

The regular Called Meeting of the Northport City Council convened at 5:30 p.m. on April 20, 2020, at Northport City Hall, in the Council Chambers located at 3500 McFarland Blvd. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: President Logan, Councilman Roberts, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Councilman Davis and Pro Tem Hogg. Also present, were Mayor Aaron and Interim City Administrator Hardy McCollum.

The meeting was conducted pursuant to Governor Ivey's March 18th proclamation adhering to all safe social distancing practices. Temperatures were taken at the door and seats were placed at least 6 feet apart.

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Hinton to approve the agenda for April 20, 2020, noting that items 8a1 and 8a2 being moved to May 4th Council Meeting. Roll call vote was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Councilman Logan: Opened the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, Ordinance for Conditional Use/Master Development Approval for 2.57 acres located at the corner of Main Avenue and 27th Street.

Councilman Logan: Closed the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, Ordinance for Conditional Use/Master Development Approval for 2.57 acres located at the corner of Main Avenue and 27th Street.

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Davis to adopt Ordinance 2037, granting the request for Conditional Use/ Master Development approval for 2.57 acres located at the corner of Main Avenue and 27th Street. Roll call was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; and Councilman Hinton. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Councilman Logan: Opened the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, Ordinance for Conditional Use to allow an Office/Warehouse addition in a C-6 Highway Commercial Zone.

Councilman Logan: Closed the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, Ordinance for Conditional Use to allow an Office/Warehouse addition in a C-6 Highway Commercial Zone.

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, **Second** by Councilman Roberts to adopt Ordinance 2038, granting the request for Conditional Use to allow an Office/Warehouse addition in a C-6 Highway Commercial Zone. Roll call was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Hinton, Yes; and Councilman Davis, Yes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

1st Reading, Permanent Resolution amendment to the Redevelopment Reimbursement Agreement with MANSA-NPT, LLC has been moved to the May 4th Council Meeting.

1st Reading, Permanent Resolution Approving the Amended Certificate of Indebtedness and Authorizing the City to file a validation action to validate the obligations set forth in the Certificate of Indebtedness has been moved to the May 4th Council Meeting.

Judge Paul Patterson gave Mayor, Council, and citizens a brief synopsis for the proposed Established of Traffic Safety Programs. This program is for traffic violations that aren't serious in nature such as running a stop sign, etc. It would not apply to violations such as passing a school bus, reckless driving, driving under the influence, etc. It would give first time offenders in the community, the opportunity to come in and successfully complete the program along with payment, to have the charge dismissed.

Councilman Davis offered for 1st Reading, Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Division 7 of the Northport Municipal Code pertaining to the Establishment of Traffic Safety Programs.

Motion by Councilman Hinton, Second by Councilman Roberts to adopt Resolution 20-27, approving Change Order No. 2 for the Union Chapel Road Alignment Construction Project which will result in additional funding of \$149,511.00. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Hinton, Yes; Councilman Roberts, Yes; President Logan, Yes; Councilman Davis, Yes; and Pro Tem Hogg, Yes

Motion by Councilman Roberts, Second by Councilman Davis to approve the Consent Agenda for the April 20, 2020 Council Meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes, April 10, 2020, Regular Meeting
2. Bill Listing
3. PO Requisition, Radio Read Meter Heads, Empire Pipe & Supply, \$10,150.00- Utilities
4. PO Requisition, Rescue 1 Chassis Replacement Truck, Southland Transportation Group, \$58,136.00-PD
5. PO Requisition, Police Uniforms, Municipal and Commercial Uniforms, Inc., \$14,138.05-PD

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

Reports of Special Committees to Council:

Councilman Roberts gave a report from the Finance Committee. Due to the current situation of businesses being closed in accordance to Governor Ivey's stay-at-home orders and businesses having to follow State and Alabama Department of Health Guidelines, the City of Northport's revenue will take a hit. Councilman Robert's stated the Finance Committee revenue generations for the second half of the year show a 2.8-million-dollar reduction in revenue, worst case scenario. The majority of this will come from a loss in sales and lodging. Staff members have been challenged to reduce budgets. No capital projects have been reduced nor any outside funding has been cut at this time. According to Councilman Roberts, many of these outside agencies have taken a great loss during this pandemic. The City is also trying to identify other nonprofit agencies that we can offer assistance to that would benefit our citizens. The new .01 cent sales tax can be used in the event of a short fall ; the ordinance was written that way. A revenue hit could be seen as early as the next 30- 60 days. All of this is theoretical. The City is not considering any type of layoffs. We have to be exceedingly cautious of anything that reduces revenue or increases costs needs to be scrutinized very thoroughly.

Interim City Administrator Hardy McCollum interjected that he requested all department heads implement a 10% cost reduction in their departments.

Motion by Pro Tem Hogg, Second by President Logan to take the Choice Hotel Project to John Rea's office to advertise for a 772 hearing for a \$750,000 split with a ten year cap request incentive. Roll call was as follows: Pro Tem Hogg, Yes; President Logan Yes; Councilman Roberts, No, Councilman Hinton, No, and Councilman Davis, abstained. Motion does not carry.

It was recommended that a meeting be scheduled with Mr. McFarland, Mr. McCollum, Mr. Snyder, other appropriate staff, and the person named as the “specific entity” for negotiations. President Logan allowed Mr. Bobby Herndon to come and speak at this time in the meeting due to Mr. Herndon being a signed speaker and that his comment pertained to the current topic at hand.

Mr. Bobby Herndon, 2728 Lurleen Wallace Blvd, Northport, AL, stated his thoughts on the proposed incentive package. He indicated that some might believe that it is a high price, but it really not high at all. He does not believe it is really incentivizing. If a business is wanting to come to Northport, it is bringing money into Northport by paying for a business license and water and sewer bills. It is giving 30 citizens of Northport the opportunity of jobs. It is wanting to give Northport half of the lodging tax for 10 years and then all of the lodging tax after the ten years. Mr. Herndon sees it as this particular business incentivizing Northport. All the City of Northport needs to do is sign the paper that says we accept this money from this business. Mr. Herndon’s recommendation, for this incentive, let this business give Northport the money.

Public Hearing:

A required Public Involvement Meeting was held on the proposed project along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd/Watermelon Road, between Bridge Avenue and US-82 (McFarland Boulevard). This is a requirement by the FHWA due to an alignment change.

Councilman Logan: Opened the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, proposed project along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd/Watermelon Road, between Bridge Avenue and US-82 (McFarland Boulevard).

Ms. Cheryl Thomas, 1709 M.L.K. Blvd, Northport, AL, addressed Mayor and Council regarding the proposed project on Martin Luther King Blvd. She had concerns for the safety of the residents in this area that walked on the streets. She also questioned President Logan on an exact timeline for this project.

Mr. McCollum stated he hopes the project gets approved before summer and then can quickly get started. President Logan added that the project is at 70% design completion.

Mr. Chuck Gerdau, 3909 Northwood Lake Drive West, Northport, AL, addressed Mayor and Council with a question about a preliminary drawing he viewed. The drawing showed an alignment of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Park Street at the light at the Shell Station on Bridge Avenue.

President Logan stated this was no longer the case due to it not being feasible. A reverse s curve has taken the place of the plan Mr. Gerdau mentioned.

Councilman Logan: Closed the floor for a Public Hearing for this agenda item, proposed project along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd/Watermelon Road, between Bridge Avenue and US-82 (McFarland Boulevard).

City Administrator’s Business:

Road Paving Survey will be completed before the end of the month. COVID -19 has interfered and delayed many things, including paving. When it is completed, the City will attach preliminary numbers to this survey. He thanked Mr. Scott Murphy and the Incident Command team for the great work that is being done. He stated that team effort is being shown all around.

Public Comment:

Ms. Christy Bobo, 2303 10th Street, Northport, AL, stated she was in attendance this evening to encourage and to express her support for working towards agreements that result in the approval of projects that have been brought before the City for hoteliers and any upcoming vetted retailing shopping development, especially the wake of the current pandemic of COVID-19. She thanked the Council for working with each other.

Mayor & Council Member's Business:

Mayor Aaron, None

Councilman Roberts, District 1, Councilman Roberts suggested all Councilmen check their districts for any road issues for sinkholes or other major issues due to the large amounts of rain that has been in our area. If any major issues are found, report these to Mr. McCollum so they can be inspected immediately.

President Logan, District 2, President Logan thanked Public Works for all the hard work they have been putting in and all the hard work they always do for our City. He also mentioned the work that has recently been done at 15th Street and 15th Court. He wanted citizens to be aware of this.

Councilman Hinton, District 3, Councilman Hinton informed Mayor, Council and citizens that the Administrative Committee will meet on May 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

Councilman Davis, District 4, Projects Committee will resume meetings once the stay-at-home regulations have been lifted. A date has not been officially been set, but tentatively it is set for May

Pro Tem Hogg, District 5, None

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.


Jay Logan, President

ATTEST:


W. Hardy McCollum, Interim City Administrator