

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF JANUARY 2025 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: Sam Masiel, Interim City Manager; Kristy Doll, City Secretary; Leonard Schneider, City Attorney

OFFICERS ABSENT:

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.*

Councilmember Lyle gave the invocation, and Mayor Humphrey led the pledges.

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 December 17, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.**
Kristy Doll, City Secretary
- b. **Consider adoption of Ordinance 2025-2 to amend the budget for FY 24-25 and/or CIP Project Budgets.**
Steve Ritter, Finance Director
- c. **Consider adopting Resolution 2025-01 to adopt a policy to set guidelines for the management of the City of Huntsville's electronic textual communication, including email and text messages, and establish guidelines for managing email communications.**
Kristy Doll, City Secretary
- d. **Consider approving the expenditure of funds approved in the 2024-2025 FY budget for the up-fitting of police vehicles.**
Darryle Slaven, Police Chief
- e. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to approve a supply agreement with Badger Meter for water meters, software, and associated supply items.**
Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director

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

f. Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for sewer line replacement and rehabilitation.

Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director

Councilmember Jon Strong made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items a. through f. excluding Item e. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vicki McKenzie. 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.e. Consider authorizing the City Manager to approve a supply agreement with Badger Meter for water meters, software, and associated supply items.

Brent Sherrod, Public Works Director

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to authorize the City Manager to approve a supply agreement with Badger Meter for water meters, software, and associated supply items. 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

a. First Reading - Consider and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-1, authorizing participation with other Entergy Service Area Cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc and authorizing the hiring of lawyers and rate experts and the City's participation at the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Leonard Schneider, City Attorney

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to waive the two-reading requirement and approve Ordinance 2025-1 authorizing participation with other Entergy Service Area Cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. and authorizing the hiring of lawyers and rate experts and the City's participation at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. 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

Councilmember Lyle excused himself from his seat at the dias and left the council chambers prior to the reading of Item 2.b.

b. Second Reading - Consider Ordinance 2024-34, a Zoning District Map Amendment request to change the zoning designation from Medium-Density Residential to Mixed Use at 1605 15th Street, Walker County Property ID 27851.

Layne Yeager, City Planner/Airport Manager

Councilmember Vicki McKenzie made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-34, a Zoning District Map Amendment request to change the zoning designation from Medium-Density Residential to Mixed Use at 1605 15th Street, Walker County Property ID 27851. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tore Fossum. The motion passed 8 - 0. Yes: Russell Humphrey, Karen Denman, Vicki McKenzie, Jon Strong, Pat Graham, Anissa Antwine, Tore Fossum, Casey Cox; No: None

Councilmember Lyle returned to the council chambers and his seat at the dias.

3. CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR/CITY MANAGER

- a. Receive an update from Development Services Staff on The Ridge development and its current stage in the City's development process.**

Jon Strong, Councilmember Ward 4

Vicki McKenzie, Mayor Pro Tem

Tore Fossum, Councilmember Ward 1

Mayor Humphrey called for public comments. Public comments were heard from the following citizens: Lori Rose, Mike Belovsky, Donald Kopnick, James Langley, Colby Oldham, D'Wayne Jernigan, John Maisel, Natali Maness, Brandon Hight, Craig Henderson, Peggy Lockey, and Glen Frye.

- b. Consider authorizing staff to solicit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Municipal Court Prosecutor.**

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

City Council/Mayor/City Manager Item 3.b. was moved for consideration after reconvening from Executive Session.

- c. Consideration and possible action to accept Judge Gaines's Letter of Resignation effective January 1, 2025.**

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

Councilmember Tore Fossum made a motion to authorize Mayor Humphrey, in writing, to accept Judge Gaines's Letter of Resignation effective January 1, 2025. 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.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. 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 and procedures involving Municipal Court, and Chapter 551, Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters: regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: Municipal Court Judge and Municipal Court Alternate Judge.**

Leonard Schneider, City Attorney

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

- b. City Council will convene in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters: regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: Municipal Court Prosecutor.**

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

- c. City Council will convene in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code, 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.**

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

City Council convened into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

7. RECONVENE

City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

City Council/Mayor/City Manager Item 3.b. was moved for consideration after reconvening from Executive Session.

3.b. Consider authorizing staff to solicit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Municipal Court Prosecutor.

Russell Humphrey, Mayor

Councilmember Jon Strong made a motion to authorize staff to RFQ for the Municipal Prosecutor position. 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

Motions to the Executive Session Agenda Item 6.a. after reconvening.

Councilmember Casey Cox moved to instruct staff to post for an Alternate Municipal Court Judge position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karen Denman. 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

Mayor Humphrey recommends Devon Dawson for the appointment of Judge to the City of Huntsville Municipal Court for the term that expires October 2025 and subject to an executed contract. 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

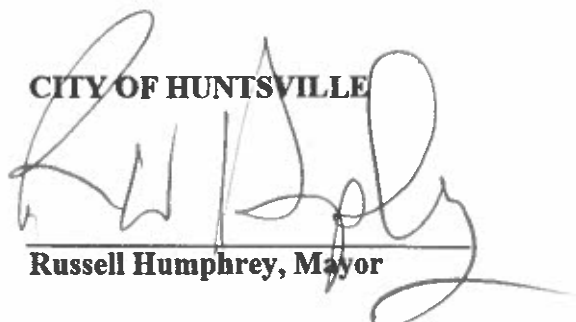
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Humphrey adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kristy Doll, City Secretary



CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

Russell Humphrey, Mayor