

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Travis Dotson called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council at City Hall at 6:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Councilors Stephen Ford, Brad Willis, Leslie Evans, Chrystal Lacey, Roger Eoff, Scott Thomas, Guy Roden and Bettina Coger were present. Watkins called roll and declared a quorum.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Thomas shared the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the Agenda, Seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Dotson introduced Chris Soma, Park Director for Mitchusson Park and informed the Council that the Park Commission had unanimously recommended him to fill the vacant position on the Park Commission. Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Soma to the vacant position, seconded by Councilor Roden. The motion carried. Mayor Dotson then administered the oath of office to Mr. Soma.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Roden made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8th as amended to correct the spelling of Ryan Ray's name, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Written departmental reports were provided to councilors in their emailed agenda packets. These actions were taken, or information was presented during the reporting period:

- Police Chief Herring reported that the Police and Fire Department recently partnered with Harps for a fundraiser event. He stated that although the event was shortened due to heavy rain, it raised \$596.00.
- Police Chief Herring reported that Officer Stelly has resigned from the Police Department after accepting employment in Virginia. Chief Herring expressed his appreciation for Officer Stelly's service. He stated that he has been conducting interviews to fill his position.
- Police Chief Herring reported to the Council that the Department's K-9 is nearing retirement age. He reported that Officer Seaton, the department's K-9 handler and a member of the military, had

applied to a K-9 program through Custom K-9 Unlimited in Gainesville, GA. He stated that Officer Seaton was accepted into the six-week program, with tuition, K-9 training, certification, and the K-9 itself will be fully covered by his GI Bill.

- Police Chief Herring wanted to recognize Officer Robert Smith, who serves as the departments in house detective. He is attending a 6 month nationally accredited Crime Scene Technician Program in Little Rock. Chief Herring stated that Officer Smith has 3 months left and will become the only nationally certified crime scene technician in Madison County.
- Fire Chief Kevin Shinn recognized the Fire Department personnel involved in the recent swift water rescue and commended their efforts. He specifically acknowledged Kristin Shinn Clark, Joey McConnell, George Loera and Steve McCourty for their response and dedication.
- Fire Chief Shinn provided an overview of a recent house fire on West St. and commended the Fire Department for their response. He noted the challenges presented by the home's construction and the limited water supply available in the southwest area of the City, which created additional difficulties during the incident.
- Mayor Dotson announced that he will be traveling to Little Rock to receive an additional \$150,000 grant for Airport improvements. This brings the total grant funding received for the Airport upgrades this year to \$950,000.
- Mayor Dotson stated that he has been working on a contract with Judge Garrett for the City's portion of housing prisoners at the new jail. He stated that we have Act 1188 money that can only be spent on housing prisoners and that 90 percent of that will be sent to the County for the City's portion of Misdemeanor cases.
- Mayor Dotson gave an update on the Dotson St. property and also stated that the City is looking into purchasing more property to connect to Dotson St.
- Mayor Dotson introduced Carl Stewart who will be the new Code Enforcement and is currently the co building inspector.
- Mayor Dotson gave an update on the success of the 250th Celebration.
- Mayor Dotson gave an update on ArDot sidewalk project.
- Mayor Dotson provided an update on the City's solar energy usage and reported that the system is currently offsetting approximately 53% of the City's energy consumption. He stated that the City will continue to monitoring upcoming utility bills to determine if additional savings are realized.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Airport Commission-June 1st
- Water & Sewer Commission-June 28th
- Planning Commission-June 22nd
- Park Commission -June 24th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced a Proposed Ordinance Amending Title 14 of the Huntsville Zoning Code of the City of Huntsville, Arkansas. Councilor Eoff made a motion to place the Ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Attorney Fritts read the Ordinance.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Regarding the Acceptance of a Certain Donation. Councilor Roden made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilor Coger. Motion carried. 14-2026.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Proposed Ordinance Amending Title 14 of the Huntsville Zoning Code of the City of Huntsville, Arkansas. W/Emergency Clause. Councilor Eoff made a motion to place the Ordinance on its 1st reading, seconded by Councilor Roden. Attorney Fritts read the Ordinance. Councilor Eoff made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading by title only, seconded by Councilor Thomas. Attorney Fritts read the title. Councilor Thomas made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its 3rd reading by title only, seconded by Councilor Roden. Attorney Fritts read the title. Councilor Eoff made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Councilor Thomas made a motion to accept the Emergency Clause, seconded by Councilor Eoff. Motion carried. 2026-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Eoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Roden. Meeting adjourned 7:36

Mayor Travis Dotson

City Clerk Janice Smith