



**MINUTES NO. 2026-11-WS
PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF MADISON, ALABAMA
October 14, 2026**

The Madison City Council met for a public work session on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Madison Municipal Complex, Madison, Alabama. Noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council President Maura Wroblewski.

THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS WERE IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Ranae Bartlett	Present
Council District No. 1 Maura Wroblewski	Present
Council District No. 2 David Bier	Present
Council District No. 3 Billie Goodson	Absent
Council District No. 4 Michael McKay	Present
Council District No. 5 Alice Lessmann	Present
Council District No. 6 Erica White	Present
Council District No. 7 Kenneth Jackson	Present

City Officials in attendance were: City Clerk-Treasurer Lisa D. Thomas, Executive Assistant to City Clerk-Treasurer Kristi Brackett, City Attorney Megan Zigarelli, Assistant City Attorney Shelby Morris, Information Technology Director Chris White, Information Technology Support Technician Wes Baugh, Fire Chief Brandy Williams, Police Chief John Gandy, Police Captain Mike Allen, Economic External Affairs Officer James Manasco, Director of Finance David Lawing, Director of Parks and Recreation Kory Alfred, Director of Facilities and Grounds Gerald Smith, Acting Director of Development Services Matt Davidson, Director of Engineering Michael Johnson

5-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL PLAN

Director of Finance David Lawing presented a summary of the City of Madison 5 Year Capital Plan operating budget. Director of Engineering Michael Johnson and Director of Facilities and Grounds Gerald Smith explained more projects in depth. Some top priorities for 2027 include the following:

- Resurfacing Road Projects
- Town Madison / 565 Signal
- Mill / Sullivan Widening Project
- Powell / Burgreen Traffic Signal
- Garner Rd Extension
- Balch / Browns Ferry Intersection

- Hughes / Old Madison Pike Right Turn Lane
- Police Vehicles

Mayor Ranae Bartlett explained this is the first time for the City of Madison to have a 5-year Capital plan and asked each department head to provide their priority lists. Mayor Bartlett compared the city's 5-year capital plan to the school system's 10-year plan. She also explained that the funding for the projects could come through the operating budget, by grants, donations, or a federal appropriation. The main goal is to present a prioritization list to the council at the last meeting in October. This will be a constant exercise where the priorities may change. Next year, the plan will be revised by adding what was able to be taken care of, priorities moved up or down, possibly removed and adding items if needed.

Council Member Bier agrees with the Mayor on the Capital Plan and how it will work by looking at a project, the proposed cost and the cost of upkeep on some projects. The plan can also help explain the reasons behind projects.

Council Member McKay had questions for Gerald Smith on the City Hall renovations. Gerald explained the renovations will be an 18-month process split up in 6 phases, beginning in January.

Council Member Wroblewski questioned about the cost of the Aquatic Center. David Lawing and Mayor Barlett explained the cost being paid by annual appropriation.

Mayor Bartlett clarified that any money spent on projects will be voted on by the City Council and another Work Session will probably be needed.

Council Member Wroblewski asked the council members if they have any questions before proceeding to the next item on the Agenda.

ALABAMA'S NEW HEMP LAW

Assistant City Attorney Shelby Morris presented Alabama's New Hemp Law and explained the definition of hemp and explained that the State has created a licensing system that gives each city a gate-keeping role. Key

- No retailer can acquire a state license to sell in Madison without a letter of approval from the city.
- ABC Board is in control of regulating the rules adopted by the state
- Smokable Hemp and Synthetic psychoactive Cannabinoids are strictly prohibited in Alabama
- Legal Hemp is not more than .3%
- Compliant products include 12 oz beverages with no more than 10mg of THC
- Topical and Sublingual products with no more than 40 mg of THC per container
- Edibles with no more than 40 mg of THC per package / container and must be individually wrapped
- Every product sold must include a certificate of analysis from an independent lab
- Must meet the laws of packaging and labeling requirements

- Can only contain alcohol for flavoring
- Retailers must have an ABC license and must provide monthly reports of sales
- ABC Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a license
- 10% State tax passed on to the buyer
- 10% of tax revenue is returned to the city
- Three license types include Pharmacy, Retail Food Store and Specialty Retailer such as Class II lounge liquor licenses or hemp-only stores
- Violations can include selling without license, selling to anyone under 21 yrs of age
- How the Big 10 Cities are responding
- Interested retailers overlap with existing problem areas
- Madison Police Department concerns

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss Council Member Goodson moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Maura Wroblewski
District One

Council Member David Bier
District Two

Council Member Billie Goodson
District Three

Council Member Michael McKay
District Four

Council Member Alice Lessmann
District Five

Council Member Erica White
District Six

Council Member Kenneth Jackson
District Seven

Concur:

Ranae Bartlett, Mayor
Attest:

Lisa D. Thomas
City Clerk-Treasurer

Kristi Brackett
Recording Secretary