

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,  
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The Honorable Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, met in regular session on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, there being present:

President:	Russell
Councilpersons:	Culver, Olshefski, Kling, Showers
Mayor:	Battle
City Administrator:	Hamilton
City Attorney:	Joffrion
City Clerk-Treasurer:	Hagood

President Russell called the meeting to order.

President Russell called for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of 9/11, the servicemen, the first responders, and others who served. He stated that the Boy Scouts in the audience would lead the pledge of allegiance.

President Russell asked the Boy Scouts in the audience to introduce themselves.

Harrison Smith stated that he was from Troop 633, at First Presbyterian Church, and that they were working on Communications and Citizenship in the Community.

Blake McClow stated that he was with Troop 361, at Holy Spirit Church, and that he was working on Citizenship in the Community.

President Russell welcomed the Scouts and stated that the Council would be happy to assist them in any way they could.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Council on August 28, 2014, and a special session of the Council on September 2, 2014, were approved as submitted.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions and Special Recognitions.

President Russell recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Joy McKee to come forward.

Mayor Battle stated that he had a proclamation declaring September 15-21, 2014, as Drive Electric Week. He stated that they had found that this was a sustainable way to drive, that less energy was used. He stated that he himself had an electric car which got great mileage.

Mayor Battle stated that the Tennessee Valley Electric Vehicle Drivers Group would be meeting on the following Saturday, September 13, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the Solar Park on Airport Road, and that citizens could come out and view the cars, take demo rides, and learn more about not having to buy gasoline to get around.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. McKee to comment further on this.

Ms. McKee stated that they were excited because Woody Anderson Ford had actually given Operation Green Team an electric car. She stated that this event was just calling attention to all the activities and excitement that was going on in the community about driving electric cars and using

alternative fuels. She stated that they certainly hoped everyone would attend the event on the following Saturday.

Mayor Battle presented the proclamation to Ms. McKee, declaring September 15-21 as Drive Electric Week.

Mayor Battle asked Michael Holderer to come forward, noting that he was going to present a report from the Bicycle Advisory and Safety Committee. He asked Mr. Holderer to comment concerning the activities of this group and the great ride they had been on two weeks earlier.

Mr. Holderer stated that on August 23rd, there had been the Mayor's Bike Ride. He stated to Mayor Battle that he had really amped it up when he had given them all the ice bucket challenge and had taken it on himself. He thanked him for this. He stated that there were some great pictures of this event on their website, [huntsvilleal.gov/bike](http://huntsvilleal.gov/bike).

Mr. Holderer stated that there had been some accidents in the city but that overall cycling was alive and well in the city.

Mr. Holderer stated that there had been a bike summit in the city earlier in the year and that it was the first in Alabama. He continued that they had had a visitor from the League of American Bicyclists.

Mr. Holderer stated that he would advise the Council members to ask staff about what was going on in their areas concerning cycling and how to make it more acceptable in the city.

Mayor Battle thanked Mr. Holderer and the other members of the Bicycle Advisory and Safety Committee, stating that it was a totally volunteer group that promoted bicycle safety and awareness in the city, and also put together activities for persons to be able to enjoy riding bikes in the city. He stated that they were also very good advocates for bike lanes, to make sure that there were more and more bike lanes in the city. He stated that over the years they had been the great advocate that had pushed them along to make sure that Huntsville was a sustainable community in this regard. He thanked the group for their outstanding work.

Mayor Battle asked Rev. John Herndon and Kenny Anderson to come forward for the Star 99/CAFY Young Citizen of the Month presentation.

Mr. Anderson asked the other members of the CAFY team to come forward.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Star 99/CAFY Young Citizen of the Month was Wallace Parham. He stated that Wallace was a recent honors graduate from Sparkman High School, where he had played football, as well as making outstanding grades. He stated that Wallace was unable to be in attendance at the meeting because he was in school at the University of South Alabama. He stated that, however, Wallace's parents, Ken and Lorraine Parham, were present and they would be accepting the presentations on behalf of Wallace.

Mr. Anderson asked that Mr. and Mrs. Parham convey to

Wallace how glad they all were that he was a part of the community, enriching the quality of life by his service. He continued that Wallace had been a volunteer for the past 11 years with the Multiple Sclerosis group, marching along with them, as well as raising funds, and that he was a volunteer for the Burritt Museum. He continued that he was also very active in his church, St. John AME. He stated that he was a model citizen for the community and they wanted to thank him for this.

Mr. Anderson stated that other members of his group would make their presentations at this time.

Mr. Buzz Stephens with Star 99 stated to Mr. and Mrs. Parham that their son was a very good young man, noting that he believed this came from leadership and from parents, what parents instilled in their children. He stated that he had a small token that he would like to present to them, noting that it was school supplies, as well as dinner for the parents.

Mr. George Dugan stated that on behalf of DynCorp International, he would like to thank Wallace, noting that they were very proud of him and his achievements. He continued that he was also inspiring to other young citizens and that they thought this was absolutely wonderful. He made a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Parham.

Rev. Herndon stated that the Human Relations Commission of the City of Huntsville was proud to honor Wallace and present him with a certificate recognizing him as the Star 99/CAFY

Young Citizen of the Month.

Mr. Anderson stated that they were glad to have been able to have presented the small tokens of their appreciation. He stated that he wanted everyone to know that this was something they did each month and that they were looking for nominations from the community of young people who were doing outstanding things. He stated that persons could go on the Star 99 website and get the applications for this.

Mayor Battle thanked Mr. Anderson for the presentation.

Mayor Battle asked President Russell if the Council would consider item 16.c.1 on the agenda, a deed concerning the Goldsmith-Schiffman Field, out of order at this time.

President Russell stated that this item was a deed for approval and stated that if there was no objection, it would be considered at this time.

Mr. Joffrion submitted the following deed for approval:

(DEED)

Whereupon, President Russell moved for approval of the foregoing deed, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers, and was unanimously approved.

Mayor Battle asked Joy McKee and Margaret Anne Goldsmith to come forward.

Mayor Battle stated that most persons in Huntsville were aware of Goldsmith-Schiffman Field, noting that since the 1930's this field had been a place where great football games had been played. He stated that recently, after the City had

been able to work with Alabama A&M to start having high school games at that location, the Goldsmith-Schiffman Field had become something the School Board did not need. He stated that this property had always been deeded to the City, with a reversion clause, that it would go back to the Goldsmith-Schiffman family if the property would no longer be used for sports activities. He stated that Ms. Goldsmith had come to them and stated that she wanted to make sure this property remained in the hands of the City, and that she had tracked down several relatives all over the United States, as well as in Scotland, and they had all signed off on this, and the property was being donated to the City.

Mayor Battle stated that the City would be using the property for lacrosse games, soccer games, and other league games and practices. He continued that this was a great asset for the city, to advance recreation.

Mayor Battle thanked Ms. Goldsmith and her family for doing this, stating that the City certainly appreciated the contribution.

Ms. Goldsmith stated that believed her ancestors would all be clapping about this, noting that they had been able to remove the restrictions from the old deed so that the property would belong to the City from this time forward, to do whatever they wished to do with it.

Mayor Battle thanked Ms. Goldsmith.

Mayor Battle stated that a brief overview of the

General Fund Budget would be presented at this time, noting that the Capital Budget would be presented at a later date. He stated that the Fiscal Year would commence on October 1. He stated that they believed this was a good budget, noting that revenues were up, that they would be projecting an increase in revenues for the upcoming year. He stated that, however, with the inflationary costs that were rising at this time, as well as the pay plan, longevity pay, retirement plans, et cetera, the increases would be used up very quickly. He stated that this did not leave much in the budgeting process and resulted in what he called a "very vanilla" budget. He stated that they had left static in most outside agencies, as well as departments in the City.

Mayor Battle stated that there were always some things that persons would like to include in the budget, but stated that, realistically, they needed to be in this type situation on budgets in order to assure they got the most out of the tax dollars and worked as hard as they could to make sure they were as frugal as possible in the budgeting process.

Mayor Battle stated that they would be introducing the Budget Ordinance at this meeting. He continued that the budget included a 1 percent COLA, Cost of Living Allowance, for employees. He stated that they had done this for the past several years and this practice had kept them from having the big bumps that were budget busters.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Randy Taylor, City Finance



Director, to present the budget at this time. He stated further that the Council would be holding a work session on the budget on September 23, 2014, and they hoped to have it passed before October 1, 2014.

Mr. Randy Taylor, City Finance Director, stated that Mayor Battle had presented a good brief overview of the budget and that he would just supplement that with some figures which he knew the Council members were anxious to see. He stated that because of the upcoming work session, at this time he would just provide a very high-level review of the budget. He stated that the Council members would, of course, be provided whatever details they might need as they continued through the budget process.

Mr. Taylor stated that what he would like to do at this time would be to briefly review where they were with the General Fund Budget, noting that they would not be discussing the other budgets at this time. He continued that the General Fund Budget was the largest budget, that most City operations were inside the General Fund. He stated that they would review where they were for FY14, noting that they needed to understand this because it would become the foundation for the subsequent year's budget, noting that they always based the following year's plans on where they believed they were going to end in the current year.

Mr. Taylor stated that they would present what they believed the following year's revenues would be, noting that

this was what the budget was based upon. He stated that they would also discuss the significant expenditures that were a part of the Mayor's Budget proposal. He stated that because Personnel was such a significant portion of this, he would provide a snapshot on this that would help them understand the dynamics of this.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Council members might recall that the budget for the current year, within the General Fund, was a total of \$241.1 million. He stated that approximately a year prior, the Mayor had proposed and the Council had adopted a Budget that anticipated that revenues were going to be at this level in Fiscal Year '14. He continued that during the year the Council had been provided a variety of reports, including a mid-year budget review, setting out how they were doing in regard to their expectation. He stated that as they saw it at this time, with the great caveat of significant variability that remained with a couple of months remaining, with the books not being closed until October, they believed they were going to be very close to the anticipated number, within \$100,000. He stated that this was based on the sales tax revenue remaining at the 2 percent level, which he noted it had been at for the prior several months.

Mr. Taylor stated that on the PowerPoint presentation he was showing at this time, there was a snapshot of some of the largest revenues in the budget that were affecting how they were thinking about the following year. He stated that sales

tax revenues were almost 60 percent of the General Fund budget. He stated that, as the Council members were aware, the sales tax revenue was not growing at 3 percent, as they had previously expected, that it had only been growing at the rate of 2 percent. He stated that this had lowered the floor upon which the following year's budget was based by approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Taylor stated that he would not go through the displayed list item by item, that the Council could see them. He continued that there had been a notable decrease in some of the revenue sources but this had been offset by notable increases in some accounts. He stated, concerning the last number being displayed, of \$821,000, that they had hundreds of accounts and none of them were really individually significant, but that together they did offset some of the shortages they had seen in other areas.

Mr. Taylor stated that the figures being displayed basically showed how they had ended up very close to the current year's estimate, at least as they saw it at this time.

Mr. Taylor stated that they had anticipated that the revenue for the current year would be approximately \$241 million and that they were using this as the base as they moved forward into FY15.

Mr. Taylor stated that they had given a lot of thought to all the different components of revenue for the following year, and they believed the revenue would be \$4.9 million higher in

the following year, noting that this was an approximate 2 percent growth rate over what they believed would happen in the current year.

Mr. Taylor stated that he was just presenting a quick look at the budget, noting that he would not go over every figure. He stated that he was presenting the major revenues that drove the budget, noting that there were approximately nine listed at the top of the screen, which represented approximately 90 percent of the budget, that all the other revenues combined, with hundreds of accounts, accounted for only approximately 10 percent of the budget.

Mr. Taylor stated that they believed sales and use tax for the current year was running approximately 2 percent higher than in FY13, and that in the budget they were planning on a 3 percent growth rate for the FY15 budget, noting that this was the same figure they had used for the current year. He stated that the Council members could look through the items displayed, noting that they had seen some increases in the current year that were unusual, noting that some of these were difficult to predict and that some they had greater certainty about. He stated that they could see some of the assumptions that had been made that led them to the additional almost \$5 million. He stated that they would have more in-depth discussion concerning this as the budget process continued.

Mr. Taylor stated that this was the most important part of the budget process because that was how much money they

believed they would have available for spending.

Mr. Taylor stated that what he was displaying at this time was what the General Fund expenditures were expected to be, noting that there were four major components; Personnel, Operating, Capital, and monies used for outside agencies and such. He stated that Personnel was the largest component of the budget, representing approximately 60 percent. He stated that the Council members had heard them say that they considered that the sales tax revenue paid for the Personnel costs. He stated that, based on the Mayor's proposed budget, step raises would cost approximately \$2.3 million for the following year, noting that this was step raises coupled with all the other movements of personnel, promotions, terminations, et cetera, during the year. He stated that the cost-of-living raise the Mayor had proposed, in the amount of 1 percent, would cost \$1.2 million, and the longevity plan the Council had adopted in the prior year would double in cost for FY15, and that this amount was approximately \$600,000.

Mr. Taylor stated that, fortunately, health care costs were trending down. He stated that they had just gotten these figures, based on costs for the current week, and that they believed they were going to be able to enjoy a decrease of a small amount in the following year. He continued that retirement costs had not gone up, that there had been a very nominal change. He stated that they were moving the cost of temporary City employees to the temporary service they had been

using in the current year, so that they were swapping the money from the Personnel budget and moving it into the Operating Budget. He continued that overtime costs had been a significant driver in the current year's budget, noting that they would spend approximately \$900,000 more in overtime in the current year in the three largest City departments than they had planned to, and that this was expected to continue, for the most part, and was included in the following year's budget.

Mr. Taylor stated that Mayor Battle was proposing the addition of police officers, in response to the public safety needs, and stated that this figure represented 50 percent of the costs for seven new officers.

Mr. Taylor stated that this represented the Personnel Budget of approximately \$3.6 million, noting that of the \$4.8 million that they were expecting for the following year, \$3.6 million would be for Personnel costs.

Mr. Taylor stated that this was a quick snapshot of the City's workforce, with respect to raises and step raises, noting that these were large numbers and the Council needed to know where this went. He stated that approximately 30 percent of the City's regular, full-time employees were topped out, so that the only raise they would receive in the following year would be the 1 percent. He stated that the Council could see the number of people that would receive either a 6 percent, a 4 percent, a 1 percent raise the following year. He continued that some would get a 3 percent step raise in the following

year. He stated that this was providing a quick glance at what the average profile of the City's work force was in this regard. He stated that the average salary was approximately \$50,600, noting that this just included regular, full-time employees.

Mr. Taylor stated, concerning other costs, that Operating Costs would be increasing approximately \$2.2 million. He stated that the Mayor had indicated that what was being presented was mostly a level-funded budget except for the costs they had to increase. He stated that approximately \$1,300,000 was added for temporary workers, and that there were other costs such as repairs to vehicles, with an aging fleet. He continued that utilities and costs such as this were also included in this.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Huntsville City Schools appropriation would increase. He stated that there were some agency changes, mainly the Von Braun Center and the Convention & Visitors Bureau, which he noted were driven by the liquor tax and lodging tax changes. He stated, concerning the Neaves Center, that the City was required to provide 50 percent of the cost of operating this juvenile detention center, and that this would be an increase in the budget for the following year in the amount of \$750,000.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Capital Plan would receive an increase because of sales tax, but that there was also a retention that they would discuss later, in the amount of

\$3 million, that would stay in the General Fund. He continued that all other changes were very small.

Mr. Taylor stated that he would remind the Council that not much about this was new, noting that when they had presented the mid-year review they had expected that step raises would be \$2 million, that operating costs would go up approximately \$2 million. He continued that, fortunately, they were seeing some easing of health care costs, and, actually, some savings for the following year.

Mr. Taylor stated that much of what would be decided through the course of this process would, in fact, establish FY16's budget.

Mr. Taylor stated that they would discuss this further as they went through the process.

President Russell stated that the Budget ordinance would be introduced, and the 1 percent COLA would be introduced.

President Russell inquired of Mayor Battle as to when he expected to present the Capital Budget.

Mayor Battle stated that they would have the Capital Budget by the end of the following week, or, at the very latest, at the beginning of the following week after that. He stated that they would have it in the Council's hands prior to the work session on the budget.

President Russell stated that they had tentatively planned a budget work session for Wednesday, September 24. He stated that he would talk to each Council member concerning this and



that it would be announced to the public. He stated that they would need to hold at least one budget work session before voting on the budget.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Master Keston Alexander Edwards, Student Presenter, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-656)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Miss Katherine Ward, Student Presenter, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-657)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation, Incorporated, as the Civic and Community STEM Awardee, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-658)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Future Research Corporation, as the Corporate STEM Awardee, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-659)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) James L. Lord, Jr., as the Lifetime Achievement Awardee, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-660)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution congratulating Dr. Paul B. Ruffin, as the Inspiring Young Minds to Succeed STEM Awardee, for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-661)

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

President Russell stated that he would be presenting the above resolutions, on behalf of the Mayor and the Council, at

the Union Chapel Christian Academy Gala, to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, on September 25, 2014, at 7 p.m.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution congratulating Pastor John L. Clay on his 35th Pastoral Anniversary and Retirement Celebration, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-662)

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

Councilman Showers stated that he would be presenting the resolution, on behalf of the Mayor and the Council, at the events to be held at the St. Mark Baptist Church and the Marriott Hotel on September 21, 2014.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution congratulating Glenn R. Pippen, Contracting Officer/Division Chief, Army Contracting Command - Redstone NLOS/HELLFIRE/Hydra Division CCAM-TM-A, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, upon his Retirement Celebration to be held at the Jackson Center on September 25, 2014, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-663)

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

Councilman Showers stated that he would be presenting the resolution, on behalf of the Mayor and the Council, at the

event to be held on September 25, 2014.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution in recognition of the Councill Training School Reunion (1948-1970), held at the Von Braun Center, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-664)

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

Councilman Showers stated that this event had already taken place and that he would be presenting the resolution recognizing Councill Training School. He continued that this was the first black high school in the county. He stated that the event had been held at the Von Braun Center.

President Russell stated that items 15.s and 15.t and items 16.b.2.a and 16.b.2.b had been deleted from the agenda.

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on Ordinance No. 14-318, Substitute A, amending Article 74, Non-Conforming Lots; Non-Conforming Uses of Land; Non-Conforming Structures; and Non-conforming Uses of Structures and Premises, by deleting the existing Section 74.1, Non-Conforming Lots of Record, and adding a new Section 74.1, Non-Conforming Lots of Record and Unified Lots, at the October 23, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-667)

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

President Russell read and introduced Resolution No. 14-318, Substitute A, amending Article 74, Non-Conforming Lots; Non-Conforming Uses of Land; Non-Conforming Structures; and Non-conforming Uses of Structures and Premises, by deleting the existing Section 74.1, Non-Conforming Lots of Record, and adding a new Section 74.1, Non-Conforming Lots of Record and Unified Lots.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to set a public hearing on an ordinance rezoning property lying on the east and west sides of South Shawdee Road and on the north and south sides of South Village Square Road from Residence 2-A District and Neighborhood Business C-1A District to Residence 1 District (11.05 acres), from Residence 2-A District and Neighborhood Business C-1A District to Neighborhood Business C-1 District (4.44 acres), and from Residence 1 District to Neighborhood Business C-1 District (0.01 acre), at the October 23, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-668)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced Ordinance No. 14-669, rezoning property lying on the east and west sides

of South Shawdee Road and on the north and south sides of South Village Square Road from Residence 2-A District and Neighborhood Business C-1A District to Residence 1 District (11.05 acres), from Residence 2-A District and Neighborhood Business C-1A District to Neighborhood Business C-1 District (4.44 acres), and from Residence 1 District to Neighborhood Business C-1 District (0.01 acre).

Councilman Showers moved for approval of a request to set a public hearing to hear the appeal of the Liquor License Review Committee denying a Retail Liquor Lounge Entertainment License to Brazelton Properties, Inc., d/b/a Plush Horse at 2021 Golf Road, Huntsville, Alabama 35802, at the September 4, 2014 Liquor License Review Committee Meeting, at the September 25, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

Councilman Kling stated that he had understood they were going to be looking into purchasing this property, noting that Mr. Brazelton had offered to sell it to the City for one-half of its value, with his receiving a contribution credit. He asked if there had been any contact with Mr. Brazelton concerning this matter.

President Russell asked if either Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Joffrion could comment on this.

Mr. Joffrion stated that there had been an initial contact made when the Council had discussed this matter previously, and the offer communicated by Mr. Brazelton had been considerably

more than the City had been willing to entertain. He stated he had submitted an offer that Mayor Battle had been interested in proposing, but he had not heard anything back from Mr. Brazelton or his attorney since that time.

Councilman Kling asked if this would not be just a matter of the City having an appraisal done on the property and then showing the appraised price to Mr. Brazelton and advising him that the City would pay half of this and give him credit for a donation of the other half. He asked if this was simplifying the matter too much.

Mayor Battle stated that the real question was what the City would do with the property. He stated that there was not a distinct City purpose for it, although he understood the idea of wanting to purchase this property.

President Russell called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Harold McMillan, 3000 The Green Court, appeared before the Council, stating that he had lived in Huntsville since 1954, that he was a native of the Tennessee Valley. He stated that his request to the Council was that they provide vehicular access to his family cemetery off Old Airport Road.

Mr. McMillan stated that this was enclosed by youth activities, ball fields, et cetera, that it could not be accessed by vehicle. He stated that he, as well as some of his

relatives, could not walk the 300 yards from the parking lot to the ball fields, to the cemetery. He stated that he was asking for a roadway to be opened to access the cemetery. He stated that this cemetery had received a lot of publicity, that it had been marked by the Sons of the American Revolution, that they tried to place a wreath there every year.

Mr. McMillan stated that the cemetery had been surrounded by good activities, but there was no way to drive to the cemetery, noting that this had happened over a period of time. He asked the Council to consider an access road to the cemetery. He stated that this did not have to be a large road, just sufficient to allow vehicular access to the cemetery.

President Russell stated to Mr. McMillan that the Council would look into this matter.

Mr. John Stanton, III, 210 Sanders Road, appeared before the Council, stating that he was a member of the Alabama Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. He stated that a lot of persons, upon hearing this, asked him where his motorcycle was, and he stated that his group was not with that specific group, although they were 100 percent behind them for what they did to bring remembrance to the Cherokee Trail of Tears, which he noted passed through this area.

Mr. Stanton stated that his group was a grassroots organization that worked with the National Park Service, and that what they had been doing for the last several years was researching the Trail of Tears route that had come through



Huntsville. He stated that, as many persons were aware, there were two routes, which he noted basically came down Highway 72, and that then there was also one that was known as the "Benge Detachment," which he noted was the only detachment of the Cherokee Trail of Tears that originated in Alabama. He continued that it had originated in Lebanon, Alabama, just outside of Fort Payne, and worked its way into Huntsville, via Guntersville, Gunter's Landing, and into New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, over Blevins Gap, and into Southeast Huntsville, eventually connecting to Whitesburg Drive.

Mr. Stanton stated that what his group wanted to ask the Council to consider was identifying a Phase One Route, which he noted would include a section of the Benge Detachment route, that would originate around Four Mile Post Road and continue north along Whitesburg Drive until it basically reached The Square in Huntsville.

Mr. Stanton stated that the route through Madison County itself was approximately 75 miles. He continued that this was a complicated jurisdictional thing because of rights-of-way, et cetera. He continued that they were approaching the City first because of the simplified jurisdiction, the high amount of traffic up Whitesburg Drive, and to identify a portion of this route. He reiterated that this would be Phase One. He continued that they were anticipating about four different phases, because there was quite a bit of work involved, and expense, for the city, the National Park Service, and the Trail

of Tears Association. He stated that they wanted to just ease into this and for them to work together.

Mr. Stanton stated that there had been 1100 Indians, of Cherokee descent, who had left from Fort Payne and had come through Huntsville. He stated that the route brought them in this direction, but they had also bought blankets and tents in Huntsville for the trip. He stated that there had been 60 wagons and 600 horses, and that when the detachment was under way, it was believed to extend approximately a mile in length. He stated that it had included some of the family of John Gunter, whom he noted was one of the founders of Gunter's Landing.

Mr. Stanton stated that this was a sad story, but that, at the same time, it was one that Americans should have respect for because of the perseverance of the human spirit. He stated that they had been traveling through this area at a very difficult time.

Mr. Stanton stated that he hoped the Council would consider this.

President Russell stated that an item on the agenda for this meeting, 15.a, Resolution No. 14-700, dealt with the Trail of Tears, and that the Council would discuss the matter at that time.

Mr. Jerry Cox, 4029 Telstar Circle, appeared before the Council, stating that as persons remembered the 13th anniversary of what was known as the "9/11 Attack on the

Homeland," they should not forget that 13 years later, there were still U.S. military personnel being killed in Afghanistan.

Mr. Cox stated that at this time he wished to respectfully acknowledge the four United States Army soldiers killed in the last four weeks.

Mr. Cox stated that he wanted to plead with the Council, or as his friend and fellow veteran, Mr. Timberlake, would say, "beseech this August body," to review and greatly strengthen Section 72.6 of the City Code, Chapter 38, Sign Regulations. He stated that his concern had to do with the posting of political signs. He stated that he had a copy of the application for a sign permit that the City required campaigns for public office to fill out. He stated that in this application, just above the signature line, it stated that the applicant agreed to comply with City ordinances and State laws. He stated that Section 72.6 read, in part: "Signs shall be removed no later than 10 days after the election."

Mr. Cox stated that at the end of the 10 days, on routes that he took to his home, there were still some 28 red campaign signs in areas that were in violation of the ordinance to begin with, noting that this was not in residential yards.

Mr. Cox stated that Section 72.63 stated that no more than two such signs shall be maintained on any lot at any one time. He stated that there were several lots in Southwest Huntsville that had many more than two signs.

Mr. Cox stated that Section 72.67 stated that the

application form shall be signed by the person responsible for removing or having removed said signs within the authorized time limit. He stated that the person who had made the application should have placed the signs in the correct places and should have had them removed within the 10-day period.

Mr. Cox stated that Section 72.6.8 stated that no such signs should be erected on any public right-of-way. He continued that there were many signs on public rights-of-way. He stated that it also stated that there should be no signs in public parks and stated that there had been a red sign on Brahan Spring Park land, not on the right-of-way. He continued that, also, there was a large red sign on City of Huntsville school property, on a fence. He read: "public lands or other public places." He stated that it also stated that no such signs should be affixed to any tree, and he stated that as he entered his neighborhood, there was a large red sign posted on a tree.

Mr. Cox continued to read as follows: "It shall be unlawful for any person to erect or maintain any such signs."

Mr. Cox stated that the signs he had mentioned were still out at this time. He stated that his question to the Council was if the taxpayers would have to pay a City employee to go out and remove these signs or if a campaign would be fined for violation of the ordinance.

President Russell asked Mr. Hamilton if he could answer Mr. Cox's question.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he could not, but that he would find out.

Mr. Tim McGuffey, City Planning, appeared before the Council, stating that there were two sign officers that routinely monitored signs for political events and that he would get with Mr. Cox concerning this, noting that if he would provide the locations for such signs, they would have them removed.

Dr. Clarence Johnson, 3302 Buttrey Drive, appeared before the Council, stating that he was greeting them on this memorial day, with the great loss of American citizens, and that he wished to especially note the heroes who had rushed in to help out of the idea of the brotherhood of humanity.

Dr. Johnson stated that it was this type ideal that he had heard of when Mayor Battle had run for office, running under the slogan of "One Huntsville." He continued that he still believed that "One Huntsville" could be an actuality of equality among the entire city, based upon the City's ability to enhance all areas, noting that this was one of the goals the Mayor had stated.

Dr. Johnson stated that as he traversed the North Huntsville area, he found that they were lacking in economic development. He stated that at the August 14th meeting of the Council, when a citizen had been speaking about the Stone Middle School property and the amphitheater, or whatever might be done on this property, Councilman Showers had mentioned that

there were several empty buildings in the northern part of the city, along Memorial Parkway. He stated that he had since heard that these buildings would be torn down. He continued that this might make for a pretty sight for persons traveling in and out of the city, going downtown or to other places of employment, but it would do little for North Huntsville as far as economic development and its tax base.

Dr. Johnson stated that they needed some creative work to happen in the north part of the city economically. He stated, concerning Grissom High School, that someone had purchased land from the Hays family, and that the object of this was that houses, rooftops, would be built, and retail would be in the area. He stated that this was how an area was developed.

Dr. Johnson stated that approximately two years prior, there had been the opportunity for the City to purchase approximately 700 acres of land, beginning on the back side of Kelly Springs property. He stated that in a meeting he had attended with Mayor Battle and Ms. Michelle Jordan, this had been pointed out, and that basically the discussion had been that the developers were not interested in this area. He stated that he wondered how many developers might have been interested prior to the idea of a school going in, with rooftops and retail.

Dr. Johnson stated that his view was that they could have done the same thing with this property on the back side of Kelly Springs, that they could have put retail and rooftops on

this northwest corridor, and this would have increased the economic development of the North.

Dr. Johnson asked that the Council, Mayor Battle, Ms. Jordan, and Mr. Shane Davis take another look at North Huntsville and speak with the people of North Huntsville. He stated that there was property in the area that they could get just as creative with as they had been in the South, concerning rooftops and retail.

Ms. Jackie Reed appeared before the Council, stating that she believed there should always be a prayer in the Council Chambers prior to a Council meeting, that she would always like to hear from someone saying some good words.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like to recognize two employees at this time, as well as Mr. Jerry Cox. She stated that Karen Brown, with Traffic Engineering, had gotten a bush removed from California Street and Hermitage Avenue, which people had said could not be removed. She stated that Ms. Brown had followed through and had gotten it removed. She continued that this bush had been blocking the view of traffic in that area, that her daughter had said she had almost gotten killed at that location and had again asked her to see about getting the bush removed. She stated that Ms. Brown needed to be recognized as Employee of the Month, or perhaps Employee of the Year.

Ms. Reed stated she also wanted to recognize Joy McKee, stating that if one came down Holmes Avenue at the railroad

track, one could see the improvement in this area. She stated that she understood credit for this should go to Mr. Jerry Cox, with the Railroad Authority, and Ms. McKee. She stated that this area was not a forest anymore and that these persons should be thanked for the good job they had done in this area. She stated that she really appreciated this.

Ms. Reed stated that in the paving contracts, she would like to see it specified that they should do wide and white lines on the streets. She stated that this was very effective, that persons could see these in the dark and when it was raining.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like for persons to read the information concerning the Citizens Academy that was displayed in the Council Chambers. She continued that there were meetings going on in this regard and that perhaps this had to do with who was going to be running the City. She urged everyone to take a look at that information.

Ms. Reed stated that she wanted to thank Mayor Battle and other persons concerning the Goldsmith-Schiffman Field, stating that this property was badly needed for the young people in the city.

Ms. Reed urged the Council not to vote to take down the Scruggs Center and the Aquatic Center. She stated that this should be left out of their requests for proposal, noting that it was in the center of the city, and there was nothing else in the center of the city, that there was not a Richard Showers



Center or any such thing. She stated that she understood they were going to shut up the Holiday Inn property, and they were going to build over on Drake Avenue. She continued that this was a rumor, that she was not aware if it was true or not. She reiterated that Scruggs Center and the Aquatic Center should be left alone, noting that young people played ball there and older people swam there. She stated that there was enough retail and enough hotels downtown, and that they should leave this property alone.

Ms. Reed stated that they had built Bridge Street, that she knew why they were not going out to North Huntsville, that it was because they were headed out to Bridge Street.

Ms. Reed stated that she was aware that millions had been spent on the jail lawsuit, and that persons had been contacting her and urging her to ask them to drop this lawsuit, but that since she had seen that it was now going to come to court, she would not do this. She stated that perhaps someday they could tell the citizens how much this jail lawsuit had really cost them.

Ms. Reed stated that she was concerned about the Cabela issue, stating that she believed this was going to cost the City a lot of money.

Ms. Reed stated to Mayor Battle that she was not too happy with the budget, concerning the 1 percent raise for city employees. She continued that that would just make a mess out of her paycheck. She stated that with the alcohol being

permitted in the downtown area, with people walking the streets and drinking, they should be able to give the employees a 4 percent raise. She stated that they needed to stop the waste and take care of the employees, that they were working for the people, and the Council and the Administration were making the decisions.

Ms. Reed stated to Mr. Jerry Cox that she had picked up her signs on the night of the election, that none of the signs to which Mr. Cox had been referring were her signs. She continued that she picked hers up because she might need them for the next election, noting that she never asked anyone for any money, so she had to pick her signs up.

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

President Russell stated that Councilman Olshefski would abstain from voting on these items.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval to purchase fire-resistant clothing for Electric personnel (PR #10159411) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-670)

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

President Russell called for a roll-call vote on the above resolution, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Culver, Kling, Showers, Russell

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Olshefski

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval to purchase a three-year contract for software, maintenance, support, and upgrades for networks, servers, PC's, and other computing equipment (PR #10161575) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-671)

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

Councilman Kling inquired as to the cost involved with the above resolution.

President Russell asked Mr. Joe Gehrdes of Huntsville Utilities if he could respond to Councilman Kling.

Mr. Gehrdes asked to be given a few minutes to find this information.

Councilman Kling stated that he had a second question, noting that this might be of assistance to Mr. Gehrdes. He stated that approximately two years prior, there had been the \$20 million software computer upgrade and asked if this was a part of that.

Mr. Gehrdes replied in the negative, stating that this was McAfee Endpoint Software, which was virus protection, security-oriented software.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that he was having difficulty pulling up the document that included the cost, but that he would be happy to provide this information shortly, if that was acceptable. He stated that this was just to continue using the software they needed to protect their system.

Councilman Kling stated that that would be fine.

President Russell called for a roll-call vote on the above resolution, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Culver, Kling, Showers, Russell

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Olshefski

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval to extend the unit line clearance contract for the period of October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015 (PR #10161984) (Utilities: Electric), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-672)

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

President Russell asked Mr. Gehrdes for an explanation of the above resolution.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that this was a continuation of the line clearance program they had to maintain their electric rights-of-way, that it was an annual contract the Council saw every year, and that it was with Asplundh.

President Russell called for a roll-call vote on the above

resolution, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Culver, Kling, Showers, Russell

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Olshefski

Mr. Gehrdes stated that he could answer Councilman Kling's question at this time. He stated that the cost on the software was \$34,584.80.

Councilman Kling thanked Mr. Gehrdes for the information.

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

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Rose Allen to the Alabama Constitution Village/Historic Huntsville Depot Board, for a term to expire June 26, 2017, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-673)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to appoint Kim Ogle to the Alabama Constitution Village/Historic Huntsville Depot Board, for a term to expire June 26, 2016., as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-674)

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

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution to appoint Rosa Toussiant to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, for a term to expire April 12, 2017, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-675)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Wayne Bonner to the Von Braun Center Board of Control, for a term to expire August 27, 2018, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-676)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Edna Anderson to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, for a term to expire April 28, 2017, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-677)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution to appoint Robert Flowers to the Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, for a term to expire August 22, 2018, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-678)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Olshefski and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Olshefski read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Mark Harbarger to the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, for a term to expire July 26, 2020, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-679)

Councilman Olshefski moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

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

President Russell nominated Ed Pugh for reappointment to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Ben Bragg for reappointment to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Bob Baudendistel for reappointment to the Beautification Board, for term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Jane Tippett for reappointment to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Donna Alt Parker for reappointment to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Joe Green for reappointment to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2017.

President Russell nominated Rick Hempstead for appointment to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2016.

President Russell nominated Martha Jo Smith for reappointment to the City Tree Commission, for a term to expire October 8, 2016.

President Russell nominated Lyle Voyles for reappointment to the Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals, for a term to expire August 22, 2019.

Councilman Showers nominated Clarene Teague-Johnson for reappointment to the Human Relations Commission of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, for a term to expire September 8, 2018.

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. 14-680)

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

President Russell asked Councilman Kling if he had any additional Finance Committee Report.

Councilman Kling stated that President Russell had



announced the work session on the budget. He stated that it appeared they were coming close to actually coming on budget. He continued that even if they did come up \$100,000 short, he felt it was worth noting that they were actually seeing an increase in the revenues over this date in the prior year. He stated that he felt Huntsville was fortunate, that a lot of cities would like to have the situation they had.

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

Mayor Battle stated that he agreed with Councilman Kling, that the City was very fortunate to be where it was at this time. He stated that if they did not have to really bear down at budget time, they would not be doing their job. He stated that this was a time they had to bear down, that they had to look at their expenditures to make sure that they wisely spent the money the citizens had entrusted with them through their taxes. He stated that there was not much left in the cupboard, which he noted was pretty obvious when one went through the numbers and examined them. He stated that even though there was not much left in the cupboard, they were able to do the services they needed to do.

Mayor Battle stated that one thing they wanted to do was to address public safety and noted that they had been able to add seven police officers in the budget, which he noted was very important to them for the public safety side. He stated that this was in response to what they believed was a focus

they needed to have in the community.

Mayor Battle stated that there was approximately \$4 million in additional revenue the current year over the prior year, which he noted was a good thing, but continued that there were also approximately \$4 million worth of expenses that came up very, very quickly when one looked at the inflationary expenses they had in the city. He stated that, as he had told many persons, this was a "vanilla" budget, that most departments were level funded and most outside agencies were level funded. He stated that they had done this on purpose, to make sure that they had a balanced budget.

Mayor Battle stated that a balanced budget was what had gotten the City a AAA rating and what had allowed them to continue to grow and to continue to do the things that they had to do.

Mayor Battle thanked the Council for their assistance in this process, noting that the Administration looked forward to talking with them about the budget at the upcoming work session on September 24.

Mayor Battle stated that this day was the September 11 recognition for the tragedy that hit the United States 13 years prior. He stated that he had stood at 7:46 in the morning with firefighters, emergency response personnel, police officers, and others and remembered that day. He stated that the flag had been taken down to half mast, at the orders of Governor Bentley. He stated that it had been very fitting to

attend this event and be able to honor those who had sacrificed in the tragedy that had happened 13 years prior. He stated that it was also good to have been able to have watched what had happened to the country since that time, noting that the country had rebounded from a tragedy, that the country was not going to be defined by tragedy. He stated that this was one of the things that had come out of the September 11, 2001, tragedy.

Mayor Battle stated that events were being held on The Square during the remainder of the week and the following week, noting that Food Truck Friday was on September 18 at the VBC. He stated that it was amazing to him that they had food trucks come out and 5,000 persons came out, and one guitar player, and it was a great community thing.

Mayor Battle stated that this went back to the old days of the community, with people coming down and talking to each other on The Square in the downtown area and having a good time. He encouraged everyone to come out to Food Truck Friday on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the VBC.

Mayor Battle stated that there was a sign posted in the Chambers about The BIG Picture Citizens Academy. He stated that this was for input from the citizens. He stated that "The BIG Picture" was their idea of a comprehensive plan that would be everyone's comprehensive plan, not the City of Huntsville's plan, the Council's plan, or the Mayor's plan, but everyone's plan.

Mayor Battle asked that everyone come out on September 16 at Lee High School at 6 p.m. and September 18 at Challenger Middle School at 6 p.m. He stated that they would be talking about economic development and some of the issues that faced persons on a day-to-day basis. He stated that this would be a good time for them to sit down with the citizens and get their input.

Mayor Battle stated that The BIG Picture Citizens Academy had been very well received and that The BIG Picture had been well received by groups throughout the community. He stated that they looked forward to continuing this.

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

President Russell recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he certainly agreed with everything Mayor Battle had said related to 9/11, noting that he remembered specifically what he was doing on that particular day. He stated that anything they did to remember the public servants who had made the ultimate sacrifice at that time was very worthy.

Councilman Culver stated that he would be out of town on September 24th and 25th. He continued that with that in mind, he wanted to address some of the things he had heard related to the budget. He stated to Mayor Battle that he had looked at the proposed budget and that he felt Mayor Battle and his staff had done extremely well on this.

Councilman Culver stated that, however, without regard to the budget, any subsequent personnel action the Council might chose to take would be without regard to what had already been done with regard to the budget. He continued that, in essence, if the Council made any other decisions on personnel matters, it would take precedence within the budget.

Councilman Culver asked if Mr. Randy Taylor was still present at the meeting, noting that he did have a few questions for him.

Mr. Taylor appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Culver stated that he was trying to get a good grasp of the proposed budget, stating that, as he understood it, for FY2015, they were projecting, on an average, a 2 percent sales tax increase, with some months being greater and some being less, but on average 2 percent.

Mr. Taylor stated that the figure was 3 percent.

Councilman Culver asked if this would then project approximately \$4.7 million in additional revenues.

Mr. Taylor replied in the negative, stating that that would not be in additional revenues, not from just sales tax. He stated that the \$4.8 million was for all revenue sources, and that sales tax was approximately \$140 million, so that it would not be that much from just the sales tax component. He stated that it would be approximately \$4 million, but that the schools and the Capital Plan would get a portion of this.

Councilman Culver stated that, then, they were projecting

an approximate \$5 million increase, \$4.7 million, in not just sales tax but all of the revenues, as an increase for the following year.

Mr. Taylor replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Culver stated that he was also looking at a possible expenditure of approximately \$3.9 million that would be taken from that additional revenue, as well.

Mr. Taylor replied in the negative, stating that it would be \$3.6 million for Personnel, \$2.2 million for Operating, and then other costs. He stated that all of the \$4.7 million would be used up by expenditures, plus some.

Mr. Taylor stated that they would be taking money from the Capital Fund to assist in balancing the budget. He stated that more details would be provided concerning this. He stated that expenses would actually increase more than revenues the following year.

Councilman Culver stated that this was a concern of his. He asked Mr. Taylor what he believed was happening concerning this. He stated that the sales tax had been increased to 9 percent, and that he was having some difficulty understanding why they were constantly trying to catch up.

Mr. Taylor stated that the answer to Councilman Culver's question was rather long. He stated that the 1 percent sales tax increase had nothing to do with the budget they had just discussed, that 100 percent of that 1 percent was in a new Capital Plan the Mayor and the Council had established, so they

would not see any growth from that. He continued that this was bringing in approximately \$3 million per month, which he noted was earmarked for the programs in that plan.

Mr. Taylor stated that the question as to why sales tax was at 2 percent rather than 3 percent was a question that depended upon what was influencing one-quarter million people to spend money and to spend it in this jurisdiction, inside the city. He stated that it was also a question of business spending, related to everything that was going on, a lot of which was influenced by Federal spending in the area.

Mr. Taylor stated that he just could not answer why sales tax revenue was at 2 percent, why it was less than they wanted it to be when they had so many positive things. He continued that this was a complex answer. He stated that all they knew was what they saw in the numbers, and the reality of the recession, and what they had had to do for the past five years to pay the operating costs of the City, and all the things that had gotten cut out, which he noted was approximately \$27 million they had cut out.

Mr. Taylor stated that all this just persisted, as they had stated many, many times. He stated that it would really take a lot of growth to help them get more breathing room in the budget. He continued that the cost of operations, because the budget was as it was, put a lot of pressure on every dollar of additional revenue. He stated that revenues were not where they wanted them to be.

Councilman Culver stated that he had attended several ribbon-cuttings and that he was looking at the Walmarts, noting that they were acquiring two additional Walmarts, which he noted generated a lot of sales tax revenue. He stated that he was not saying that any of this was Mr. Taylor's fault, that he knew he could not control this. He stated that he was just curious as to what would be the primary contributing factors to what was seemingly a sluggish sales tax growth.

Mr. Taylor stated that he understood this, and that they spent a lot of time thinking about this and trying to understand it. He stated that the question for most of the sales tax issue was what was driving people to spend or not to spend. He stated that they, unfortunately, had a budget, and that, as most persons were aware, life in Alabama was largely based on a very volatile consumer-driven spending pattern. He continued that they received a portion of what consumers decided to spend, noting that this was both business and individual consumers.

Councilman Culver stated that perhaps they would convince Mayor Battle to do another campaign on spending locally, in the city.

Councilman Culver thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation and for the work that he and his staff had done on the budget, noting that they had done an excellent job.

Councilman Culver stated that he had a question concerning inmate labor crews and stated that he believed this came under



the Police Department. He asked if there was a representative of the Police Department present at the meeting.

Deputy Chief Kirk Giles appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Culver stated that in the area of Old Monrovia Road and University Drive and Adventist Boulevard, around where the Walmart was located on the west end of University, he had received concerns about littering in this area. He stated that he had had a long conversation earlier in the day with a resident concerning this matter. He stated that he had thought a part of this was related to people living in the apartments perhaps sometimes putting their garbage on the top of their cars and then forgetting to stop at the bins coming out of Providence, in that area. He stated that he saw a lot of litter along Old Monrovia Road, in proximity to Providence.

Councilman Culver stated that, however, the litter in the Stepping Stone area was seemingly coming from the general public. He continued that it appeared that after patronizing the local businesses, they were throwing litter out into the area.

Mr. Culver stated that he was going to be meeting with the lady he had spoken to earlier in an attempt to look at some kind of workable resolution to this littering. He stated that this person was discussing amending the ordinance to some degree, or intensifying patrols in the area.

Councilman Culver stated that he wanted to bring this to the attention of the Police Department, to see if they could do

something other just cite persons. He stated that they had two statutes, one under Title 32, Rules of the Road, and then one under Title 13A, that addressed criminal littering.

Councilman Culver stated that perhaps in the meantime, they could get some strong enforcement in this area, perhaps after it was cleaned up. He stated that the inmate labor crews did an outstanding job in this regard, and that maybe they could get them to help them out with this, to try to keep the area beautiful. He stated that the citizen he had been speaking with lived in the Stepping Stone Condominium and had lived there for 21 years and had a lot of pride in the area. He stated to Deputy Chief Giles that he would appreciate his addressing this matter for him.

President Russell recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that 9/11 was something that he hoped persons would never forget, forget what had happened to their country. He continued that he hoped it would never happen again and that hopefully steps were being taken to make sure it would not happen again. He stated that persons also needed to remember the families that were impacted by that disaster that had taken place.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed it was a good thing that they were trying to open up the community and make the opening prayer for the Council meetings basically a celebration of the many different religions in the community. He stated that when there was a situation like there had been

for this meeting, where either someone did not show up or they were not able to get anyone scheduled for the invocation, and there were pastors in the audience, for example, such as Rev. Johnson, that in the future perhaps they could call upon one of these pastors to lead the opening prayer. He stated that he felt the opening prayer was a good thing and certainly something that they would want to keep as part of their meetings.

Councilman Kling stated that, considering that Councilman Culver would be out of town, if there were any other time when Mayor Battle and all five of the Council members would be able to be present at a meeting, he would be agreeable to changing the date of the work session on the budget, so that everyone could be present. He stated that, obviously, they did need to take steps so they could get the budget passed by the end of the current fiscal year.

Councilman Kling stated that on the following Monday, September 15, he would be holding his monthly town meeting at the Library, and that he would certainly be glad to hear from citizens in the community and discuss issues. He stated that perhaps they could discuss the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilman Kling stated that at the prior meeting there had been some discussion concerning hiring procedures for veterans. He asked if Mr. Byron Thomas was present at the meeting.

Mr. Thomas appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Kling stated to Mr. Thomas that he was aware they had had some very good discussion at the last meeting concerning this matter. He asked if there was something the City needed to do or the Council would need to pass to provide assistance for veterans, particularly homeless veterans, to be able to work for the City. He stated that he was specifically thinking about an agency that served veterans, inquiring if the address of such organization could be allowed to be counted on the application as being the applicant's address. He stated that he wanted to make sure that no one would be disqualified from consideration just because they were homeless. He continued that, obviously, these persons needed a job, and that he believed they could do something to provide assistance in this regard.

Mr. Thomas stated that they would not disqualify someone or prevent someone from putting in an application, that they did everything they possibly could to assist persons. He stated that they partnered with a lot of agencies that offered assistance and support to veterans and individuals throughout the community. He stated that he had had a great conversation with the speaker who had commented on this at the prior Council meeting, Mr. Rusty Loiselle.

Mr. Thomas stated that his department tried to make individuals knowledgeable of the job opportunities with the City. He stated that he had promised to partner with

Mr. Loiselle and make sure that information was sent to him, and that he would assist the veterans.

Mr. Thomas stated that he did not know what more his department could do, noting that they were happy to reach out to individuals or agencies that wanted to know about announcements so that they could encourage persons to apply. He stated that they certainly would not let an address be something that would prevent them from doing this.

Councilman Kling asked if Mr. Shane Davis was present at the meeting.

Mayor Battle replied in the negative.

Councilman Kling stated that he had wanted to ask if Mr. Davis could take a look at the traffic situation on Governors Drive, going west in the mornings, noting that there was a lot of traffic. He stated that he believed the City had now taken control of the traffic light signalization in this area.

Mr. Dan Sanders appeared at the microphone, stating that he was with Traffic Engineering.

Councilman Kling stated that he had just wanted to ask if they could take a look at the traffic signalization along Governors Drive, in the mornings between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m., going west, and then going east in the afternoons, 4 to 6 p.m. He asked that they look into if anything could be done with the traffic signal timing. He stated that he believed they had taken this over from the State.

Mr. Sanders stated that they had not done so yet.

Councilman Kling stated that that might have answered his question. He stated that he had heard from some people concerning this, and he would assume that they had also heard from persons.

Mr. Sanders stated that they certainly had.

President Russell recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he was saddened to have to report that a long-time retired employee of the City, John Laughinghouse, had passed away on this date. He stated that he was an employee of the Recreation Department and asked that persons remember him.

Councilman Showers asked if Mr. Hatfield was present at the meeting.

President Russell stated that he believed Mr. Hatfield was on vacation.

Councilman Showers asked if anyone else was present representing the Public Works Department.

Ms. Joy McKee appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers asked Ms. McKee about the status of the paving project for Pulaski Pike.

Ms. McKee stated that she could not answer that, but that she would provide that information the following morning.

Councilman Showers stated that there were three ditches in his district, Pinhook, Dry Creek, and Broglan Branch, and that he needed someone from Maintenance to address this.

Ms. McKee asked if the ditches just needed to be cleaned out.

Councilman Showers replied in the negative, stating that what he would like to see happen was that they would put together a plan to address the problems with these three branches in the north part of the city. He continued that this would entail a little more than just cleaning them out. He stated that there was tremendous erosion in these ditches in the north, noting that they were probably the worst ditches in the city. He stated that hopefully they could start doing just a little bit on each one of these. He stated that he certainly hoped someone from Public Works Maintenance could address this issue.

Councilman Showers stated that he was pleased with the work that was going on in the north area of town, in a residential area, where they were piping a ditch, noting that this had been needed for a long time. He continued that this work was moving forward very quickly and thanked Public Works Maintenance for this.

Councilman Showers stated that the Mount Charron Homeowners Association would be meeting at the Showers Center on September 29th at 6 p.m.

Councilman Showers thanked all the homeowners who had come out the prior week to the Lincoya Estates Civic Association meeting. He stated that the next meeting would be on October 11th. He thanked Kenny Anderson for his support and

input in helping to organize this group. He stated that at the last meeting, which Mr. Anderson had attended, his support and remarks about organizing and how to develop a civic association had been appreciated.

Councilman Showers stated that there was light problem at 6007 Lincoya Drive, noting that this was at the intersection of Windemere Drive. He stated that the lights had been replaced, but that as soon as the lights were put up, they were back out the next night. He stated at this time the light was out. He asked if there was anybody from Utilities present at the meeting.

Mr. Joe Gehrdes appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Gehrdes what they could do when they had a light in the neighborhood that when it was replaced, it was being immediately shot out. He asked if there was any type of protective covering that would still let the light be visible that they could put up to eliminate this problem.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that he did not believe so, but that he would certainly be glad to have that discussion with their street light people. He stated that in the event there would not be some sort of protective cover, that they could just stay on top of that intersection and be sure that the lights were operating properly, as often as possible.

Councilman Showers stated that the address was 6007 Lincoya Drive. He stated that this light was out at this



time. He continued that this light had recently been replaced more than one time.

Mr. Gehrdes stated that he would certainly look into the matter.

Councilman Showers thanked Mr. Gehrdes.

Councilman Showers stated that there was a need for traffic calming at 2204 Dogwood Lane.

Mr. Dan Sanders, Traffic Engineering, again appeared at the microphone. He asked Councilman Showers if he would repeat the address.

Councilman Showers stated that it was 2204 Dogwood Lane. He stated that this was in the same area where they were doing some ditch maintenance, in terms of repairing.

Mr. Sanders asked if there was a contact name.

Councilman Showers stated that this person was Stella Edwards. He stated that if Mr. Sanders would call his office the following morning, they would give him her telephone number.

Mr. Sanders stated that he would do so.

Councilman Showers stated that earlier in the day he had attended the North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Conference and Expo, where he had presented a certificate on behalf of the Mayor and the Council members. He stated that the renowned Dr. Shelley Stewart, CEO of o2ideas, an award-winning PR and marketing firm, listed in Black Enterprise Magazine in the top 100 black firms in America, had

been the keynote speaker, and it was a delight. He stated that some persons might have read some of Dr. Stewart's books, noting that one that he liked very much was "InsideOut."

Councilman Showers recognized Mr. Lee Wynn in the audience and asked him to stand. He stated that Mr. Wynn had recently been appointed to work for the Huntsville Housing Authority as a project manager. He stated that Mr. Wynn had resided in Huntsville several years prior and recently had been residing in New York. He asked persons to join him in welcoming Mr. Wynn back to Huntsville, to work with the Huntsville Housing Authority, where Michael Lundy was the director. He stated to Mr. Wynn that he was delighted to have him back in the city.

Councilman Olshefski stated that he remembered where he was on 9/11, that he was in Korea. He stated to Mr. Cox that he appreciated his comments concerning 9/11 and stated that persons would never forget, that they could never forget.

Councilman Olshefski stated that he always had to compliment the City employees, noting that although Mr. Hatfield was out of town, things that he needed to get done were still getting done.

Councilman Olshefski stated to Mr. Hamilton that they needed to address the matter of Huntsville Connect, noting that persons sometimes were not able to get their photos in, and that he thought this was a great thing and he just wanted to make sure it kept working.

Councilman Showers asked if Dennis Madsen was present at the meeting.

President Russell stated that while they were waiting on Mr. Madsen, he would like to welcome the Oakwood University Feature Writing Class to the Council meeting.

Ms. Kyna Hinson appeared at the microphone, stating that she was the professor of the Feature Writing Class. She stated that, unfortunately, most of her students had tests scheduled and had had to leave the meeting early. She stated that they would be back for another Council meeting.

Mr. Madsen appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Showers stated to Mr. Madsen that Mayor Battle had referenced "The BIG Picture" and had stated two sites for the town meetings. He asked if Mr. Madsen could give the time and the date of the meeting to be held at Alabama A&M University.

Mr. Madsen stated that they had tried to not get too far ahead of themselves on this because they were afraid persons would forget. He stated that they would be following up the two meetings which Mayor Battle had mentioned, which he noted would be much broader, economic development focused Citizens Academies, with a meeting that would be specifically on neighborhood reinvestment. He stated that this had been on their website awhile but had not been formally announced. He stated that this would be on October 14th at Alabama A&M University, noting that they had been very gracious about

hosting this meeting.

Mr. Madsden stated that, actually, Alabama A&M had provided them a lot of interns and students that had helped out with some of their previous efforts and had done a fantastic job. He stated that they had said they really wanted to be a part of this, so they had wanted it to be hosted at Alabama A&M. He stated that as soon as they got through with the first two meetings, they would put out good media notices of the meeting at Alabama A&M and make sure that everyone would be aware of it.

Councilman Showers stated that he wanted to invite all the citizens in the city, especially those who lived in North Huntsville, to attend this event, noting that it would not be about points or positions of the City but would provide the citizens the opportunity to say what they needed and what they wanted to see happen as related to North Huntsville.

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

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No. 14-624, annexing land lying on the west side of Mooresville Road and on the north side of Huntsville Browns Ferry Road, which ordinance was introduced at the August 28, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-624)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Olshefski.

President Russell recognized Ashley Nichols of the

Planning Division.

Ms. Nichols stated that the property was approximately 103.94 acres of vacant land lying on the west side of Mooresville Road and on the north side of Huntsville Browns Ferry Road. She stated that the property owner was petitioning to annex for city services for a proposed future commercial development. She continued that the zoning process would proceed following the annexation.

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

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Resolution No. 14-654, authorizing the Mayor to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Nitneil Partners, LLC, for the purchase of property along Meridian Street, which resolution was postponed at the August 28, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-654)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Olshefski.

President Russell asked Mr. Joffrion to briefly explain the above resolution.

Mr. Joffrion stated that, as had been explained at the prior Council meeting, this was a remnant of property that bordered on Meridian Street. He stated that this property was not large enough to be developed on its own. He continued that the adjoining property owner wanted to purchase this property and incorporate it into a parking lot. He stated that this was

located on the downtown side of the creek that was on Meridian Street, and that as he understood it, it would serve an office building. He stated that there was a bank located adjacent to the property.

President Russell stated that he had had concerns about this matter, and that he had looked at the property, and he could not think of another use for it. He continued that this appeared to be a very good price for the property, and that he would be voting in favor of this.

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

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Introduction.

President Russell read and introduced Ordinance No. 14-665, the City of Huntsville Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

President Russell read and introduced Ordinance No. 14-666, authorizing a 1 percent (1%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all eligible employees of the City of Huntsville, effective October 1, 2014.

President Russell read and introduced Ordinance No. 14-681, concerning the annexation of land lying on the south side of Parsons Road and east of Hobbs Island Road.

President Russell read and introduced Resolution No. 14-682, electing out of the Alabama Tax Tribunal.

Councilman Showers asked if Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Joffrion

could explain what the Alabama Tax Tribunal was.

Mr. Joffrion stated that Mr. Taylor, the Finance Director, would be the best person to answer Councilman Showers' question.

Mr. Taylor appeared at the microphone.

President Russell asked if Mr. Taylor would explain what the Alabama Tax Tribunal was and why the City would want to elect out of it.

Mr. Taylor stated that the State had adopted a new system for managing and overseeing certain aspects of State and Local taxes approximately a year prior. He stated that one aspect of this was to centralize the hearing of appeals that taxpayers might have if they wanted to appeal a tax the City believed was owed. He stated that he had previously explained this process to the Council. He reiterated that the State's system would centralize this process for anyone who wanted to participate, and he stated that that was a good thing, that it was more efficient for the taxpayers and provided a central means for doing this, and that it was also good for local governments. He stated that, however, in this particular case, it did not cover all the City's taxes. He continued that the three times they had had an appeal, it had involved a tax that would not have been covered by the Tribunal. He continued that there was also another tax involved that was covered.

Mr. Taylor stated that if this particular situation repeated itself, the taxpayer would have to deal with

Montgomery for one of the taxes and then would be having to deal with the City on the other tax. He stated that for the time being, they felt it would be more efficient to do this. He stated that they rarely had appeals that would go to the Tribunal or to the City's independent hearing officers, that they really tried to work out such matters before they got to that point. He stated that, all things considered regarding this, they believed that it would be best at this time for the City to continue to do what it was doing in this regard. He stated that they would have an opportunity every year to re-evaluate this and participate in the system.

President Russell stated that the above resolution was for introduction only.

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action. He reiterated that 15.s and 15.t and 16.b.2.a and 16.b.2.b had been deleted from the agenda.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing an Agreement with State of Alabama Department of Transportation for the Installation and/or Maintenance of Traffic Control Signals at the intersection of Northbound Zierdt Road and Nature's Way-(A,C and D), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-683)

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



President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement with Dean Moore for the Lease of Farm Land located in the vicinity of Pulaski Pike and Liberty Hill Road, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-684)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for Water Resources Investigations, Project No. 65-14-DM35, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-685)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to modify the agreement with Garver, L.L.C., for Greenbrier Parkway, Phase I, Project No. 65-13-RD02, by Modification No. 1, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-686)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with OMI,

Inc., for Construction Materials Testing Services for Downtown Gateway (Harvard Road Extension)-REBID, Project No. 65-11-RD03, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-687)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for Zierdt Road Northbound Lanes from North of Martin Road to South of Madison Boulevard, Project No. ACAA62033-ATRP(008) and COH Project No. 65-06-RD01, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-688)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for Church Street (Phase I) Clearing and Grubbing, Project No. STPHV-4500(200) and COH Project No. 65-01-RD05, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-689)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Council to amend the contract with Reed Contracting Services, Inc., for Martin Road on Redstone Arsenal, Base Bid and Option No. 1, Option No. 2 and Option No. 3, Project No. 65-10-RD09, by Change Order No. 2, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-690)

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

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. 14-691)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance to amend Budget Ordinance No. 13-630, by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-692)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution

authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-693)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance to amend Budget Ordinance No. 12-768, by changing the authorized personnel strength within various departments, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-694)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Modification to the original agreement, Resolution No. 09-885, between the City of Huntsville and VSP for the purpose of amending and renewing the City's group vision insurance benefits, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-695)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application for the City's excess workers' compensation insurance with Safety National Casualty Corporation, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-696)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to renew a group accident policy for volunteer workers with Markel Insurance Company, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-697)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and John C. Calhoun Community College to provide Emergency Medical Technician training to Huntsville Fire & Rescue personnel, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-698)

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

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Servis 1st Bank Letter of Credit No. 10423 for Village of Providence Phase 6-A Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-699)

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

Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to invoke BancorpSouth Bank Letter of Credit No. 367000574773 for Hampton Ridge Phase 5 Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-700A)

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Trail of Tears Association authorizing the Association to install signage identifying streets within the Huntsville city limits included in the Trail of Tears route, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-700)

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

President Russell asked Ms. Michelle Jordan, Director of Planning, to explain the above resolution. He stated that, also, a citizen had commented on this matter earlier in the meeting, and he asked that Ms. Jordan assure that this compared with what the citizen had asked for.

Ms. Jordan stated that she had worked with Mr. Stanton, the gentleman who had spoken about this matter, to get this agreement before the Council. She stated that this would allow

the City to accept signs from the National Park Service to install 29 signs along this route throughout the city.

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

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Council to change the first regular meeting in November, scheduled on November 13, to November 6, 2014; the second regular meeting in November, scheduled on November 27, to November 20, 2014; the first regular meeting in December, scheduled on December 11, to December 4, 2014; and the second regular meeting in December, scheduled on December 25, to December 18, 2014, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-701)

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

President Russell stated that this was being done to work within the holiday schedule, noting that they certainly would not be holding meetings on Thanksgiving or Christmas. He stated that they were doing this ahead of time so that all citizens would be aware of all the meeting dates, because they wanted them to come and participate in the meetings.

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

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Vacation of Easements.

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Utility and Drainage Easements, Tract B of Midtowne on the Park Phase 2 (Heritage Plantation, LLC), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-702)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lot 31, Park Hampton Subdivision (Cowles), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-703)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of a Utility and Drainage Easement, Lot 1-3, The Village of Providence Phase 8 Subdivision (MREC Placemakers VOP LLC), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-704)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of Utility and Drainage



Easements, Lot 2, West Ridge First Section. 0.169 acres  
(Traditional Land Company), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-705)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of Utility and Drainage Easements, Lot 2, West Ridge First Section, 0.068 acre (Traditional Land Company), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-706)

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

President Russell stated that the next item on the agenda was Vacation of Rights-of-Way.

President Russell read and introduced a resolution consenting to the vacation of a portion of Providence Main Street and Old Monrovia Road right-of-way bordering the development site for Phase II of Providence Place Apartments (500 Providence Main Street), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-707)

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

President Russell read and introduced an ordinance

authorizing the vacation of a portion of Providence Main Street and Old Monrovia Road right-of-way bordering the development site for Phase II of Providence Place Apartments (500 Providence Main Street), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 14-708)

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

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

Ms. Jackie Reed again appeared before the Council, thanking them for allowing public input, noting that all people should care about City government. She stated that the government was in their face every day, that it played a big part in their lives.

Ms. Reed stated that persons had been asking her when Councilman Olshefski would be leaving office. She stated that these people cared. She stated that she had advised them that there was an election coming up and two persons were running for that position. She stated that she just did not know when the new person would assume the position.

President Russell stated that it would be the first week in November.

Ms. Reed stated that the Council voted on budget items and then questioned them, noting that she had a problem with that. She stated that there was a lot of waste going on. She stated

that at least three of the Council members had to vote in favor of something in order to be able to pass it.

Ms. Reed stated that City employees talked to her about many things, and that when they told her something, she always asked them if they were the only person that knew this. She continued that when they answered in the affirmative, she would tell them that she could not bring it up, because they could get fired. She stated that, however, when they told her the whole department was aware of something, she would say that she could bring it up. She stated that it was sad when the employees could not tell the Council what they needed in order to do their job.

Ms. Reed stated that she knew for a fact they did not have enough police officers, that they had stretched the city limits almost all the way to Athens. She continued that they also needed new police cars.

Ms. Reed stated that they should tell the budget people to look into all these things. She stated that previously the department heads had been able to come and tell the Council what they needed to do their job, but that they did not do this anymore. She stated that she could not tell them everything they needed, although she would certainly like to. She stated that they should get some information from the employees concerning this.

Ms. Reed stated that in the aerospace business, government worked from the bottom up, but that in City government,

government worked from the top down. She continued that she had a problem with that.

President Russell asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address the Council.

There was no response.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was voted to adjourn.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK-TREASURER