

The Saraland City Council met in regular session on April 25, 2024 at the Saraland Municipal Annex. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Council Vice President Cromer. Roll call was as follows:

Present: Council Vice President Newton Cromer
Councilmember Wayne Biggs
Councilmember Veronica Hudson
Absent: Council President Joe McDonald
Councilmember Natalie Moye

Attorney, Andy Rutens was present.

Councilmember Hudson opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to approve the minutes of the meetings of April 11th, April 16th, and April 22nd, 2024. Motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to approve Change Order # 8 for the lowering of the fields at the Sportsplex in the amount of \$20,655.14. Motion carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to authorize the mayor to sign a 1 (one) year agreement with Everon/ADT to repair and upgrade the doors of the Alorica Building, annual agreement not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to adopt a resolution supporting 2024 National Safe Boating Week. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2343

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 2024 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

WHEREAS, many residents engage in boating, fishing, and other recreational activities on the navigable waters around the City of Saraland, Alabama, and

WHEREAS, about 12% of U.S. households own or co-own a recreational vessel of some type, including open power boats, cabin power boats, personal watercraft, and paddle craft such as kayaks and canoes, and

WHEREAS, on average, more than 600 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States and more than 2,000 are injured on average, and

WHEREAS, the majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, alcohol use remains a leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents and

WHEREAS, operator inattention and inexperience are also leading contributing factors in mishaps, causing hundreds of accidents and dozens of fatalities annually; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard considers operator use of engine cut-off switches to be important because when operators of powerboats are ejected or fall overboard, the boat will typically continue to operate until it runs out of fuel, runs aground, or collides with another boat/object; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets and

WHEREAS, boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practice and help them to boat more safely; and

WHEREAS, United States Coast Guard statistics show that, of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 75% of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had never received boating education instruction.

NOW THEREFORE, the Saraland City Council does hereby proclaim May 18-24, 2024, as Safe Boating Week starts a year-round effort to promote safe boating in Saraland, Alabama.

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to approve payment for the 2023 Municipal Workers Compensation Fund final audit in the amount of \$81,533.00. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to move May 9th, 2024 Council Meeting to the newly refurbished Saraland Civic Center to be preceded by a ribbon cutting at 5:45 p.m., with the pre-meeting and meeting at 6:00 p.m. to be followed by a reception. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to move the May 23rd regular meeting to May 20th at 6:00 p.m., to allow the mayor and council to attend the Saraland High School graduation. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to approve the following invoice:

General Fund

1. Galloway Wettermark & Rutens – General Matters \$10,467.53

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to approve the following invoice:

General Obligation Warrant 2022-A

1. Chambliss King Architects, Inv# 22014.18 \$39,827.54

Motion carried.

ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES & OTHER BUSINESS

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to authorize the mayor to work with the city attorney and execute an agreement for the rental of parking spaces at the Alorica property for the term of 1 (one) year. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Biggs, to authorize the CCD (Constructive Change Directive) with Rabren General Contractors for the Sportsplex Project, adding unit cost for additional items necessary for the retention walls being placed, including geogrid stone and filter fabric, not to exceed \$10,000.00. Motion Carried.

Council Vice President Cromer advised there is a matter to be discussed in executive session to discuss with the city attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for a controversy not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated as well as a matter of good name and character.

City Attorney, Andy Rutens, advised this is appropriate use of executive session as authorized by state law.

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to adjourn into executive session with Mayor Rubenstein and Andy Rutens to discuss with the city attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for a controversy not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated as well as a matter of good name and character.

The following votes were recorded:

Yes: Council Vice President Newton Cromer
Councilmember Wayne Biggs
Councilmember Veronica Hudson

Motion carried.

Council Vice President Cromer advised he anticipates the executive session to last approximately 23 minutes.

The Council adjourned into executive session with the Mayor and City Attorney at 6:56 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Hudson, to reconvene at 7:27 p.m. with all members present. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by Councilmember Hudson to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

ACCEPTED and APPROVED the 9th day of May 2024.



Newton Cromer, Council Vice President



Casey Etheredge, Assistant City Clerk