

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 9, 2026**

Mayor Dotson opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the young individual that was serving on the Mayor's Youth Council and had lost his life on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Travis Dotson called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Huntsville City Council at City Hall at 6:05 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 Counciler Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Judge Larry Garrett

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Good Citizens Awards

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Eoff made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2026, and special council minutes, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Councilor Evans. 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:

- Fire Chief Kevin Shinn reported that the bid requirements for the training center were published in the Madison County Record.
- Fire Chief Kevin Shinn suggested that he would like to see the fire dues be raised from \$35.00 to possibly \$50.00 per year.
- Water Director Sean Davis reported that the Water Department's new office is scheduled to open on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Water Director Sean Davis Reported that the waster water project is supposed to launch April 1.
- Mayor Dotson reported that the solar field was in operation as of February 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Mayor Dotson reported that he will be meeting with department heads soon and will discuss old inventory that can be put up to bid.
- Mayor Dotson reported that financing with Government Capital is more complicated than originally anticipated. He explained that cities must follow two amendments when borrowing money. Amendment 65 requires a “revenue” lease-purchase agreement, meaning the lessee must pledge specific non-tax revenues. Mayor Dotson stated this option would not work for the City since the majority of its revenue comes from sales tax. He explained that the City can instead use Amendment 78, which allows payments to be made from any revenue account but limits financing to five years and requires a balloon payment at the end of the fifth year. Councilor Roden made a motion to proceed with financing under Amendment 78, pay the \$75,000 down payment from the General Fund, finance at 4.89% for a period of five years, and have a balloon payment at the end of year five. Councilor Eoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS PROVIDED

- Water & Sewer Commission-Feb. 19th
- Planning Commission-Feb. 23rd
- Budget Committee-Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>
- Infrastructure Committee-Feb. 24th

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Dotson introduced a proposed Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands from Low Density Residential (R1) to High Density Residential (R3). Councilor Eoff made a motion to place the Ordinance on its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title only. Seconded by Councilor Eoff. Attorney Fritts read the Ordinance by title only. Motion carried. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

#### 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 suspend the rules, and to place the reading of the Ordinance by title only, seconded by Councilor Lacey. Motion carried. Attorney Fritts read the Ordinance by title only. 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Mayor Dotson introduced a Resolution Amending the Adopted 2026 Budget by the City of Huntsville, AR. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Ford. Motion carried. Res. 8-2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER

Upcoming meetings and activities were announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Lacey. Meeting adjourned 7:10.

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Mayor Travis Dotson

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City Clerk Janice Smith