CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 5, 2023
Council Meeting - 6:30 PM
CENTER POINT CITY HALL

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

President Collins called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read the following statement:
I would like to make a statement related to a discussion that occurred at the last council meeting on December 15, 2022.

The purchase of a van for the Parks and Recreation Department was on the agenda for discussion. The discussion evolved into an in-depth discussion of the after-school program. The council presented concerns with when the program was established, questions of the procedures and protocols, and funding. There were statements made about membership promotions and claims that Mayor Scott spent over his allowed limit. While discussions surrounding the safety, logistics, and benefits of an afterschool program are not unreasonable. Council discussions should be related to items listed on the agenda, so that adequate notice to citizens, other interested parties, and the mayor is provided.

As it relates to the claim made that Mayor Scott spent over his allowed limit of $5,000 set forth in resolution 2020-54, passed unanimously by council on November 2, 2020. Resolution 2022-41 was also passed unanimously by council on July 11, 2022, granting Mayor Scott the authority to cover cost for expanded park space and expanded park services as incurred by the City of Center Point to combat the Public Health Emergency in an amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars ($800,000). Mayor Scott acted in good faith and within his authority granted by council, to cover cost for expanded park space. If at later date the council wishes to amend the latest resolution to add limiting language, it may do so.
As this administration strives to move the city forward, bumps are inevitable, disagreements are inevitable, questions are inevitable. However, the goal to move the city forward remains the priority. This is a never-ending learning and growing process and what took place at the last council meeting was an opportunity to learn, grow, and move forward.
Thank you.

B. Invocation

B.1. Pastor Charles Parker, Center Point Church of Christ, led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President Collins led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Roll Call

Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams, President Collins

E. Approval of Agenda

Council President Collins presented the agenda for consideration. Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

F. Public Hearing

F.1. A separate hearing for each of the 35 properties the Code Enforcement Department stated are nuisances.

President Collins opened the Public Hearing for the 35 properties listed in Exhibit A provided by the Code Enforcement Department for nuisances.

1. The property owner of 2633 5th Street NE petitioned the council to consider granting a 30-day extension for them to eradicate the nuisance.

2. The property owner of 2309 4th Street NW petitioned the council to consider granting a 30-day extension for her to eradicate the nuisance. The property is a vacant lot, and people keep illegally dumping on it. She has had it cleared several times.

No one was present to speak for or against the other 33 properties listed in exhibit A.

F.2. Amending the Sign Ordinance

President Collins opened the Public Hearing for the Sign Ordinance. No one was present to speak for or against amending the sign ordinance,

G. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

G.1. November 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the November 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

H. Consent Agenda

President Collins presented the Consent Agenda for consideration. All items designated as "Consent" are routine and noncontroversial and will be approved by one Motion. No separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember or the mayor requests. The items on consent are Ordinance 2023-1 Amending the Sign Ordinance and CDBG Agreement for Community Center Storm Shelter. President Collins asked the mayor to explain the CDBG Agreement. Mayor Scott- this is an agreement with Jefferson County for the Community Development Block Grant. We were awarded the grant for a storm shelter by the community center. We do not have one in that area. The storm shelter can be used for dual purposes.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:
Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams, and Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

H.1. Ordinance 2023-1 Sign Ordinance Amendment

H.2. CDBG Agreement for Community Center Storm Shelter

I. Public Comment

1. Kimberly Berry- expressed concerns about the health, safety and welfare of The Palms at Center Point Apartment complex. The units are unlivable, with no heat in 3 months, rat infestation, mold and mildew. She can't use the bathroom. There are feces in the bathtub and toilets. She has been living with different family members. She is very frustrated. She petitioned the council to get the owner to make the necessary repairs. She lost a deep freezer of food because the rats ate the electric wiring. Other residents are having the same issue. One resident has not had hot water in 6 months.
There is no property manager or maintenance personnel. She stated she had previously spoken with Mayor Scott. Mayor Scott- after the initial conversation with Ms. Berry, he sent the pictures she provided to the property owner and told him he needed to correct

the issues as soon as possible.
President Collins- this is heartbreaking, especially since we just granted them an abatement. I am open to rescinding the abatement.
Our attorney will send the property owners a notice advising them of the time frame they have to correct the unlivable conditions of the apartment complex. We will also be expecting immediate feedback. We will monitor the situation to urge an immediate remedy.

2. David Carter-expressed concerns about the increase in quarterly cost for garbage services and the cancelation of the debris pickup service. He did vote for the increase in ad valorem tax. He asked for better communication with the residents. He wants the city to be more proactive in keeping the neighborhoods free of trash and debris.
Mayor- we are currently working on a plan to provide a debris pick-up service for a small fee. We want to provide the service to senior citizens at zero cost. Hopefully, it will be finalized by the end of the month. We will ensure it is adequately advertised so the residents will have sufficient notice.

3. Chanera Burnes- asked President Collins to reread her opening statement about the after school program. Chanera Burnes expressed her concerns regarding the council potentially ending the program and how it would affect her being able to work. She has a child in Pre K 4, and the Community Center currently picks her child up from school at 2:00 pm. Mayor Scott- we are reevaluating the program to ensure it is established correctly with the necessary safety measures. It was implemented prematurely. The mayor yielded the floor to the council for further comments.
Councilwoman Jones- we are not against the program. We did not know the program existed until we were presented with a quote to purchase a van for the after-school program. We did not even know your child was being picked up at 2:00 pm. Typically, an after school program starts at 3:30 pm. This is new to us.
Councilwoman Moore- I don't want you or anyone else to think we have an issue with you or the program. My questions and concerns are about the safety and welfare of the children participating in the program. I have been an educator for over 20 years. I hate it was communicated to you all as if we had an issue with the program itself. We want to make sure the program is done correctly. I empathize that when I see your son, I see mine. That is why we didn't immediately stop the program because we know you are all depending on it. I will ask the Council President to put the after school program on the next work session agenda so we can have time to work through it. This is how we usually handle things before they are brought before the council.

4. Felton Jackson- expressed concerns about public nuisances around his neighborhood. Mayor Scott stated he provided the list of addresses to Code Enforcement and they are working on them. They have to do their due diligence. It is not a quick turnaround.

J. Presentation

All items designated as “Consent” are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.

K. Discussion/Action

K.1. Consider Transit Agreement

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to accept the Birmingham Transit Authority Agreement. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:
Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams, Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

K.2. Resolution No. 2023-1 Declaring Public Nuisance

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-1 without 2633 5th Street NE & 2309 4th Street NW. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

K.3. Announce Public Hearing scheduled for February 2, 2023, about dangerous structures to be demolished

K.4. Consider granting a 30 day extension to 2633 5th Street NE

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to grant a 30 day extension to 2633 5th Street NE. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

K.5. Consider granting a 30 day extension to 2309 4th Street NW

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to grant a 30 day extension to 2309 4th Street NW. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

L. Reports- Mayor & Committee Chairs

Mayor Scott- Krystal's grand opening will be on January 10th at 1:30 pm. Also, on January 10th at the Chamber luncheon, I will be giving the state of the city address.

L.1. Economic Development/Public Safety- President D.M. Collins

President Collins- Last year the Economic Development Committee awarded grants to incentivize businesses. Two new members were added, Tim Gann and

former Mayor Tom Henderson.
The Public Safety Committee will host its first Rewatch Meeting on February 18, 2023, from 10 am -12 pm at Rochelle's Place.

L.2. Park & Recreation- Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr.

No report

L.3. Public Works- Councilwoman Tiffany Moore

No report

L.4. Education & Library- Councilwoman Sharon Jones

No report

L.5. Finance Report-Councilwoman Ebonee Copeland, Chair

No report

M. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.

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Tameeka Vann, City Clerk

Approved:

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D.M. Collins, President

Date: ____________________________