

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE SERVICE CENTER COMPLEX, LOCATED AT 448 HIGHWAY 75, IN THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS

The City Council met in regular session with the following:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Humphrey, Mayor Pro Tem McKenzie, Councilmember At-Large Position 1 Lyle, Councilmember Ward 1 Fossum, Councilmember At-Large Position 2 Denman, Councilmember Ward 2 Cox, Councilmember Ward 3 Antwine, Councilmember At-Large Position 4 Graham, Councilmember Ward 4 Strong

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT: Aron Kulhavy, City Manager; Sharon Schultz, Deputy City Secretary; Leonard Schneider, City Attorney

OFFICERS ABSENT: Kristy Doll, City Secretary

WORKSHOP (4:00 p.m.)

Mayor Humphrey called the workshop to order at 4:07 p.m.

DISCUSSION

a. **Receive presentations from the following consulting firms regarding recruitment services for the City Manager position.**

a. **SGR**

b. **Clear Career Professionals**

c. **Bakertilly**

Brian Beasley, HR Director

Bakertilly addressed questions for City Council first. Clear Career Professionals addressed questions for Council second. SGR did not attend the workshop.

Mayor Humphrey adjourned the workshop without objection at 5:16 p.m.

MAIN SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES - U.S. Flag and Texas Flag: *Honor the Texas Flag. I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state, under God, one, and indivisible.*

Mayor Humphrey gave the invocation and led the pledges.

PUBLIC HEARING

a. **Public Hearing on the Tax Year 2024 (FY 2024/2025) Tax Rate for the City of Huntsville.**
Steve Ritter, Finance Director

Mayor Humphrey opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Mayor Humphrey called for citizen comments, there were no comments from the public.

Mayor Humphrey closed the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m.

- b. **Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-22, amending Chapter 46 Utilities of the Huntsville Municipal Code, Article IV “Stormwater Utility System”, to add the Division 3 “Stormwater Utility Fees”, to establish a schedule of rates and charges to be assessed: providing for drainage service, billing, and providing for an effective date.**
Kathlie Jeng-Bulloch, City Engineer

Mayor Humphrey opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Humphrey called for citizen comments, there were no comments from the public.

Mayor Humphrey closed the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

The presiding officer will call for public comments before action is taken on these items. (Approval of Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager to implement each item in accordance with staff recommendations. An item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Statutory Agenda for full discussion by request of a member of Council.)

- a. **Consider approving the Minutes from the September 3, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.**
Kristy Doll, City Secretary
- b. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to purchase IT infrastructure equipment for the new City Hall Building.**
Bill Wavra, IT Director
Kathlie Jeng-Bulloch, City Engineer
- c. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to approve the annual purchase of various automotive parts and equipment used in repair of City vehicles.**
Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director
- d. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to award a purchasing agreement based on product price, availability, and reasonable delivery time for tires established by the Buy Board Cooperative.**
Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director

Consent Agenda Item 1.d. was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Statutory Agenda for discussion.

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items a through c. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anissa Antwine. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

2. STATUTORY AGENDA

- 1.d. Consider authorizing the City Manager to award a purchasing agreement based on product price, availability, and reasonable delivery time for tires established by the Buy Board Cooperative.**
Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to consider authorizing the City Manager to award a purchasing agreement based on product price, availability, and reasonable delivery time for tires established by the Buy Board Cooperative. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anissa Antwine. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

- a. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2024-24 to adopt the FY 2024/2025 Budget with all policies, fees, rates, and provisions as referenced therein. Record/rollcall vote required.**
Steve Ritter, Finance Director

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-24 to adopt the FY 2024/2025 Budget with all policies, fees, rates and provisions as referenced therein. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pat Graham. The motion passed 9 - 0.

roll call vote:

Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox

No: None

- b. **Consider ratifying the increased property tax revenues of \$1,409,670 reflected in the FY 2024-2025 Budget as adopted.**
Steve Ritter, Finance Director

Councilmember Tore Fossum made a motion to ratify the increased property tax revenues of \$1,409,670 reflected in the FY 2024-2025 Budget as adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anissa Antwine. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

- c. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2024-25 adopting the Tax Rate of \$0.3445 per \$100 valuation, approving both components: one component being M&O at \$0.2760 and the other component being Debt Service at \$0.0685 and levying taxes for the City of Huntsville for the FY 2024/2025. Record/rollcall vote required.**
Steve Ritter, Finance Director

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-25 adopting the Tax Rate of \$0.3445 per \$100 valuation, approving both components, one component being M&O at \$0.2760 and the other component being Debt Service at \$0.0685 and levying taxes for the City of Huntsville for the FY 2024/2025. This tax rate is effectively a 9.5% increase in the tax rate. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tore Fossum. The motion passed 9 - 0.

roll call vote:

Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox

No: None

- d. **Second Reading - Consider adoption of Ordinance 2024-22, amending Chapter 46 Utilities of the Huntsville Municipal Code, Article IV "Stormwater Utility System", to add the Division 3 "Stormwater Utility Fees", to establish a schedule of rates and charges to be assessed; providing for drainage service, billing, and providing for an effective date.**
Kathlie Jeng-Bullock, City Engineer

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-22, amending Chapter 46 Utilities of the Huntsville Municipal Code, Article IV "Stormwater Utility System", to add the Division 3 "Stormwater Utility Fees", to establish a schedule of rates and charges to be assessed: providing for drainage service, billing, and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jon Strong. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

3. CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR/CITY MANAGER

- a. Consider the appointments to the City of Huntsville Boards and Commissions.
Russell Humphrey, Mayor

BOARD NAME	SEAT #	APPOINT/ REAPPOINT	BOARD MEMBER	TERM EXPIRES
CEMETERY				
	5	Appoint	Samuel Massey	8-31-2026
	8	Appoint	Carrol Barret	8-31-2026
MAIN STREET				
	2	Appoint	Bridget Maloney	8-31-2026
	7	Appoint	Madelyn Adler	8-31-2026
	6	Reapp.	Malissa Williams	8-31-2026
TOURISM				
	2	Appoint	Lisa Trow	8-31-2025
	5	Reapp.	Tammy Farkas	8-31-2027
	9	Reapp.	Carollne Crimm	8-31-2027
HOUSING				
	1	Reapp.	Sally Dowis	8-31-2026
	4	Reapp.	Cynthia Cooper	8-31-2026
ARTS				
	7	Appoint	Cheryl Spencer	8-31-2027
LIBRARY				
	2	Reapp.	Amanda Smithson	8-31-2027

Mayor Russell Humphrey nominated Board and Commission members as presented. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

- b. The City Council of Huntsville will cast their vote by a majority vote for the Texas Municipal League Region 14 Director position.
Kristy Doll, City Secretary

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie nominated Frank Robinson to serve as the Texas Municipal League Region 14 director position. The nomination passed 9 - 0 Yes: Mayor Russell Humphrey, Vicki McKenzie, Pat Graham, Jon Strong, Bert Lyle, Casey Cox, Karen Denman, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum; No; None

- c. Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Fixed Based Operation (FBO), lease agreement with Huntsville Aviation to provide aeronautical services at the Bruce Brothers Huntsville Regional Airport.
Aron Kulhavy, City Manager

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to remand the lease back to the Airport Advisory Board for an additional 30-days to complete the process as requested from the Airport Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tore Fossum. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

- d. Consider selecting a recruitment firm for the City Manager search.
Brian Beasley, HR Director

Councilmember Casey Cox made a motion to enter into an agreement with Bakertilly recruitment firm for the City Manager search. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pat Graham. The motion passed 9 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Bert Lyle, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

4. MEDIA INQUIRIES RELATED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

None

5. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Councilmembers announced Items of Community Interest.

Mayor Humphrey canceled and pulled the executive session from the agenda.

CANCELLED 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

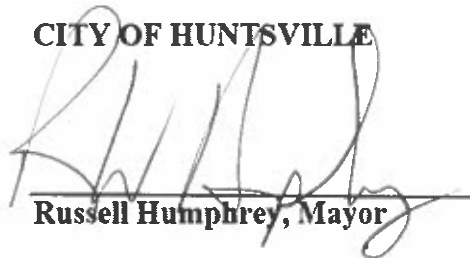
City Council will convene in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071, to receive legal advice on personnel matters involving Charter Officers and Chapter 551, Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters: regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: City Manager Aron Kulhavy.
Aron Kulhavy, City Manager

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Humphrey adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sharon Schultz, Deputy City Secretary

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

Russell Humphrey, Mayor