center site plan located at Wildcat Drive and Rose Blvd. The item under consideration is changing the site plan from a retaining wall to a sloped elevation that will encroach on City property. City Administrator Higginbotham said this is a time sensitive issue and asked for the Council's consideration on the issue.

**Motion by Councilman Davis, Second by Councilman Boozer to grant Bill Lunsford Construction the request to begin grading along the property line between his development and Fire Station No. 4 subject to the final drawing and agreement between Mr. Lunsford and the City pertaining to the drainage, liability, landscaping, irrigation, and landscaping maintenance and that the agreement be brought back before Council for final approval.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

#### **Departmental Business – Legal Department:**

City Attorney Ron Davis explained Mr. Kendrick's claim and said the Claims Committee met on Claim No. 17-39 and decided to adjust Mr. Kendrick's bill for excess water usage and deny the remaining portion of his claim due to the pressure reducer valve being the responsibility of the customer. Mr. Kendrick 13868 Darden Avenue, Northport came before Council to explain his claim.

**Motion** by Councilman Boozer, **Second** by President Logan to **deny any additional payment for Claim No. 17-39**. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Boozer, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Hogg, No. **Motion Carried.**

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Jody Jobson, 1534 Bellwood Lane, Northport came before council to inquire about the appointment to the Tuscaloosa County Forensics Committee. Mr. Jobson explained that on May 5, 2014, by Resolution 14-44, the City Administrator was appointed to this committee and wanted to make sure it didn't need to be revised. Mr. Jobson also requested a list of all internal and external boards and committees be listed on the website along with the members or appointments. Mr. Jobson commended the Council for their work on the budget. President Logan said that City Attorney Ron Davis will investigate the Northport appointment to the Tuscaloosa County Forensics Committee and get back with him.

Mr. Chuck Gerdau, 3909 Northwood Lake Drive West, Northport came before Council to discuss the recent Tuscaloosa County High School Homecoming. He said he attended the homecoming festivities and wanted to make the Council and Mayor aware of the new Dennis Hambright Memorial Endowed Scholarship named in honor of the late Councilman Dennis Hambright. He explained that the scholarship must be endowed within five (5) years of its creation and urged everyone to donate. Mr. Gerdau said you can donate on-line by visiting [www.alumni.ua.edu](http://www.alumni.ua.edu) or you could mail in a donation card. Mr. Gerdau said he will email the information to the City Council.

**Mayor and Council Member's Business:**

**Councilman Boozer, District 1**, none

**President Logan, District 2**, thanked Pro Tem Sullivan for all his hard work on the Finance Committee. President Logan explained that the request for proposals on the City Hall property was to gauge the interest and thanked Councilman Hogg for his help.

**President Pro Tem Sullivan, District 3**, said he wants to do a good job now to make the City of Northport better for his kids.

**Councilman Davis**, thanked Pro Tem Sullivan and the Finance staff for doing a great job. He commended Pro Tem Sullivan for taking a stand and said he supports him one-hundred percent.

**Councilman Hogg, District 5**, thanked Mr. Chuck Gerdau for making everyone aware of the scholarship for the late Councilman Dennis Hambright and said that he hopes it will be endowed soon. Councilman Hogg also thanked Fire Chief Marshall for allowing his family to ride on the fire truck during the TCHS Homecoming parade.

**Mayor Aaron**, commended Pro Tem Sullivan and city staff for all the hours spent away from their family while working on the budget. She said the Council is a team and they all love the city and their goal is for Northport to be better and more prosperous. She said the request for proposals for the City Hall property is only to see who is interested in the property. Mayor Aaron commented on the opinions made concerning moving City Hall towards the northern area of the city, and said she disagrees and feels that if City Hall is moved in the future, that it should be located near the downtown area, which is the heart of the city.

**Motion** by Councilman Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis **to adjourn the meeting.**  
Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes;  
President Logan, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes. **Motion  
Carried Unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned  
at 7:25 p.m.

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Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:

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Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator