

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,
HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

The Honorable Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, met in regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, there being present:

President:	Russell
Councilpersons:	Robinson, Culver, Kling
Councilpersons Absent:	Showers
Mayor:	Battle
City Attorney:	Joffrion
City Clerk-Treasurer:	Hagood

President Russell called the meeting to order.

Rev. Lynn Bullard, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, led the invocation; members of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America led the pledge of allegiance.

President Russell thanked Rev. Bullard and the members of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. He asked Rev. Bullard to return to the microphone, noting that he was aware she was very involved with the homeless community in the city, as well as helping many other persons. He asked if she could comment on the current situation concerning the homeless in the city.

Rev. Bullard stated that she was changing hats, that she

was at this time representing the Board of Directors for the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless. She stated that she wanted to share with everyone that thus far, the warming centers that had been set up for the homeless were working really well.

Rev. Bullard stated that the Grateful Life Community Church, located on Oakwood Avenue, had opened its doors the previous afternoon, and that approximately 54 individuals were there, along with three or four dogs, and that the evening had gone smoothly. She stated that she had talked with their pastor, Rev. Sherry Birney, earlier in the day, and had learned that everything had gone well. She stated that Manna House had been very generous with food. She continued that several persons had stopped by to drop off things or to leave checks to assist in covering the utility bill.

Rev. Bullard stated that the citizens of Huntsville were very blessed to live in such a compassionate city. She stated that persons should just keep it coming, more compassion and more charity, that it was good for everyone.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was the Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on December 18, 2014, were approved as submitted.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions and Special Recognitions. He recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Kenny Anderson, the City Multicultural Affairs Officer, to come forward, stating that the STAR 99.1/CAFY Young Citizen of the Month would be recognized at this time.

Mr. Anderson asked the CAFY team to come forward. He stated that each month they selected a youth who was doing something outstanding in the community and stated that at this time they were very proud to recognize Jackson Campbell. He stated that Jackson was a senior at Grissom High School and the Battalion Commander for the Grissom JROTC. He continued that he had been responsible for organizing the Grissom JROTC Wounded Warrior 5k Run, which he noted raised approximately \$8,000 per year. He stated that this money went to the Wounded Warrior Project. He continued that Jackson also worked for Special Olympics support, the Veterans Day Parade, and so much more. He stated that he had also been named the top cadet, winning the Superior Cadet Award.

Mr. Anderson congratulated Jackson for the awesome accomplishment of being named the STAR 99.1/CAFY Young Citizen of the Month for the month of January 2015 and presented a certificate to him.

Mr. Anderson stated that there were some other persons who wanted to recognize Jackson.

Mayor Battle congratulated Jackson for this outstanding achievement.

Dr. Harry Hobbs of Huntsville Utilities stated to Jackson

that ROTC was near and dear to his heart and that he knew what it took to be the battalion commander and congratulated him for this. He stated that on behalf of Huntsville Utilities, he wanted to give him something for his mind, his body, and his spirit, and made a presentation to him.

Mr. Willie Love made a presentation to Jackson on behalf of the Human Relations Commission and stated to him that they appreciated all he did for the community and wanted him to continue to do these things. He stated that he should let them know if there was anything they could do to assist him.

Mr. Tom Panucci stated that on behalf of STAR 99.1, he would like to congratulate Jackson and also make a presentation to him. He congratulated him for receiving this award.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions for Adoption Only.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution recognizing Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre as the 24th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and guest speaker for the 30th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast, sponsored by the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-1)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution recognizing Brother Mark Stewart Tillman as the 34th elected General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, during the 30th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast, sponsored by the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-2)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that there was a special recognition on the agenda, a presentation concerning the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) High School students. He continued that this was a program sponsored by the United States Department of State.

President Russell asked Mr. Jim Powers, local coordinator of the program, to come forward.

President Russell asked Mr. Powers to tell the Council and audience about this program and introduce the students.

Mr. Powers stated that they worked with international students from all over the world, that CIEE was the name of the organization, and that they brought approximately 1500 students into the country each year from all over the world. He stated that they were sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and that this program was considered one of the most effective

forms of public diplomacy. He continued that this program did not cost anything because the host families were all volunteers.

Mr. Powers introduced the students as follows: George Yan of China, Yuhang Zhang of China, Yehia Abo Dargham of Lebanon, Sophie Schumacker of Germany, Sebastian Hitzke of Germany, and Khatia Lomtadze of the Republic of Georgia.

Mr. Powers welcomed the students and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

President Russell asked Mr. Powers to comment on what he had done concerning this program during the day.

Mr. Powers stated that after leaving his work early, he had gone to pick up the students, and then they had first gone to Congressman Mo Brooks' Huntsville office and met with his staff, which he noted was a great meeting. He continued that after that they had come to the City and had a wonderful meeting with Mayor Battle and Mr. Kenny Anderson, the Multicultural Affairs Officer. He stated that now some of the students were in attendance at the Council meeting, and they were pleased to be present.

President Russell thanked Mr. Powers for this presentation.

President Russell asked Ms. Michelle Jordan, Director of Planning, to come to the microphone. He asked Ms. Jordan to introduce the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America students.

Ms. Jordan stated that they had present students from the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill, and that the age category was second grade to fifth grade. She asked the students to stand to be recognized.

Several students stood.

Ms. Jordan stated that the students had had a budget presentation from Mr. Kenneth Benion, Manager of Community Development, earlier in the day, and that Mayor Battle had explained to them how important it was for them to buy things in the city of Huntsville and pay city taxes. She stated that they had understood this, and that they certainly appreciated this opportunity. She thanked the Council for providing the students the opportunity to lead the pledge of allegiance prior to the Council meeting.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to be Set.

President Russell stated that there was a resolution to declare a public nuisance located at 2704 Sparkman Drive, NW, Huntsville, Alabama, and to set the date when objections would be heard. He continued that this would be set for the January 22, 2015, Regular Council meeting.

President Russell stated that prior to entertaining a motion on this resolution, he would like to ask Mr. Kenneth Benion for an explanation of it.

Mr. Benion stated that this was according to State Ordinance No. 71-1320. He stated that it was a junk notice

that they were issuing at this particular house at 2704 Sparkman Drive, NW. He stated that the Council members could see this on the photographs that were displayed showing the outside of the property. He stated that they were asking the Council to declare this a public nuisance.

Mr. Benion stated that under the State ordinance he had mentioned, they would come back at the next Council meeting, on January 22, 2015, and that after the Council hearing objections, they would ask the Council to give them permission to abate this nuisance.

Mr. Benion stated that under this particular State law, when they followed this procedure, they could add the cost of the abatement of this nuisance to the property taxes, which he noted would be collected between October and December of 2015.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution to declare a public nuisance located at 2704 Sparkman Drive, NW, Huntsville, Alabama, and to set the date when objections would be heard for the Regular Council Meeting on January 22, 2015, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-3)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Public. He stated that persons would have three minutes to address the Council.

Mr. Rusty Loiselle, 12004 Hearthstone Circle, appeared before the Council, stating that he just wanted to let everyone know that Help Our Homeless Veterans and Citizens was still alive and well, and that they were out beating the bushes with their unfortunate friends who had to live in the woods because they could not afford a home. He stated that the prior year had been a tough year, but they had struggled through it.

Mr. Loiselle stated that he believed they had come to a meeting of the minds with some of the City members, that he believed they had quite a few persons on the Council at this time who understood that it was not fun being in the cold, living in the woods, and that they needed to do something better than what they had been doing in the past concerning this situation. He stated that what they had done in the past had not been working very well, but they had been able to make some changes throughout the year. He stated that they had been able to network with quite a few different groups, including churches and a group called "The Coupon Patrol," noting that they brought them literally thousands of dollars' worth of food that they were able to get for pennies on the dollar. He stated that they were then able to help the homeless veterans and citizens survive a little less miserable existence by giving them the things they needed.

Mr. Loiselle stated that at the last Coupon Patrol outing they had had at his residence, they had had the pleasure of having Councilwoman Jennie Robinson present, and that they were very happy about that.

Mr. Loiselle stated that he was pleased that they were still working with the City on the Tiny Homes project. He continued that it was not off the table at this time, but that it was just a matter of working out the logistics. He stated that homeless persons did not deserve to live in a cardboard box. He continued that no one would like to be outside at this time without a coat but noted that there were many persons who were.

Mr. Loiselle stated that they did have people such as the Grateful Life Church that had stepped up, without prodding, to furnish a warming center. He stated that Grateful Life had opened up their center at noon on the prior day and would close at noon on Friday. He stated that he knew they were well stocked with food, noting that he had given them 50 boxes of MRE's.

Mr. Loiselle stated that he just wanted to let everyone know that things were moving in a positive direction, and that they were happy that the City people were working with them, that they really appreciated it.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Huntsville Utilities Items.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution

authorizing approval to purchase IBM hardware and software service support (PR 10172119) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-4)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Tri-Party agreement among TVA, the City of Huntsville, and Science and Engineering Services LLC, allowing Science and Engineering Services LLC to participate in the Valley Investment Initiative (VII) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-5)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Tri-Party agreement among TVA, the City of Huntsville, and Tyco Fire Products, LP,

allowing Tyco Fire Products, LP, to participate in the Valley Investment Initiative (VII) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-6)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced Ordinance No. 15-7, concerning water backflow prevention and cross-connections (Utilities: Water).

President Russell asked Mr. Joe Gehrdes of Huntsville Utilities for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that this ordinance would bring the Utilities Department in line with the regulations of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. He continued that it would also establish some misdemeanor violations for the improper use of water.

President Russell stated that the ordinance had been introduced and would be voted on at the next Regular Council Meeting on January 22, 2014.

President Russell asked Councilman Kling if he had some questions of Mr. Gehrdes concerning gas rates.

Councilman Kling stated that citizens had expressed concerns about this matter. He continued that oil and natural

gas prices had dropped on the market. He asked if Mr. Gehrdes could comment on what the possible plans might be for rate decreases since the cost of supplies coming into Huntsville Utilities should be reduced.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that this was somewhat misleading because the gas spot market, which he noted was where their gas utilities purchased their gas, was extremely volatile, that some considered it the most volatile commodity market in the world. He stated that because of its abundance and because of some of the technology in drilling, it had become less expensive over the last decade.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that he did have some good news, noting that since 2005, with the exception of one year, their rates for natural gas had decreased every year until 2012. He stated that at this time they had a stable rate for gas. He stated that currently they were charging roughly \$5 less than the current going rate for delivered natural gas in the country, which he noted was around \$13.15. He stated that the local rate per million cubic feet was \$8.71.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that when one saw what gas was being traded for, that was a little deceptive for the customer, because there were a lot of costs that were not associated with just the purchase of the gas. He stated that they also had to deliver the gas and that there were charges associated with the delivery system.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that in the last approximately three

years, the spot market price for gas had been below Huntsville Utilities' rate for only approximately three months. He continued that they offered a very stable and competitive rate for natural gas, and that they did this through a very complicated process, as he had come to learn. He stated that this included futures purchasing and taking advantage of their storage capacity, buying gas when it was not in high demand, when it was as cheap as they thought they could get it. He stated that they would buy it in portions for years out so they could keep the rates stable. He stated that if they did not do this, what their customers would see and be subject to would be a rate that varied, and that when the market was high, persons would be paying sky-high prices. He stated that because their people took a lot of time and effort in securing it at an affordable price, their customers were not subject to this volatility.

Mr. Gehrdes asked Councilman Kling if he had answered his question.

Councilman Kling stated that he supposed so, noting that there appeared to be no great announcement forthcoming.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that what they wanted their customers to know was that they worked very hard to keep the rates very affordable, very stable. He stated that they had people whose only job was to watch that commodity and buy gas when they could get it as cheaply as possible.

Councilman Kling asked if it was correct that the oil on

the spot market did not really impact Huntsville Utilities, as their supply came from TVA.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that crude oil did not. He continued that oil and gas were associated somewhat. He stated that when they had advanced the technologies for drilling, gas had almost immediately become more abundant, and that this had driven the price down. He stated that natural gas was in high demand all around the world, and that that made the market extremely volatile. He continued that, also, the weather that had been experienced the prior few years made it somewhat hard to predict.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Appointments to be Voted On.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution to reappoint H. Harold Stephens to the Special Care Facilities Financing Authority of the City of Huntsville-Redstone Village, for a term to expire November 11, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-8)

President Russell, moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution to appoint Jeff Johnson to the Land Trust of North Alabama Board of Directors, for a term to expire December 31, 2016, as

follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-9)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Appointment Nominations.

President Russell nominated Douglas C. Martinson, II, for reappointment to the Huntsville Public Library Board, for a four-year term to begin February 10, 2015, and to end February 10, 2019.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Expenditures.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-10)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Russell called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

Councilman Kling asked Mr. Randy Taylor, Director of

Finance, to present the Finance Committee Report.

Mr. Taylor stated that he could report on the sales tax collections for the month of December at this time, noting that this would be based on the November retail sales. He stated that collections for the month of December were 3.6 percent higher than they had been for the previous December, which would put them at 4.2 percent for the year. He stated that this was higher than the 3.0 percent budget requirement. He stated that the largest revenue month would be known a month from this time because the December sales would be reported later in January.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Mayor.

President Russell recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle stated that he had some Board appointments to make at this time, noting that two of these required Council approval.

Mayor Battle stated that he would like to make the following appointments:

Gripp Luther to the Research Park Board, for a partial term to expire July 22, 2018.

Kim Lewis to the Research Park Board, for a partial term to expire July 22, 2021.

Mayor Battle stated that the above appointments required Council approval.

President Russell moved for approval of the appointment of

Gripp Luther to the Research Park Board, for a partial term to expire July 22, 2018, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of the appointment of Kim Lewis to the Research Park Board, for a partial term to expire July 22, 2021, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

Mayor Battle stated that Mr. Luther was involved in commercial real estate and worked a lot of projects in Research Park, so that he would certainly be an added dimension to the Research Park Board. He stated that Ms. Lewis had just purchased the BizTech Building on Sparkman Drive, that she and her husband were in the PROJECTXYZ business, and they worked there on a regular basis, so that they were part of Research Park. He continued that he believed they would be an added addition to Research Park.

Mayor Battle made the following appointment: Jim Owens to the Land Trust of North Alabama Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2015, for a six-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

Mayor Battle stated that he would like to thank all the groups in the city who had helped them throughout the holiday season, whether it was ice skating behind the Museum of Art; feeding people who were in need of food, through Manna House

and through Remington, whom he noted had provided boxes of food to families in need; or whether it was the City of Huntsville employees who had adopted angels; or Downtown, Inc., for coordinating the Tinsel Trail. He stated that they had made it a great holiday season, and he wanted to thank them, noting that they had done a wonderful job and had made the community better, that they had made it a great community for the holiday season, and that this was certainly something they hoped they could keep all year round.

Mayor Battle stated that skating in the park had been extended until January 19. He stated that he could guarantee there would be hard frozen ice for the remainder of the week and asked persons to please come down to the back side of the art museum and join the fun.

Mayor Battle stated that there would be the first Annual Preserve Huntsville Lecture Series on Thursday, January 15, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the Public Services Building at 320 Fountain Circle. He stated that they would be discussing the 1,735 homes in Huntsville's Historic Districts that ranged in age from the 1800s to the 1960s. He continued that these historic properties were part of the City's heritage. He stated that there would be three speakers: Katie Stamps, Redstone Arsenal Architectural Historian and Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission member; Jessica White, City of Huntsville Preservation Consultant; and Donna Castellano, Executive Director of the

Historic Huntsville Foundation. He stated that this would be a great education process to go through on the historic buildings in the city.

Mayor Battle wished everyone a wonderful 2015, stating that he believed it would be a great year for the city.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from Council Members.

Councilman Culver stated that he wanted to thank Rev. Lynn Bullard and Mr. Rusty Loiselle for their work, as well as other individuals who participated in taking care of the homeless in the city, noting that this was an ongoing process. He stated that if they could put man on the moon, that, certainly, in 2015, they could fix their homeless problems. He continued that he believed they were making great strides in the right direction.

Councilman Culver stated to Mr. Loiselle that the Tiny House that he had gone into on a very cold night after a Council meeting one evening had really worked well and that he was really impressed with it. He asked that they keep up the good work on this project.

Councilman Culver stated to Mr. Hatfield that he had told some of the residents on Old Madison Pike that he would mention their concerns about the potholes on this street. He stated that there was an approximate three-foot hole in the westbound lane, near Sherwood Park Baptist Church. He asked that they try to take care of this, noting that he was aware that there

were a lot of potholes appearing everywhere, with the cold weather.

Councilman Culver asked if Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban Development, was present at the meeting.

Mr. Davis appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Culver stated that he had had an inquiry regarding the seemingly premature closing of the intersection of Wynn Drive near Calhoun Community College. He asked if Mr. Davis could advise him as to what was happening concerning this.

Mr. Davis stated that they had closed Wynn Drive during the week, as they relocated utilities, by AT&T and Huntsville Utilities, both water and gas, in preparation for the Wynn Drive relocation. He continued that there was a tunnel located underneath Wynn Drive, and that they had had to fill this and demolish it so that the utilities could come up the new route. He stated that this had been the reason for the closure.

Councilman Culver asked how long this was anticipated to be closed.

Mr. Davis stated that it most likely would be closed through the fall of the current year. He stated that they expected to start the relocation of Wynn Drive construction in March and that it would take approximately six or seven months to complete it. He stated that they would certainly complete it as quickly as possible.

Councilman Kling stated that two fine persons in the city had passed away recently: Pam Reilly, whom he noted had been a City of Huntsville employee for many years; and Mr. Bill Randell, whom he noted had been very active in the Holiday Homes Neighborhood Association for many years. He stated that these persons would certainly be missed.

Councilman Kling stated that on the previous Monday evening, there had been a meeting between the residents of Holiday Homes and the residents of Merrimack, and that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Patterson from the City had presented plans and options concerning the proposed Jim Marek Park and the design of it and whether or not Cedar Avenue would be closed. He stated that this had been a very good meeting, that good presentations had been made, and options had been shown. He stated that the residents in attendance, from both neighborhoods, had voted by a 34-2 vote to go ahead with the consolidated park plan that closed Cedar Avenue. He stated that he appreciated all the good work that had been done by the City officials to answer questions and provide options and pass on good information to the neighborhoods. He stated that he believed that when the park was completed, it would be a great asset to both Holiday Homes and Merrimack.

Councilman Kling stated that on the previous evening, he had met with leaders from the Westlawn neighborhood at the West Precinct. He stated that they were working with the Citywide Community Watch organization and Johnny Hollingsworth

to start a new Community Watch organization for their neighborhood. He stated that this would be a great asset to the neighborhood.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed the 200 chapters of Community Watch that they had in neighborhoods throughout the city were one of the best assets the City had. He stated that the relationship of the Police Department with these Neighborhood Watch organizations throughout the city had certainly been a very big plus, and that he was looking for good things to keep happening in those neighborhoods.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that, as Mayor Battle had mentioned, there were a lot of persons who had done great things over the holidays in providing lots of great activities in the city. She stated that she had been really impressed with Manna House on Christmas Eve, noting that she happened to be there to drop some things off and had seen that they were meeting the needs of hundreds of people who were in the cold, coming to their door. She stated that she had also seen the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville give out hundreds of turkeys and hams, in cooperation with Landers-McLarty.

Councilwoman Robinson thanked Mr. Loiselle for inviting her to come to his event. She stated that the thing that had impressed her about this event was that it was held on a day when it was pouring rain, and that they were in tents, watching The Coupon Club unload all the things they had gotten by using coupons effectively. She stated that she had thought about the

other persons, who would be served, who would also be in the rain in those tents, so that she actually thought this was very appropriate, as it had turned out. She thanked Mr. Loiselle for the work his group did with the homeless.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the City work continued during the holidays, while other persons were off work. She stated that City staff had continually responded to her emails, noting that the most memorable of which was her text to Shane Cook on New Year's Day regarding raw sewage that was coming up in a neighbor's yard. She stated that she certainly appreciated how responsive Mr. Cook had been to this situation on that day.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had a couple of New Year's resolutions, and that the first was to follow through on some discussions she had had with some persons during the summer about starting a South Huntsville Business Association. She stated that they would be having an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 13, at 3 o'clock at Rosie's on South Parkway. She stated that this was something that she and David Martin, the owner of Rosie's and Steak-Out, had been working on for a couple of months. She stated that they had had a good response from business owners in South Huntsville.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that this would be important not only for creating a commercial corridor to serve the Arsenal and South Huntsville, but that it would help revitalize

that part of South Parkway and would also be an important point of contact for City staff as the overpasses were being built, so that they would be able to facilitate getting information out and make the process work more smoothly. She stated that she was certainly looking forward to seeing this go forward. She continued that Harrison Diamond, City Business Relations Officer, and Dennis Madsen, Manager of Urban and Long-Range Planning, had been particularly helpful with this, and that she was grateful for their participation.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had scheduled four town hall meetings for the year, the first of which would be on January 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bailey Cove Library. She stated that this would be a get-to-know-you meeting, that she would introduce herself to persons who did not know her, and that she was asking the persons who did know her to also attend. She continued that they would be discussing issues that were of interest to South Huntsville. She stated that she had started a little of this process the previous evening by meeting with the Huntsville South Board and talking about issues, noting that they would expand this conversation to the upcoming town hall meeting.

Councilwoman Robinson wished everyone a great New Year and stated that she was looking forward to great things happening in the City in the upcoming year.

President Russell stated that he would like to add a thank-you to all the City employees who were working in the

cold weather, stating that it was quite cold and he could not imagine working in it. He thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works employees, as well as others, for their service at this time. He asked Mr. Gehrdes to also thank the Huntsville Utilities workers, noting that he had been expecting to hear about some power issues but had not heard of any, and that it was his understanding that everyone was well served during the night and they had kept everyone warm.

President Russell stated that the Council would be holding a work session in the City Council Chambers on the following Thursday at 5 p.m., and that on the agenda was a discussion of the John Hunt Park plans, noting that this was an item they had been working on for many years and that he was excited about the progress on it. He stated that there would also be a presentation by a non-profit, Success 4 the Future. He asked that if there were any other items any of the Council members would like to add to the agenda, they notify him of this prior to the meeting.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilman Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 14-969, annexing land lying north of Zierdt Road and on the east and west sides of Arnett Road, which ordinance was introduced at the December 18, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-969)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell asked Ms. Ashley Nichols of the Planning Department for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Ms. Nichols stated that the property was approximately 2.09 acres and was located north of Zierdt Road, on the east and west sides of Arnett Road. She stated that a single-family, detached dwelling was currently located on the property. She stated that the property owners were petitioning for annexation in order to receive City services.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on Ordinance No. 14-969, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of Ordinance No. 14-970, amending Chapter 3, Article II, Subsection (c), of Section 3-27, Arts and Entertainment District Ordinance, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, to establish the Quigley District and Entertainment District II, Meridian District, which ordinance was introduced at the December 18, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 970)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell asked Mr. Jim McGuffey, Manager of Planning Services, for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Mr. McGuffey stated that this was to modify the existing Downtown Quigley District, that they would be adding some new sites, sites that were to be developed or had already been developed downtown. He stated that this was approximately 30 acres.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that a number of persons asked her why this was being called the "Quigley District."

Mr. McGuffey stated that that was the name of the district, what they had used when they first came up with this approximately two years prior.

President Russell stated that he believed this name had been on the city map for some time.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if this was perhaps the name of the person who had created the original map of the city but now much was known about him. She asked if it was correct that this was not honoring anyone in particular.

President Russell stated that he was not certain who had created the map but that he did not believe the name was honoring anyone.

Councilman Kling stated that this was an earlier version of perhaps Twickenham.

President Russell asked Mr. McGuffey if it was correct that this area covered Holmes Avenue and some of the new development there and the Publix Shopping Center and

Twickenham Square.

Mr. McGuffey stated that that was correct. He stated further that it also encompassed the old Coke site, The Avenue, 301 East Holmes Avenue, and connecting streets to these sites.

President Russell asked if it would also include the old Holiday Inn site.

Mr. McGuffey replied in the affirmative.

President Russell asked if it was correct that after the Council approved this, they would mark these streets and sidewalks so everyone would be aware of where the district was located.

Mr. McGuffey replied in the affirmative, stating that once the weather permitted, they would do so.

Councilman Kling stated that he was aware that the Planning Department had been working on this for quite some time and stated that he felt the process had been good. He stated that he would have liked to have seen this happen faster but noted that all the City departments had worked together to make this work. He stated that he had heard many positive comments from the community and business owners in the community.

Councilman Kling stated that there were some pretty good things that were taking place in the downtown area and that not only were these things that really did not cost any City money but that they would actually generate additional revenue by bringing persons from outside the city and persons in the

community to the downtown area.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on Ordinance No. 14-970, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell moved for approval of Ordinance No. 14-971, amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 11-259, regarding the Beautification Board, which ordinance was introduced at the December 18, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-971)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell asked Ms. Joy McKee, Director of Landscape Management, for an explanation of the above ordinance.

Ms. McKee stated that this was actually two amendments changing the Beautification Board's current ordinance. She stated that the first one had to do with the eligibility of a Board member, and that it read as follows: "No person shall be eligible to serve on the Board who is not a bona fide resident citizen of the City of Huntsville." She stated that the second change was to allow the Board to charge businesses an administrative fee of \$25 in order to participate in the Beautification Awards Program for Businesses located in the

City of Huntsville.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if she was correct in her assumption that anyone who was serving on the Board at this time who did not meet the eligibility requirement would be able to serve out their term.

Ms. McKee stated that that was correct and noted that it was so stated in the ordinance.

President Russell called for the vote on the above ordinance, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance declaring certain equipment surplus and donating it to the Huntsville Area Crimestoppers, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-11)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Reimbursable Agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Department of Transportation for Relocation of Utility Facilities on Private or Public Right-of-Way Work for Memorial Parkway (SR-53) north

of Whitesburg Drive (CR-77) to south of Golf Road, Project Nos. NHF-0053(531) and 65-09-SS08, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-12)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Pearson & Wright, LLC, for Stormwater Detention Facility Maintenance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-13)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the lawsuit of Denyse Forton v. City of Huntsville, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-14)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Progress Bank Letter of Credit No. 9000049300 for Legacy Preserve Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-15)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 14-665 by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-16)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Croy Engineering, LLC, for Engineering Services for the John Hunt Park Master Plan, Section 1A, located on Airport Road, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-17)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and S&N Electric, Inc., for the installation of one natural gas generator, located at 4209 East Schrimsher Lane, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-18)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and execute an FY 2015 EPA Air Grant in an amount up to \$100,000 in federal funding to support the City's Air Pollution Control Program, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-19)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low bidders meeting specifications as outlined in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-20)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell stated to Mr. Randy Taylor, Director of Finance, that it was his understanding that he wanted to add something to the above resolution.

Mr. Taylor stated that that was correct. He stated that there were three items in the resolution and that two additional items should have been included, that there had just been a paperwork issue. He stated that there was some urgency with respect to the bids he had mentioned. He stated that

there was the overall low bidder for pavilions, a one-year contract for a variety of different kinds of pavilions, and that this bidder was Monaghan Construction. He continued that there was also the overall low bidder for the erection of storage buildings, and that this was also Monaghan Construction. He stated that both of these were one-year contracts.

President Russell asked if it was correct that these bids were just in the normal operating procedure, that there was nothing unusual about them.

Mr. Taylor stated that there was nothing unusual, that it was just an issue concerning the timing.

President Russell moved to amend Resolution No. 15-20 by adding Monaghan Construction as the overall low bidder for the construction of pavilions and Monaghan Construction as the overall low bidder for the erection of storage buildings.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion concerning the amendment.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on the above amendment, and it was unanimously approved by the Council members present.

President Russell asked if there was any discussion of the main motion as amended.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on Resolution No. 15-20, as amended, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Nola|Van Peurse Architects, PC, for Architectural Services for the New Aquatic Center Addition, located at 2213 Drake Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35805, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-21)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Russell asked Mr. Jeff Easter, Director of General Services, for an explanation of the above resolution.

Mr. Easter stated that this was the architectural agreement for the addition to the Natatorium on Drake Avenue. He stated that this would include a 50-meter pool and a hydrotherapy pool. He stated that the amount was \$1,144,000 and that it was a fixed-fee architectural contract.

Mayor Battle stated that this was something new that they had done with the architectural contract, that they had requested proposals and had had a number of firms that had submitted proposals, and that they had had three finalists who had made presentations. He continued that all three of the firms had made great presentations, that any one of the three would have done a good job. He stated that they had chosen the

subject firm because there were some aspects of their presentation that they believed would be better for the City. He stated that this was a local firm and that they were consulting with a national firm that worked with pools and aquatics. He stated that this item had been in the Capital Plan since 2007 and had moved forward year by year, and that in the next year it would come into fruition.

President Russell asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Russell called for the vote on Resolution No. 15-21, and it was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Legal Department Items/Transactions.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution consenting to the vacation of a right-a-way along Lot 2, Calhoun Community College Place, Wynn Drive, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-22)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a right-a-way along Lot 2, Calhoun Community College Place, Wynn Drive, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 15-23)

President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted by the Council members present.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Non-Roster Communications from the Public.

Ms. Jackie Reed, 1000A Bob Wallace Avenue, appeared before the Council, stating that there was some good news and some bad news that she had to bring up. She stated that she understood the sign-up sheet had been picked up five minutes prior to the meeting and that therefore she had not had the opportunity to sign in to speak earlier in the meeting. She stated that she did appreciate the Council allowing public input.

Ms. Reed stated that the Council had just brought up the new aquatic center on Drake Avenue, and that this meant they would be shutting down the Aquatic Center and the Scruggs Center, in order to give the Holiday Inn developer more property so he could develop in the area. She stated that she wished they would advise the public of what their motives were when they did things such as this. She stated that a lot of persons used the Aquatic Center and the Scruggs Center.

Ms. Reed stated that there was nothing located in the center of the city, that they had the Showers Centers and they had things in South Huntsville, but there nothing in the center of the city. She continued that they were doing the Quigley area and Meridian Street, and that there would just be more alcohol, with persons walking the streets and carrying on all

over the downtown area. She asked why they just did not go ahead and open up the entire downtown area and allow persons to walk and drink wherever they wished. She stated that a lot of persons were opposed to this, but the Council members were in favor of it.

Ms. Reed stated that she was pleased to learn that they were going to tear down Joe Davis Stadium and look into doing something at that location. She continued that she believed that would be money well spent.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like for them to look into giving the City employees a raise, noting that she believed they deserved it, that it was a long time overdue.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like to see the Council spend money more wisely and for the good of all the people, not for just the big developers and not for just the downtown area, but on roads, et cetera. She stated that there was so much they needed to do, for example, concerning empty buildings, and that she certainly hoped they would take a look at some of the things that needed to be done. She continued that it was not all about the downtown area.

Ms. Reed stated that she knew they were about to get back on Big Spring and asked that they not let that cost as much as the jail had.

President Russell asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak at this time.

There was no response.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK-TREASURER