

**MINUTES OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE EUFAULA CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.**

The Eufaula City Council met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. in the Police Department Courtroom at 545 East Barbour Street. Council President Register called the meeting to order, and Pastor Richard Hunter offered the invocation. Council President Register led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Council President Wes Register, President Pro Tem Otis Hill, Marvin Brown, John Robinson, and Ben Garrison.

Also present: Mayor Jack Tibbs, Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer, and Joel Smith, City Attorney.

**HONORS AND RECOGNITION**

Mayor Tibbs recognized and congratulated the following employees: Zaneta Daniels with fifteen (15) years of service, Carrie Smith with ten (10) years of service, and Raymon "Corey" Crozier with five (5) years of service. Carrie Smith thanked Keef Pettis, Community Center Director, Jennifer Lunsford, Manager, and Mayor Tibbs for his support of the community center and the swim team. Mayor Tibbs also thanked Carrie for her support and hard work. Mayor Tibbs commended the Eufaula Housing Authority YouthBuild group for painting the old fire bell base located on East Broad Street, and expected to participate in other upcoming city projects.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Robinson offered a motion to approve the order of the amended agenda for January 19, 2021. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion. Council President Register called for a roll call vote that was recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None. After the roll call vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Register reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for council approval.

- (a) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2021.
- (b) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Prepaid Claims Docket dated December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$1,699,863.23.
- (c) Motion and second to dispense with and approve the Claims Docket dated January 13, 2021 in the amount of \$38,564.77.

Mr. Garrison moved to approve the Consent Agenda upon the correction of the Prepaid Claims Docket date to reflect December 31, 2020 instead of December 31, 2021, (as noted above (b)). Mr. Hill seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Tibbs announced that he appointed Dennis Shelley to the Planning Commission to serve an unexpired term. Mayor Tibbs requested Council consideration for a councilman to serve an

unexpired term on the Eufaula Health Care Authority. Mayor Tibbs then noted that the authorization to negotiate the purchase of the Lewis property located on Livingston Street is on the agenda for council discussion/action, and requested Council's consideration to move forward with the negotiation.

## **VISITORS**

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Council President Register introduced the Stephenson/Shah Rezoning Proposed Ordinance – 431 north for the second reading. City Attorney Joel Smith gave the proposed ordinance its second reading. This proposed ordinance amends the classification of a zone district from C-4/Highway Commercial and FAR/Forestry-Agricultural-Residential to C-4 (Highway Commercial), said property owned by Mitesh H. Shah and Vishal H. Shah and located on U.S. Highway 431 across from Tiger Drive.

Council President Register called for comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience. Mr. Garrison offered a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance that amends the classification of a zone district from C-4/Highway Commercial and FAR/Forestry-Agricultural-Residential to C-4 (Highway Commercial), said property owned by Mitesh H. Shah and Vishal H. Shah, located on U.S. Highway 431 across from Tiger Drive. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION**

Council President Register introduced the matter of authorization for Mayor Tibbs to negotiate the purchase of the Lewis property (Parcel #1308333012024000) located on Livingston Street. Mayor Tibbs stated that this space is needed to provide additional downtown parking that would be adjacent to the Chamber, the trail and the downtown area. Mr. Garrison commented that this lot is a much needed addition considering the events held in the general area. Mr. Garrison then offered a motion to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the purchase of the Lewis property located on Livingston Street, purchase of same not to exceed \$47,500.00, and purchase amount deemed appropriate by the members of the city council. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. After a voice vote, Council President Register announced the motion had carried.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to re-appoint Jerry Gullede, Bobby Bradley, and Tony Adams, each to serve another three-year term on the Rescue Squad Board. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Council President Register called for a roll call vote and the vote was recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None. These terms will expire on January 6, 2024.

Mr. Garrison offered a motion to appoint Ed Richardson to serve an unexpired three-year term on the Rescue Squad Board. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. Council President Register called for a roll call vote and the vote was recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Nays: None. This term expires on January 6, 2023.

Council President Register opened the floor for nominations to the Eufaula Health Care Authority. Mr. Robinson nominated Ben Garrison. There were no other nominations. Council President Register called for a roll call vote and the vote was recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill, and President Register. Mr. Garrison abstained. Nays: None. This term will expire December 1, 2022.

Council President Register opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Adjustments. Mr. Robinson nominated Tim Dykes to serve a three-year unexpired term on the Board of Adjustments. There were no other nominations. Council President Register called for a roll call vote and the vote was recorded as follows: Yeas: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brown, President Pro Tem Hill and President Register. Nays: None. Council President Register introduced and welcomed Tim Dykes who is the office manager of Chief Buildings, a new business here in Eufaula.

## **REGULAR AGENDA (NEW BUSINESS)**

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Garrison stated that sales tax is steady and all departments are within budget.

Council President Register reported that January is School Board Member Appreciation month. Council President Register will present a proclamation at the ECS school board meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. recognizing the ECS School Board for their service. He announced that all schools will have virtual learning until February 1, 2021 due to a rise in COVID cases and varying online/technological issues. Additional updates will be announced on Friday, January 29, 2021.

Ronnie Smith, Director of the Carnegie Library, presented an update on library activities. He noted that the last year has been difficult for everyone due to COVID. He continued that the library has closed at various times, but continued as many services as possible with a full staff at all times. Curbside services have been consistent throughout the year with an increase in digital resources. The library offers apps that patrons can access to download e-books, audio books, and movies. Over the last year, there has been a 22% increase in the use of digital resources.

Although curbside services have been primary over time, various books are still being checked out with the use of chrome books, iPads, etc. One hundred seventy-five (175) libraries across the country applied for the Community Connect: Digital Access at Home grant, and Eufaula was one (1) of twenty (20) applicants chosen to receive it. Mr. Smith continued that Eufaula will receive five (5) Verizon hotspots that patrons will be allowed to use for access to the internet. Mr. Smith thanked the council and the Mayor for their support. Mr. Garrison thanked Mr. Smith for his many years of service and loyalty to the citizens through the Carnegie Library. Mayor Tibbs commended Ronnie Smith for his dedication and stated that the Carnegie Library is a great facility. Council President Register also commended the library board and Director Ronnie Smith for his dedication and ability to smoothly run the day-to-day operations of the library. Mr. Smith thanked the Council, Mayor, and his staff, five (5) full time and three (3) part-time for their consistency to serve the public.

Mr. Robinson stated that basketball is being evaluated, but postponed due to COVID. The community center is closed to the public at this time due to COVID. The travel ball tournament

scheduled for January 23, 2021 was cancelled. Community Center roof repair is being assessed. Mr. Robinson met with the president of the Southeast Alabama Disk Golf Association. A tour assessment was done for a potential local course. The Jackson Senior Center quilting group made quilts for the Christmas holidays and sold tickets totaling \$570.00. Seventy (70) senior participants are being served meals through the Jackson Senior Center. The Chamber of Commerce is also closed to the general public.

Mr. Robinson announced and welcomed two new businesses that have opened in the city, Get Fresh Laundromat and Chief Industries. He continued that although COVID came about in 2020, there is record expectancy in the current real estate due to the arrival of new residents moving to the city. Workforce development was also discussed during the meeting. Mr. Robinson discussed the importance of linking business leaders and the local schools to assist students with what they want to do after high school graduation.

Mr. Brown reported that the garbage crew collected and hauled 61 tons of garbage. Trash crews picked up and hauled 65 tons of debris to the Barbour County landfill. The litter crew picked up 70 bags of trash throughout the city. The shop crew had 19 work orders entered for vehicle and/or equipment repairs. Fourteen (14) bales of cardboard and two (2) bales of plastic was recycled.

President Pro Tem Hill reported that a major house fire occurred in the Forest Hills community, and the fire department was excellent in carrying out their mission to contain the blaze. The fire and police departments are running smoothly at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the same was on motion by Mr. Garrison duly made and seconded by Mr. Robinson, adjourned this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA  
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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Wes Register, City Council President

ATTEST:

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Joy White, City Clerk/Treasurer