

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council was called to order in the Council Chambers by Mayor Travis Dotson at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL/QUORUM

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

3. INVOCATION/ 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Thomas gave the Invocation, and Councilor Lacey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Ford, seconded by Councilor Eoff, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (8-0).

6. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

None.

7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

None.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Dotson asked if there were any corrections, alterations or deletions to the April 13th Council meeting minutes. Motion was made by Councilor Ford, seconded by Councilor Roden, to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion carried (8-0).

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

10. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

In addition to written reports provided to the Council, department heads gave supplemental reports and were available to answer questions as follows.

- In the absence of Police Chief Josh Herring, Mayor Dotson reviewed the police report, including animal control. The contract for the new police units has been signed, and the Silverado is in and getting outfitted.
- There was discussion and comments with Public Works Director Brian Robinson concerning extending Northcross road due to erosion from some new construction.
- Water Director Sean Davis said water loss is up, but the cause hasn't yet been determined.
- Fire Chief Kevin Shinn reported the department participated in active shooter training with the police department and other groups. Increased fuel costs are a concern. They are still waiting on the replacement door for Engine 3. Bids were opened and were around \$80,000 less than expected for the training center. Mayor Dotson said he will be

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reviewing a contract with Government Capital, the same company that is being used for financing the police units.

- Mayor Dotson has filed several hail damage claims for the City. He and Janice Smith have been working with McClelland Engineering on applications for a \$300,000 grant for a bypass road around the Airport and a \$500,000 grant for additional t-hangars. McClelland has also worked with ARDOT to get approval for issues that have held up progress on two sidewalk projects. He reported ongoing problems with parking on the square and South College that he is hoping to remedy with a proposed Ordinance. Recent work at South College created four additional parking spaces. He read a Proclamation that he has signed to set aside May 17 as a day to “rededicate this nation unto the God of our forefathers as part of his (President Trump’s) ‘Salute to America 250 Task Force’.” Pavecon will do 15-16 patches on City streets. The Water Department will be sharing some of the cost, and Black Hills has agreed to fix two areas. He is working also with McClelland Engineering to do a traffic study on Missouri Place/Street. This may result in a one-way street and cause some addresses to change. He and Brandi Holt received \$825 scholarships to attend the Congress for New Urbanism conference. He reported on a trip to Little Rock with members of the Youth Council. Due to unsatisfactory service, the City is changing from Cards trash service to Urban Dumpsters effective May 23. Urban Dumpsters have agreed to donate a 12-yard dumpster for city wide clean up events. The Personnel Committee met and voted to establish paid time off rather than separate sick and vacation time. Currently, sick leave up to 480 hours is only paid out upon retirement or death. In the new policy, sick leave up to 60 days will be paid out upon separation of employment as long as the employee leaves in good standing.
- Finance Director Carmen Watkins was absent.
- Economic Development Director Brandi Holt reported 31 new banners and bracketing are being purchased for the Fourth of July. The existing condition use report from NWARPC should be available by the end of the month. The Commission is working on the public input survey to distribute in June.
- Planning Director Jennifer Thomas reported that some changes are being proposed to the Property Maintenance Code regarding garbage container requirements. There were some concerns expressed by Council members.

11. COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning, Water and Sewer, Airport, Park and Economic Development Commission meeting reports, if any, were emailed to Councilors.

- The Water and Sewer Commission met April 16.
- The Economic Development Commission met April 21.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports, if any, were emailed to Councilors.

- The Infrastructure Committee met April 28.
- The Personnel Policy Committee met May 6.

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13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE HUNTSVILLE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE for its third reading. Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Roden, to place the Ordinance on its third reading by title only. City Attorney Jessica Fritts read the title and explained that a definition for "home occupancy sign" was added in Section 3 and "home occupation sign" was inserted as e. in Section 8 (14.16.8). Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Ford, to adopt the Ordinance as amended. Roll call vote passed (8-0). It was declared adopted and numbered 2026-4.

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS FROM DUAL USE ZONE (DUZ) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-3) for a second reading. Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Thomas, to place the Ordinance on its second reading by title only. Motion carried (8-0). Attorney Jessica Fritts read the Ordinance by title only. There was no discussion.

Mayor Dotson introduced AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8 OF THE HUNTSVILLE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS, with an Emergency Clause. Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Thomas, to place the Ordinance on its first reading. Motion carried (8-0). Attorney Fritts read the Ordinance in full inserting "Vehicles & Traffic" in the title. After a lengthy discussion, motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Roden, to table the Ordinance. Motion carried (8-0).

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced a RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ADOPTED 2026 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS. Motion was made by Councilor Roden, seconded by Councilor Eoff to adopt the Resolution. Motion carried, and it was numbered 10-2026.

Mayor Dotson introduced A RESOLUTION REGARDING A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING POLICE UNITS AND UPFITTING. Motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Lacey. Motion carried, and it was numbered 11-2026.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE and COMMENTS

- a. Economic Development Commission meeting, Monday, May 18, 1 p.m.;
- b. Water & Sewer Commission meeting, Thursday, May 21, 4 p.m.;
- c. Planning Commission meeting Monday, May 25, 6 p.m.;
- d. City Council meeting Monday, June 8, at 6 p.m.;

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilor Eoff, seconded by Councilor Ford, to adjourn.

Mayor

City Clerk