

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF ARAB, ALABAMA
JULY 24, 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, July 24, 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 Warren led the pledge of allegiance. The invocation was given by Council Member Allen.

The minutes of the July 10, 2017, regular meeting were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion made by Council Member Hart and seconded by Council Member Gullion.

Mayor Joslin then moved to staff reports. The Mayor announced that he and the Finance Committee will meet before the next Council Meeting. The Mayor also asks citizens to try and work with their neighbors (or at least consider what might be going on with them) before calling City Hall to complain about weed violations. The Mayor also offered condolences on the death of Ms. Mona Holmes, a former City Hall employee. The Mayor then calls on Police Chief Ed Ralston who had nothing new to report. Next the Mayor calls on Fire Chief Ricky Phillips who reported

on year to date calls for Arab Fire Department. Next, Mr. Brian Camp reported in the absence of Mr. Eric Hayes. He indicated the Arab Recreation Department has had recent issues with people swimming in a pond at the Arab City Park and are trying to address this with help from the Arab Police Department. He also reported on Arab swim team members going to State and the 8 yr. old and under baseball going to Nationals.

There being no more staff reports, Mayor Joslin moved to board appointments. He stated that there are two board positions on the Construction Board of Appeals open for appointment. Mr. Mike Massey has indicated he will be willing to serve another term. Mayor Joslin opened the floor for nominations. Council Member Harper nominated Mr. Mike Massey. Council Member Hart moved to close the nominations. Council Member Allen seconded and all voted yes. Upon roll call, Council Members Hart, Warren, Gullion, Allen and Harper voted yes to appoint Mr. Massey. The Mayor then opened the floor for consideration of the other board position. Council Member Gullion nominated Mr. Tim Green. Council Member Hart moved to close the nominations. Council Member Warren seconded and all voted yes. Upon roll call, Council Members Hart, Warren, Gullion, Allen and Harper voted yes to appoint Mr. Tim Green. Mayor Joslin then declared Mr. Massey and Mr. Green appointed to the Construction Board of Appeals based on the vote of the Council.

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

For the second item of new business the Mayor opens the floor for a public hearing to discuss the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the proposed applications the City plans to submit to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for funding consideration. No one sought recognition. Council Member Gullion then moved to close the public hearing. Council Member Harper seconded and all voted yes.

The third item of new business was a public hearing regarding consideration of an application submitted by Mr. Alex Sierra for Conditional Use of a parcel of land identified as PPIN 67643 located along Highway 231 North to request construction of a billboard. The Mayor opens the floor for a public hearing. Mr. Sierra was present and reported he planned on good use of a "Welcome Home" type sign. He also reported that he would agree to cut off lights on the sign at an appropriate time at night if there are any concerns. It was reported by Council Member Gullion that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the conditional use. Council Member Warren questioned if the billboard was to rent and Mr. Sierra said no, it was for his own use mainly as that was his main concern but he did not want to say it would never be rented. She also questioned the location of the sign and he reported it was going on Lot #2 and presented the Council with a rendering of the sign and approximate location. Council Member Gullion indicated that the lots may require retaining walls if later developed and he wants to make sure Mr. Sierra ensures the sign doesn't impact that. Council Member Gullion also tells Mr. Sierra that if the City passes a new sign ordinance, billboards may not be allowed, so he needs to know that if it is approved now, he had better get it properly installed in a permanent location, as he may not be able to move it at a later time. One or more of the Council questioned Mr. Sierra on his feelings, as an owner of residential property in the adjoining neighborhood. He said that he was fine with

it, especially since the land was commercial and intended for commercial use before the subdivision was developed. Since no one else sought recognition, the Mayor closed the public hearing. Council Member Hart moved to approve the conditional use. No one seconded so the motion died for the lack of a second. Council Member Harper then moved to table consideration of the motion until the August 7th meeting so that more public feedback could be obtained. Council Member Allen seconded and all voted yes except Council Member Hart who abstained.

The last item of new business was a resolution to approve transfer of certain City owned property to the Arab Commercial Development Authority/Industrial Development Board in furtherance of an on-going economic development project. 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 Warren seconded and all voted yes. Council Member Allen then moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Warren seconded and all voted yes.

With no more new business to address, Mayor Joslin then opened up the floor for public comment. Since no one else sought recognition, Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Harper seconded and all voted yes.