

The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on October 2, 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 October 2, 2017, Council meeting with the addition of an Executive Session lasting approximately one hour and thirty minutes.** 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. Chuck Gerdau, 3909 Northwood Lake Drive W. came before Council and gave them a presentation on the data from the 2015 Walker Study for the Tuscaloosa County School System. The Walker Study was prepared for use in determining growth and capacity in the Tuscaloosa County School System through the 2024-2025 school year. According to Mr. Gerdau, the data from the study shows the most growth in the Tuscaloosa County School system is in the Northport area schools.

Councilman Boozer thanked Mr. Gerdau for his presentation. He explained that he has been in discussions with the Tuscaloosa County School Board concerning the plans for a proposed new school in Northport. Councilman Boozer explained that the Tuscaloosa County School Board has two proposals for a new school in Northport, however, neither configuration includes a middle school as promised by the school board several years ago. Councilman Boozer said that the school board has a tough decision to make, however, he didn't think their proposed plan would be the best for Northport students.

Mr. Ray Glenn, came before Council in opposition of the proposed Tuscaloosa County School Board plan for the new school in Northport. He expressed his disappointment with the proposed plan and encouraged the Council to continue the fight and do what is best for Northport.

Mayor Aaron thanked Mr. Glenn and Mr. Gerdau for their remarks. She explained that years ago, a new Tuscaloosa County High School was built with donated money from citizens and supporters, as well as a five-million-dollar obligation by the City of Northport. She said no one else in the County has put up money for a new school, only Northport, and said that they may have to raise money once again, for a new middle school.

Mr. Don Wallace, 527 Main Avenue, Northport came before Council in opposition of the proposed Tuscaloosa County School Board plan for the new school in Northport. He encouraged the City Council to continue to do what is needed to address the growth and busing issues for the students in Northport.

Councilman Davis thanked Mr. Glenn, Mr. Gerdau, and Mr. Wallace for their comments. He discussed his opposition to the proposed plan, and said he stands behind his constituents and will continue to communicate this opposition to the Tuscaloosa County School Board. He also said that the city has honored their obligations in the past, and used the examples of the five-million-dollars paid for the new Tuscaloosa County High School, and the Project Crimson Agreement, and said he hopes the County School Board will do the same regarding their obligation of building a new middle school in Northport.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adopt Ordinance 1940 adopting Rules and Regulations for the Williamson Cemetery.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, Second by Councilman Boozer to approve the Consent Agenda for the October 2, 2017, 2017 Council Meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, September 18, 2017, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, House Prisoners, Jan-Mar 2017, Tuscaloosa County Commission, \$42,582.54 - PD
4. Travel/Training for additional expense on PATC training costs, Compass Bank, \$113.90 - Fire
5. PO Requisition, Audit Expenses, LeCroy, Hunter & Co. \$18,700.00 - Finance
6. PO Requisition, Professional In-House Consulting Services, Varnon Engineering, \$2,300.00 – Engineering
7. PO Requisition, Project Crimson Agreement, Tuscaloosa IDA, \$150,000.00 – Admin
8. Travel/Training, 2 employees, 2017 AL/MS APA Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL \$500.00 – Planning
9. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Auburn Univ. Business & Industry Marketing and Attraction, Hoover, AL \$75.00 – Planning
10. PO Requisition, House Prisoners, April-June 2017, Tuscaloosa County Commission, \$34,670.10 – PD
11. Travel/Training, 4 employees, “Smashed” the Impaired Driving Crash Training for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors, Nov. 3rd, 2017, Montgomery, AL & Jan. 17, 2018, Birmingham, AL \$0 – PD
12. Travel/Training, 3 employees, Gulf Coast 911 Conference, Oct. 15-18th, Orange Beach, AL \$1,778.22 – PD
13. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Counter Ambush Tactics for Officer Survival, Nov. 13-14th, Tuscaloosa, AL \$390.00 – PD
14. PO Requisition, Shirts, Pull-Overs, and Hats, KDL, \$8,846.90 – Fire

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.**

Reports of Special Committees of Council:

Councilman Boozer announced there will be an Administrative Committee Meeting tomorrow at 3:30 pm at City Hall. He explained that they will be working through the handbook.

President Logan thanked the City Council for allowing the RFP’s for the City Hall property. He said this process is to identify the interest in the City Hall property for retail development. He also said that in the retail development presentation given at the last council meeting, one of the elements mentioned was Alabama State Code Amendment 772 which pertains to promotion of economic and industrial development. He explained the Retail Development Committee thought it would be in the best interest of the City to hire a firm that is very familiar with Amendment 772 so that when the time comes for incentives for new development the city would be better prepared.

Motion by President Logan, Second by Councilman Hogg, to adopt Resolution 17-93 employing the law firm of Trussell, Funderburg, Rea and Bell to assist the City with one or more retail development agreements, and authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate an agreement for legal representation for the city with this law firm. Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Departmental Business:

Utilities Director, John Powell Webb invited the public to review the City of Northport's Storm Water Management Program Plan. He said you can go to the city's website at www.cityofnorthport.org under the Engineering Division, Storm Water Management tab to find out more information. He encouraged the public to review the plan and offer any comments and suggestions they may have.

City Attorney, Ron Davis said that he will need an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss retail development and potential litigation. He said it would last approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Mr. Davis asked for a ten-minute break immediately following adjournment into the Executive Session so that the Council can talk to the media.

Public Comment:

Ms. Tracy Ferguson, 3260 Palmetto Street came before Council in opposition of the proposed Tuscaloosa County School Board plan for the new school in Northport. She said she has concerns with busing students, as well as the additional traffic that will be added to Mitt Lary Road which is already very heavy during school times.

Ms. Jamie Dykes, 4015 Frontier Street came before Council in opposition of the proposed Tuscaloosa County School Board plan for the new school in Northport. Ms. Dykes said that a few years ago when there was talk about Northport starting their own separate school system, she was against it, however, now she said that she would rather have that instead of what the Tuscaloosa County School Board has proposed for Northport.

Mr. William Nowell, 5217 Northwood Lake Drive W. came before Council to discuss paving and patching potholes on his street. He explained that it has been several years since his cul-de-sac has been paved and asked for the Council to consider repaving it soon. He also asked for the Public Works Department to patch the potholes until it can be repaved.

Mr. Jody Jobson, 1534 Bellwood Lane came before Council to discuss the Tuscaloosa County Forensics Board. Mr. Jobson explained that at the September 18th Council meeting he asked City Attorney Ron Davis to check into the Tuscaloosa County Forensics Committee to see if the board is active and if so, who is the Northport representative. City Attorney Davis said he has not had the time to check into the matter.

Mayor and Council Member's Business:

Councilman Boozer, District 1, none

President Logan, District 2, offered his condolences for the family of Mr. Cameron Pruitt who passed away recently. He announced the Citizen of the Year Banquet will be Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:30 at Five Points Baptist Church and encouraged everyone to attend. President Logan invited Mr. Russ Ware, representing BKI, Inc. to give an update on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Improvements Project. Mr. Ware said that recently they had a kick-off meeting with ALDOT and anticipate having a Public Involvement Meeting within the next two months.

President Pro Tem Sullivan, District 3, thanked everyone that commented on the proposed new school in Northport, and said this will directly affect his children as well. He thanked Councilman Boozer for all his work pertaining to the new school.

Councilman Davis, none

Councilman Hogg, District 5, said that he empathizes with the parents pertaining to the proposed new school plan and said last year his four children were in four different schools. He said that the City should hold the County School Board accountable to their promise of a new middle school. Councilman Hogg thanked the Council for being proactive and hiring the firm of Trussell, Funderburg, Rea and Bell to assist the City with the retail development agreements, and said this is a great step forward in growing Northport.

Mayor Aaron, expressed her appreciation to the Tuscaloosa County School Board for taking the time to meet with the City and hear their concerns. She said the Board has a huge task in front of them. Mayor Aaron said that Northport has done a great deal for the schools in Northport such as committing five million dollars for the new Tuscaloosa County High School, as well as creating the Rose Fine Arts Initiative which donates money to art teachers in the Northport Schools. Mayor Aaron said that she hopes that the parents and citizens can convince the School Board that Northport needs a new middle school and not the configuration that the Tuscaloosa County School Board has proposed for Northport.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Davis to **adjourn into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss retail development and potential litigation. The session should last approximately one hour and thirty minutes and the Council will take no action after the Executive Session is concluded.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Boozer, Yes; Pro Tem Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Hogg, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

The Council reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Pro Tem Sullivan to **adjourn the 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.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:

Bruce Higginbotham, City Administrator