

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF ARAB, ALABAMA  
OCTOBER 2, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Arab, Alabama, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017, in Arab City Hall, the time and place scheduled for such meeting.

Mayor Bob Joslin called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following answered present:

MIKE ALLEN  
MARK GULLION  
CHRIS HARPER  
JOHNNY HART  
RENAE WARREN

Also present were Tony Willis (City Clerk), Summer Bixler (Administrative Assistant), Rodney Edmondson (City Attorney), representatives of the media, and the public.

Mayor Joslin declared a quorum present and opened the meeting for the transaction of business. Council Member Harper led the pledge of allegiance. The invocation was given by Council Member Allen.

The minutes of the September 18, 2017, regular meeting were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion made by Council Member Allen and seconded by Council Member Harper.

Mayor Joslin then moved to staff reports. The Mayor reported that Eric Hayes is putting together a new policy on requiring coaches in Recreation League sports to have a criminal background check before becoming authorized to coach a team. The City would just use the National Recreation League suggested process. Dameon Pittenger reported that the City continues with unsafe structure abatements. The Mayor also reports that the City has a Water Board Appointment needed and the council needs to consider persons and be ready to nominate at the first November meeting. Police Chief Ed Ralston reported that call volume is up 12% from last

year. Chief Ricky Phillips reported on 2016-2017 Fiscal Year incidents. Melissa Cook stated that she has compiled a list of businesses contacted in the last 1.5 years and has researched the reasons these businesses gave for not locating in Arab in the hopes that the City may see what it needs to do to attract more businesses. The Mayor then reported for Helen Stone that brush pick-up is currently behind due to high volume and there are still continued issues with contractor dumping.

There being no more staff reports, the Mayor then moves to the first item of old business, to Amend the City of Arab Zoning Ordinance No. 2016-3. Council Member Hart moved to suspend the reading of the ordinance. Council Member Allen seconded and all voted yes. The Mayor then asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Harper stated that he disagrees with the restrictions on digital signs in the ordinance mainly because he doesn't agree that the City should have digital signs and not allow others. He also disagrees with several of the reasons given by the Planning Commission for not having them. Council Member Hart says that he understands Council Member Harper's concerns but he believes that the Planning Commission considered these issues and the City having these signs and he sees it as different. Planning Commission Member Rodney Willingham, who was in attendance was asked the reason for old Highway 231 being allowed to have electronic signs and he stated that it was because of businesses expected to be moving to that area with the City's development and the new school being built. Kim Johnson also reported that the City's Comprehensive Report showed that area as a business growth area. Kim Johnson then stated that she had letters from Planning Commission Members Patricia Henry and Don Clark, who could not be present tonight, regarding their reasons for voting to keep the proposal on electric signs as is. The Mayor read those letters to the Council. Council Member Gullion stated that he agrees that he has concerns with electronic signs getting out of hand if some action is not taken. With no further discussion, Council Member Allen moved to adopt the

ordinance. Council Member Hart seconded and Council Members Hart, Gullion, Allen and the Mayor voted yes with Council Members Harper and Warren voting no. The Mayor then declared the Ordinance passed.

There being no more old business, the Mayor then moves to the first item of new business, a resolution to declare a certain surplus of items from City inventory. Council Member Allen moved to suspend the reading of the resolution. Council Member Harper seconded and all voted yes. Council Member Allen moved to suspend the rules. Council Member Gullion seconded and all voted yes. Council Member Gullion then moved to accept the resolution. Council Member Allen seconded and all voted yes.

With no more new business to address, Mayor Joslin then opened up the floor for public comment. The Mayor first thanked the students from Arab Junior High School who were present to observe the Council Meeting. Ms. Diane Sorter, a Beautification Board Member, stated that she has concerns over the welcome sign lighting not working properly. The Mayor indicated he would check on it. She also reported that she represented Arab in the recent Keep America Beautiful Organization conference and recommended Arab join the same. Mr. Curtis Haney was present and had questions regarding what the City is doing with the Northridge property. The Mayor directed him to a recent report on businesses who have chosen not to come to Arab. Ms. Abbie Ware questioned how cameras in the Arab City Park were working. The Mayor reported they are working well and have cut down on vandalism. Ms. Terry Dewald stated that she is concerned that residents that live on Highway 69 are putting limbs and other refuse on sidewalks and blocking the same. She wants to know what can be done about it. The Mayor advised her to notify the Code Enforcement Officer and he would then be able to address the issue. Ms. Brandi Gault asks how we can help get more people in the City limits. The Mayor indicated that the main

way would be from annexation. He then presented several reasons that can be given for residents to suggest annexation to their friends and neighbors outside of the City. After the public comments, Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hart seconded and all voted yes.

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MAYOR BOB JOSLIN

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TONY WILLIS, CITY CLERK