The regular meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 6:00 p.m. on September 21, 2015, at the Northport City Hall, located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. The invocation was offered by Mayor Herndon. President Logan led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: President Logan, Councilwoman Hayes, Councilman Sullivan, Pro Tem Acker, and Councilman Harper. Also present was City Administrator Scott Collins and Mayor Bobby Herndon.

City Administrator Collins presented Pro Tem Acker with a plaque for his dedicated service as District 4, City Councilman from 2008 to 2015. Pro Tem Acker will be moving out of Northport, therefore, this will be his last council meeting. Each of the members of Council, Mayor Herndon, and City Administrator Collins wished him well and said he will truly be missed. Pro Tem Acker thanked everyone for their kind words. He said the City has improved a great deal in seven years, and he appreciates the support from the previous Council, as well as the present Council, and the staff.

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper to **approve the agenda for the September 21, 2015 Council Meeting.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Councilman Sullivan to **approve Ordinance 1876 ordering demolition of an unsafe structure located at 2302 Deerhaven Drive.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes; President Logan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Harper **to approve Ordinance 1877 ordering the demolition of an unsafe structure located at 2015 28th Street.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Ordering Demolition of an unsafe structure located at 1609 12th Street.

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Ordering Demolition of an unsafe structure located at 1211 Bridge Avenue.

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Ordering Demolition of an unsafe structure located at 1710 17th Street.

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Authorizing Conditional Use Approval for a group home at 3421 24th Street.

Councilman Sullivan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Amending Chapter 70, Article VIII of the Municipal Code pertaining to Towing and Storage of Motor Vehicles.

President Logan offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Amending Section 66-285 of the Municipal Code pertaining to licensing of food trucks.

Motion by Pro Tem Acker, **Second** by Councilman Harper to **approve Resolution 15-55 approving the 2016 General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund Budget.** Councilwoman Hayes read the following statement:

> The only information on this budget was provided to the Council members in a short work session after the interviews for candidates to replace Steve Acker. The Council did not hear from many of the Department Heads or outside Agencies. This process should have been conducted over several months so that there was adequate time to hear from those who were affected by the budget. Something of this importance to the City that involves so much tax payer's money deserved much more time. The budget was presented within ten (10) days of the presentation of the audit. The audit was supposed to be presented publicly before the Council when minutes were being kept and made available to the public according to State Code. The audit has not been

widely made available to the citizens of Northport. I request that the audit be placed on the City's Web-site and left there until a new audit is available. I can't in good conscious vote on approving budgets tonight. I am asking that the vote be post-phoned until the budget is presented, with adequate time to study it, and for input from those who are affected by it, and also after tax payers are given access to the audit.

President Logan stated for clarification that the audit is totally separate from the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund Budget. Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, No; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; President Logan, Yes. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Councilman Sullivan, **Second** by Councilman Harper **to approve Resolution 15-56 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Tuscaloosa County concerning Northport/Tuscaloosa County Rescue Runs.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes; President Logan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by President Logan, **Second** by Councilman Sullivan **to approve Resolution 15-57 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Metro Animal Shelter Services.** Roll call vote was as follows: President Logan, Yes; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes; Councilman Harper, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Councilwoman Hayes **to approve Resolution 15-58 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ALDOT for installation of a Signal Optimization System.** Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Harper, Yes; Councilwoman Hayes, Yes; Councilman Sullivan, Yes; Pro Tem Acker, Yes; President Logan, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Councilman Harper, **Second** by Councilwoman Hayes, to **approve the Consent Agenda for the September 21, 2015, Council Meeting.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, August 31, 2015 Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. Travel/Training, 2 employees, Revenue Officers Training, Oct. 7-9th, Tuscaloosa, AL $450 - Finance
4. Travel/Training, 5 employees, Street Survival Seminar, Oct. 15-16th, Pelham, AL $250 - PD
5. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Negotiation Tactics for Crisis Responders, Columbiana, AL $50 - PD
6. PO Requisition, Server and Data Storage Equipment, GovConnection, $5,554.67 - PD
7. PO Requisition, 15 Body Cameras, Vievu, $13,548.25 - PD
8. PO Requisition, Forklift, Thompson Tractor, $19,000 - PW
9. Travel/Training, 3 employees, Annual NENA 911 Conference, Oct. 11-14th, Orange Beach, AL $1,753.80 PD
10. Travel/Training, 1 employee, Spillman System Admin. Training, Sept. 27-Oct. 2nd, Salt Lake City, UT $0 - PD
11. Travel/Training, 3 employees, Leadership Management, $616, Florence, AL - Admin
12. PO Requisition, Professional Engineering Services for Kentuck Lift Station, McGiffert & Associates, $29,300 - Utilities
13. PO Requisition, E-Ring, Inc., $6,990 - Admin
14. PO Requisition, AllComm, Equipment, $8,493.96 - Admin
15. Travel/Training, 2 employees, 2015 AAPPA Conf., Oct. 20-23rd, Guntersville, AL $1,080.00 - HR

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

City Administrator's Business:

City Administrator Collins announced that he sent out an email about the Special Council Meeting that will take place on Thursday, September 24th, at noon in the Council Chambers. He said the items on the agenda to be discussed are the appointment of the Councilmember for District 4, selecting the President Pro Tem, as well as an update on the Police Chief vacancy.

Departmental Business:

Fire Chief Bart Marshall informed everyone that the Fire Department recently received a "Class 3" ISO (Insurance Service Office) Rating. He explained that communities across the United States are evaluated on their fire suppression capabilities and said this rating is very hard to achieve, and places Northport Fire Department in the top 8% of Fire Departments in the USA. He said this ranking will also help minimize the insurance premiums by a small percentage of commercial businesses, and some citizens, depending upon who their carrier is, could see a small decrease in premiums as well.

Public Comment:

Ms. Cheryl Thomas-Walker, 1803 19th Street, came before Council in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Roadway Improvement Project.

Ms. Elizabeth Stanard, 2105 22nd Avenue came before Council to invite everyone to a Northport Community Potluck. The event will take place Sunday, October 25th from 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the Northport Community Center.

Mr. Stephen Schwab, 2520 5th Street, came before Council to discuss the traffic situation on 5th Street. He said the traffic is steadily getting worse, and recently a vehicle hit the sign in front of Billy's Restaurant and in his opinion, would have killed someone if anyone was sitting on the patio at the time. He said he recently did an experiment by counting vehicles that drove by his house. Within a 30 minute period he counted 248 vehicles and estimated that approximately ¼ of those vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. He asked for any help the Council could provide.

Mrs. Diana Schwab, 2520 5th Street, came before council to discuss her experience with the Northport Heritage Society. She said she recently attended her first meeting of the Northport Heritage Society and she learned the importance of this society to downtown Northport. She explained that the society owns several public venues in the downtown area such as the Northport Farmer's Market, and the property located at 5th Street and Robert Cardinal Airport Road that will be the location of the proposed Jemison-Van de Graaff Park. Mrs. Schwab said there will be more traffic along 5th Street in the future, and asked the Council to keep that in mind while considering the traffic issue. Mrs. Schwab also asked Council when the Shirley House may be open for a costume open house. She said it was her understanding that a safety inspection was needed, and she asked when and how will that be done.

Mr. Kenneth Walters, 4813 Allums Avenue came before Council and thanked Pro Tem Acker for his service. He suggested the Shirley House be donated to the Northport Heritage Commission. He also commented about the Special Council meeting that will take place on Thursday, September 24th, and said he hopes the Police Chief position will be promoted internally.

Mayor and Council Member's Business:

Councilwoman Hayes, District 1, thanked Pro Tem Acker for his hard work and help he has given her during her term. She also commended all the Council members and the staff for a job well done. She thanked the constituents of District 1 for their continued support.

President Logan, District 2, thanked Pro Tem Acker for his service and said he will be missed. He gave an update on the Hunter Creek Road Bridge Project and said it should be completed by the end of October. President Logan thanked Interim Chief Burton, Mrs. Gay, and Ms. Starnes for their recent help throughout his district and said the crime rate in his district has decreased due to their help.

Councilman Sullivan, District 3, thanked Fire Chief Marshall and staff for achieving the favorable ISO Rating. He also thanked Pro Tem Acker for his service as Councilman.

President Pro Tem Acker, District 4, recognized his family for attending the meeting and thanked them for their support. He also thanked everyone for all the kind words spoken about him, as well as the citizens of District 4 for their support throughout his tenure.

Councilman Harper, District 5, thanked Pro Tem Acker for his service as Councilman.

Mayor Herndon, asked for everyone to pray for Mr. Paul Hubbard, and explained that he was in a car accident on Saturday, and asked for everyone to remember the family in prayer. He announced that on Wednesday, September 23rd there will be "Prayer at the Flagpole" at 7:15 a.m. which will take place at the Northport Police Department. Mayor Herndon commended Chief Marshall for the favorable ISO Rating, and thanked all the City staff for their hard work. Mayor Herndon thanked Pro Tem Acker for his service as Councilman.

City Administrator Collins announced that there will be a reception honoring Pro Tem Acker immediately following the adjournment of the Council meeting and invited everyone to attend.

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:

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Scott Collins, City Administrator