

CITY OF HANCEVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2026

The City Council of Hanceville, Alabama, met in public session on May 14, 2026, for a work session beginning at 6:00 PM in the council chamber of City Hall with the council meeting immediately following.

Mayor Nolan Bradford called the meeting to order.

City Attorney, Dan Willingham led the prayer and Mayor Bradford followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bradford opened the forum for citizens to speak on legitimate topics.

Mark Howell, 70 County Road 532, Hanceville, AL spoke about the dredging of Mud Creek. He believes the bridges are the primary cause of flooding in Hanceville, specifically the CSX underpass and Hwy 91. He says that dredging Mud Creek may cause water to move too fast, which would cause problems washing out bridges. He also mentions that the street near Kenneth Nails old house is too small to handle the water. He states that Mud Creek has a rock bottom and has grown and spread. He believes the growth of the city will cause more flooding. Mayor Bradford's responded that dredging idea came up under the last administration. The Army Corps of Engineers offered to do a study (funded up to \$100,000 by the Federal Government) if the city signed the application. The mayor stated that the city's part of Mud Creek has already been dredged. The mayor spoke with the County Commissioner about co-signing the application, but the commissioner was not enthusiastic about signing the contract. The mayor says that dredging will likely not happen with just the city's name on it.

Mr. Howell stated he appreciates the heritage and the Indians that lived on his creek. He has cleaned his creek off both sides, and to please leave his creek alone.

PRESENT:

Councillor Robert Powell
Pro Tem Jana Shelton
Councillor Carla Cain

Councillor Cameron Rowe
Councillor Kim Brown
Mayor Nolan Bradford

Motion to consent to the agenda by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Rowe.
Motion carries.

Motion to approve the minutes for April 23, 2026, by Councillor Shelton, seconded by Councillor Rowe.

- A typo is noted on the final page ("Councilor Powell" misspelled).
- Motion carries with corrections.

Motion to pay the bills/Invoices by Councilor Shelton, seconded by Councilor Rowe.
Motion Carries.

American Legion donation:

- Discussion about whether it's a budgeted item.
- Past practice was to send one boy and one girl.
- Question raised about whether the city is allowed to give money directly without a resolution and public purpose.

The mayor would feel more comfortable letting Friends of the Festival handle something to ensure legality. No action will be taken on the current item.

Fencing Bids for C.W. Day Park Field Renovations:

Fence Renovations:

- Field 1 Renovations: \$58,567.78
- Field 2 Renovations: \$59,601.28
- Field 3 Renovations: \$50,962.28
- Field 4 Renovations: \$58,461.78
- Field 5 Renovations: \$51,598.28
- Between field 1 and 2: \$1,205.34
- Fence between 2-3: \$ 4,142.18
- Fence between 3-4: \$ 3,431.68
- Fence between 4-5: \$ 2,371.68
- Fence between 5-1: \$ 13,923.90
- Electrical transformer: \$2,979.00
- Maintenance Shop: \$3357.20
- Total cost for all renovations: Approximate: \$310,000

Condition of Current Fencing: David Wasilewski spoke on

- The fencing is sagging, warped and rusted, especially the backstops.
- The backstops are curling up at the bottom, allowing balls to go underneath.
- The condition of the ball field complex fences is a common complaint.
- The fields drain well, allowing for quick resumption of play after rain.

Phased Approach and Alternative Improvements: David continued with discussion

- The last week of league ball is next week, with tournaments stopping in mid-June and resuming in early September.
- A phased approach, completing two or three fields this year and the rest next year, could be beneficial.

- Prioritizing repairs to existing broken infrastructure, such as the tennis court fences, is preferred before making additions.
- Ball fields are a significant revenue source for the city.

Revenue Generation and Upgrading Standards: Rusty Fields spoke on:

- Upgrading the ball fields is necessary to compete with other facilities and attract business.
- Improving backstops is crucial to show improvement and attract people to the parks.
- Upgrading the complex is essential to compete with standards in Cullman city and surrounding counties.
- Dugouts and backstops on individual fields can be upgraded based on budget.

Negotiation and Addition Consideration

- Negotiating the bid to an affordable level is recommended.
- The bids include rebuilding the dugouts.
- The fields are not symmetrical and could be addressed during renovations.

Field Three:

- Field three is one of the shortest fields.
- Councilor Powell questions if the foul lines are symmetrical and the fences are more symmetrical for each field?
- David Wasilewski gives Heritage Park, Cullman as an example where the foul poles are the corners post, they are not at C.W. Day Park.
- Rusty Fields gives reference to the fact that at C.W. Day Park the concession stand was built, then the fields were not designed properly, and that "they just thought we need some ball fields".

Field Drainage and Infill Rust Fields and David Wasilewski spoke on topic

- 14 or 15 years ago the fields weren't draining. City had 12 inches convex put on the fields.
- Drain tile was put in every field in a shape that was straight with diagonal coming off.
- New infill fines were added to get tournament ball. The infill fines, dry fast and cost \$60 a ton.
- Public works built the fields back up. We must improve the fields to stay competitive to have ball tournaments, per Mr. Fields.

Negotiations and Improvements: Mayor Bradford

- Negotiate with a single bid to get as much as possible up to the current budget amount.
- Replacing the backstops and fences around the tennis courts would be a great idea.
- Upgrading the basketball court and fence be an improvement.

Councilor Brown made a motion to allow the mayor to negotiate the bid, Councilor Shelton seconded, and the motion carried.

C.W. Day Park Improvement Plan: Mayor Bradford, Councilor Powell, Councilor Rowe, Rusty Fields discussed:

- There is a line item for Veteran's Park about putting a playground in \$25,317.00.
- Councilor Rowe suggests putting up a playground in CW Day and putting a fence back behind it to close it in. Parents can let children play there while older children are playing ball games. The playground could be next to ball fields three and four.
- The old playground will be gone, and volleyball courts will be put there in the future.
- The plan will be postponed to a later date to discuss what can be done collectively.
- No Action taken on this item.

City Hall Generator Maintenance Contract:

- The contract will be for the city hall generator contract. Work done on the generators for the fire department, and shelters will be negotiated.
- The total was \$1248 for the year for the City Hall contract.
- Includes filter, oil and an inspection twice a year.
- If there is an issue, it will be worked out with the mayor.

Councilor Rowe made a motion to let Mayor Bradford handle the negotiations, Councilor Shelton seconded, and the motion carried.

Dover PC Recommended Rezoning for Elm Street

- A public hearing will be set for June 11, 2026.

Councilor Brown made a motion to set a public hearing for June 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm, Councilor Powell seconded, and the motion carried.

Deputy Overtime:

Councilor Brown made a motion to pay Cullman County Commission \$9,636.06 to cover deputy overtime. Councilor Rowe seconded, and the motion carried.

Fuller & Willingham Invoice:

Councilor Brown made a motion to pay Full & Willingham \$20,900 for service conducted not billed. Councilor Powell seconded, and the motion carried.

Library Board Appointment:

Councilor Brown made a motion to appoint Lauren Bentley to Place 4 for 4 years, and Cathi Bradford to Place 5 for 4 years, Councilor Shelton seconded, and the motion carried.

Community Development Training Proposal:

Councilor Shelton made a motion to table the proposal for further discussion. Councilor Brown seconded the motion carried to table for later discussion tonight.

Procurement Policy for Federal Funds: Ordinance 2026-8

- First reading: no vote needed.
- Attorneys reviewed it, it looks good but needs further review.
- Second reading at the next meeting.

Public Hearing Date for Azul Tequila Mexican Cantina, LLC

Councilor Brown made a motion to set a public hearing for Azul Tequila Mexican Cantina, LLC for May 28, 2026 @ 6:00 pm. Councilor Rowe seconded, and the motion carried.

Credit Card Machine for Library:

- Clean & Simply Machine (\$10.00 per month)
- Purchase credit card machine (max of \$350) with (\$120 annual fee) and 2.75% fee.
- Square is cheaper at 2.5% plus 15 cents per transaction. (27 cents per \$5)

Councilor Brown made a motion to postpone until further investigation, Councilor Shelton seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

- Bank account balance sheet on the back.

Staff Reports: Chris Hardin Fire Chief:

- Fire Department: 109 calls (68 EMS, 21 fire, 2 investigations, 5 rescue).
- Community outreach: Touch a truck at the Ag center (1600 people).
- Expecting 10 new volunteers by the end of the month.

Staff Reports: Rusty Fields Public Works:

- Bi-weekly report in council's packet, he reports he will answer any questions council has.

Council Discussion Items

- Need a name for the Alcohol Review Board by the next meeting.
- Position was previously held by the police chief.

Executive Session

- Councilor Brown made a Motion to go into executive session to discuss possible legal action with the city attorney asked to attend. Councilor Powell seconded the motion.

- Roll call vote:

Councilor Powell-yes, Councilor Rowe-yes, Pro Tem Shelton-yes, Councilor Brown-yes, Councilor Kane-yes, Mayor Bradford yes.

Announcements:

- Food trucks at Tucker Park until 8:00 PM.
- Grilled Cheese Festival: May 23, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Chinese restaurant open at 107 Banger Avenue until 8:30 PM.

- Next council meeting: May 28th at 6:00 PM.
- Following meeting: June 11th at 6:00 PM.
- Tent revival: June 15th-20th at CW Day Park.
- Fish-a-rama Senior day is May 22nd.
- Fish-a-rama Kids Day is May 23rd.
- The pool is scheduled to be open on May 23rd.

Anticipated Action

- The mayor anticipates action to take place after his return, possibly on one item.

Church Street Closure: Rusty Fields asked Mayor Bradford

- Question about closing Church Street: "Do you want Church Street to be closed also? All the way around the block like we did last time?"
- Decision: Leave Church Street open.
- Close Banger, Commercial, and Blountville Street.

Community Development Training Proposal:

- Councilor Brown made a motion to send Councilman Powell to the community development training program at the University of Alabama for the next three years, one weekend each summer, and pay his expenses. Councilor Rowe seconded. No further discussion. Councilor Powell abstains. Motion carries.

Adjournment:

Councilor Brown made Motion to adjourn. Councilor Powell seconded, Motion carried.

- Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Nolan Bradford

ATTEST:



Tracy Bailey

Robert Powell Council Member
Authorized Attesting Official