



**MINUTES NO. 2025-23-RG  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OF MADISON, ALABAMA  
December 08, 2025**

The Madison City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 08, 2025, at 6:00 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 6:00 p.m. by Council President Maura Wroblewski.

Pastor Josh Britt from Courageous Church provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Wroblewski.

**ELECTED GOVERNING OFFICIALS 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	Present
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, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer Kerri Sulyma, Deputy Revenue Officer Ivon Williams, City Attorney Megan Zingarelli, Information Technology Director Chris White, Information Technology Support Technician Garrett Gillott, Police Chief Johnny Gandy, Economic and External Affairs Officer Traci Gillespie, Director of Human Resources Kelli Bracci, Fire Chief Brandy Williams, City Engineer Michael Johnson, Director of Parks & Recreation Kory Alfred, and Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren.

Public Attendance registered: Janet Marino, Randall Hampson, Jamal Cummings

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MINUTES NO. 2025-22-RG DATED NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

Council Member Jackson moved to approve Minutes No. 2025-22-RG. Council Member Lessmann seconded. The roll call vote taken was recorded as follows:

Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye

Motion carried.

### **MINUTES NO. 2025-07-WS DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

Council Member White moved to approve Minutes No. 2025-07-WS. Council Member Lessmann seconded. The roll call vote taken was recorded as follows:

Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

### **PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

#### **FALL 2025 CIVIC AWARENESS ACADEMY GRADUATION**

Economic and External Affairs Officer Traci Gillespie presented the second graduating inaugural class with their certificates of completion for the fall 2025 Civic Awareness Academy. Graduates were:

Jean Ann Benefield	Douglas Litavec
Philip Benefield	Donna Mahieux
Rebecca Benjamin	Janet Marino
Eric Bright	Miles Parmenter
Marsha Christian	Ed Peters
Jason Condrey	Cathy Peters
Heather Covington	Esther Rojas Ramirez
Jamal Cummins	Sabiha Runa
Marla Davidson	Charity Stratton
Jennifer DeLessio	Whitney Stringer
Kristen Dickerson	Richard Travers
Gracia Domen	Stephenie Walker
Phillip Domen	Ron Wroblewski
Diana Fischer	
Devin Fountain	
Wafa Orman Hakim	
Randall Hampson	

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Public Comments were limited to three minutes per speaker. Anyone who wanted to sign up prior to the Council meeting were able to contact the City Clerk at [cityclerk@madisonal.gov](mailto:cityclerk@madisonal.gov) or text the word "**Comment**" to 938-200-8560. Anyone who wanted to submit a presentation to the City Council were able to email it to the City Clerk by noon last Friday. Those who could not attend the meeting in person and wanted to email their written comments were advised to do so no later than noon this date via email to [citycouncil@madisonal.gov](mailto:citycouncil@madisonal.gov).*

### **MAGGIE MINSK**

Ms. Minsk appeared before Council and Mayor Bartlett to voice her concerns on the following items:

- Federal agents violating people's rights

### **DJ KLEIN**

Mr. Klein appeared before Council and Mayor Bartlett to voice his concerns on the following item:

- Inaccurate statements regarding his business and professional conduct

Mr. Klein shared a statement- "At the November 22nd city council meeting, inaccurate statements, were made regarding my business and my professional conduct. Those statements do not reflect the facts which I'm here to correct on public record. The claim that I have received 1.9 million dollars in City. Madison City tax dollars is completely false. I've never been paid by the city of Madison. The recent train crossing project was funded by former city councilman John Seifert the city contributed approximately 1800 in additional equipment that amount has not been invoiced but not collected. Nor is my pay that payment, my concern. The additional figure cited 285,000 for City Hall, money for upgrades, 150,000 for maintenance, contract 620,000 for schools, 98,000 for equipment, 45,000 for the train camera and 65,000.00 in Covid funds are inaccurate and misleading. My company, like many small businesses, did receive General Covid Relief funding, which went directly to employees' payroll. Beyond that, none of the numbers stated reflect payments from the city of Madison to be or my company launched Broadband, LLC, earns the majority of its Revenue. Installing and servicing, fiber optic networks for apartment communities throughout the state of Alabama.

The suggestion that we are ripping up lawns in Madison is incorrect. We do not possess right of way or easement within the city of Madison, and we do not perform construction work in the city of Madison. The statement that I've made easy profit and left, dirt behind is also untrue building a business over 11 years, employing local residents and maintaining high standards of work is far from easy. These comments rep, misrepresent, the reality of small business ownership and the contributions we've made. The accusations that I've been paid off is very harmful and completely false. These statements damage my personal reputation. My company's reputation and the reputation of my employees who work hard every day to serve our customers,

beyond harming individuals with this type of misinformation or Rhodes trust within our community. My involvement in the Madison tree and activation system comes solely from my commitment to Public Safety and to the community that helps shake my life and my business. Accurate, public information matters. When false claims spread, they cause real harm. My goal is to correct the record today. So, this community can rely on facts rather than misinformation. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the record. Thank you for your time continued service to the City of Madison."

#### **MARGI DALY (DISTRICT 6)**

Ms. Daly appeared before Council and Mayor Bartlett to voice her concern on the following item:

- Cost of Toyota Stadium

Ms. Daly shared a statement- I want to talk about the cost so far for the stadium. and I'm going to list and I'll give you my sources just like I can give the sources on launch broadband. 2017 to 2018, 46 million plus 2.5 million in interest so far. 2019 to 2022 25 million on ramps plus 1.5 million in interest. 2020, 4 million in principle 20K in interest. 2023, Outfield building, 2025 5.1 million, principal plus 100K in interest, they also got Federal Co funds directly to ball Corps, at 820,000, which was forgiven through the SBA, that's over 103 million with another 30 years of interest to pay with the city tax dollars. My sources are all government sources, Madison al.gov, agendas and the city audit from last year.

That's where my numbers come from. So, they're coming from official government websites, Then, um, I'd like to mention about the school loss last year, the school lost 2 million dollars. We were, um, under in revenue for the cost of the schools, 2 million. And yes, launch Broadband did get city tax dollars. Now, they may not go in DJ Kleins pocket, but that's from adding up from all the agendas every time you guys voted yes on it. That's what he was given over 5 years. That was over 5 years. I don't know what his calculation is over 5 years, but his company did get that, he was directly involved with every single tax, increase that we've been given both the sales tax. Then going for city manager was another thing he was involved with and, you know, we have to like stop spending you know this thing with the stadium. It's 103 million so far and that's not counting the rest of the interest.

Nor did I get all the consultants in there yet. I will get a better number. Once I get all the Consultants, I'm seeking Freedom of Information and I'm being denied, or they're coming in or the information is missing. I don't want to sue the city for it, but I'm going to have to because I just keep being ignored. I'm entitled to the Freedom of Information. When I come up here and speak, I want to speak facts. I can get so many facts off of the websites. But that's the reason I want Freedom of Information. So, what I come up here, everybody can know that I'm speaking facts. Now the sources of these were um on tonight's stuff.

#### **JOHN SEIFERT**

Mr. Seifert appeared before Council and Mayor Bartlett to voice his concern on the following item:

- Shared his insight on the SSUT litigation

#### **CONSENT AGENDA AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Council Member Bier moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Finance Committee report as follows:

General Operating account	\$2,307,965.81
ADEM Storm Drainage	\$585.00
½ Cent Capital Replacement	\$79,191.29
Gasoline Tax & Petroleum Inspection fees	\$57,947.98
Library Building Fund	\$89,978.32
Water Distribution and Storage	\$327,368.75

Regular and periodic bills to be paid

**Resolution No. 2025-330-R:** Authorizing an Annual Appropriation Agreement with the Madison Chamber of Commerce for FY26 (\$100,000 to be paid from General Operating account)

**Resolution No. 2025-331-R:** Declaring duty weapon and badge issued to Lieutenant Christie Gover as surplus and authorizing it be given to her upon retirement

**Resolution No. 2025-332-R:** Authorizing an Annual Appropriation Agreement with the National Children's Advocacy Center for FY26 (\$30,000 to be paid from General Operating Account)

**Resolution No. 2025-333-R:** Authorizing an Annual Appropriation Agreement with the Huntsville Hospital Foundation for FY26 (\$7,500 to be paid from General Operating Account)

**Resolution No. 2025-334-R:** Authorizing an Annual Appropriation Agreement with the Huntsville-Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau for FY26 (\$55,000 to be paid from General Operating account)

**Resolution No. 2025-390-R:** Authorizing a one-year subscription agreement with Wow! Business for internet services for the property located at 1282 Hughes Road (\$75.99 month to be paid from IT Department budget)

**Resolution No. 2025-391-R:** Authorizing an agreement with Fiber Utility Network, Inc. dba Alabama Fiber Network for network and internet services for the property located at 101 Main Street (\$527.25 monthly to be paid from IT Department budget)

**Resolution No. 2025-392-R:** Authorizing an agreement with Fiber Utility Network, Inc. dba Alabama Fiber Network for network and internet services for the Public Safety Annex located at 230 Business Park Boulevard, building 23A (\$527.25 monthly to be paid from IT Department budget)

**Resolution No. 2025-398-R:** Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the City of Madison's General Capital Improvement Fund and list of Capital Improvement Projects (Fund 38) (confirming the current budget amount for the Public Safety Annex project of \$5,845,000)

Acceptance of \$500 donation from Dads of Palmer Place to sponsor the Special Needs Visibility Art Crawl Event (to be deposited into Recreation Donation account).

Council Member Goodson seconded. The roll call vote to approve the Consent Agenda was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

### **MAYOR RANAE BARTLETT:**

Mayor Bartlett reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Thanked all groups, businesses and individuals for delivering snacks to the Fire and Police Stations
- Thanked State Representative James Lomax and Mayor Walt Maddox for attending last week's work session
- Madison Holiday Events
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 1 MAURA WROBLEWSKI**

Council Member Wroblewski reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Attended the Alabama Legislators Session
- Thanked the local legislators that represent Madison and Montgomery for the time spent and information received

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 2 DAVID BIER**

Council Member Bier reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Thanked Traci Gillespie for wonderful job leading the Civic Awareness Academy
- Shared information about TARCOG

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 3 BILLIE GOODSON**

Council Member Goodson reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Shared information on upcoming calendar activities
- Shared information on events going on downtown
- Shared information on the upcoming Christmas Parade which starts at 5 p.m.

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 4 MICHAEL MCKAY**

Council Member McKay reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Shared he enjoyed the Christmas lighting
- Shout out to Traci Gillespie on a wonderful Civic Awareness Class
- MCDAB meeting this week

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 5 ALICE LESSMANN**

Council Member Lessmann reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Congratulated the Civic Awareness Class

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 6 ERICA WHITE**

Council Member White reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Shared information on the upcoming blood drive
- Shared information on Santa's Day Out at YMCA

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 7 KENNETH JACKSON**

Council Member Jackson reported on the following activities, events, and newsworthy items:

- Shout out to the volunteers that helped the Beautification and Tree Board
- Shout out to Bob Jones Air Force Junior ROTC for volunteering with the cleanup
- Madison City Schools relaunched their Supporting Our Students Fund

### **BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF MATT DERMODY TO SEAT 2 OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Council Member McKay moved to nominate Matt Dermody to Seat 2. There being no further nominations, Mr. Dermody was appointed by acclamation.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CARLOS WOODS TO THE POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - DISTRICT 7**

Council Member Jackson moved to nominate Carlos Woods to District 7. There being no further nominations, Mr. Woods was appointed by acclamation.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Speakers and public hearing applicants who wanted to address agenda items listed under this section of the agenda were instructed to reserve their comments for the public hearing. Before or during the Council Meeting they were asked to sign up for the public hearing at which they wanted to address Council by texting the word "COMMENT" to the City's automated SMS system at 938-200-8560 or by filling out a card available in the vestibule or from the City Clerk. The project initiator, applicant, owner or agent of the business or property that is the subject of the hearing was allowed to speak for 15 minutes. Residents within the noticed area of the subject property, as well as all other members of the public, were allowed to speak for 5 minutes.*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-393-R: REQUEST FOR A RESTAURANT RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE FROM CHIKINJIP-MADISON LLC, DOING BUSINESS AS CHIKINJIP, FOR THEIR LOCATION AT 12120 COUNTY LINE RD, SUITE A, MADISON, AL 35756**

Deputy Revenue Officer Ivon Williams informed Council that this is a new request for this location and added that everything is in order for Council action. Council President Wroblewski opened the floor for public comments regarding this request. There being none, she then closed the floor and entertained a motion from Council. Council Member Goodson moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-393-R. Council Member Bier seconded. The roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### **COURT**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-394-R: REPLACING RETIRING PRESIDING JUDGE THOMAS PARKER WITH JUDGE AARON RYAN AND APPOINTING NATHAN WAKE AS THE ASSOCIATE JUDGE**

Council Member Goodson moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-394-R. Council Member Lessmann seconded. Council President Wroblewski extended gratitude to Judge Parker on his retirement and many years of service. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
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Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **ENGINEERING**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-381-R: ACCEPTANCE OF RS MADISON SUBDIVISION INTO THE CITY OF MADISON MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

Council Member Lessmann moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-381-R. Council Member White seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-388-R: AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT #1 TO CONTRACT WITH IVALDI ENGINEERING ON PROJECT 25-003 POWELL AND BURGREN INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR SURVEYING SERVICES (\$1,200 TO BE PAID FROM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT BUDGET)**

Council Member White moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-388-R. Council Member Goodson seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Billie Godson	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO 2025-389-R: AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TTL ON PROJECT 26-005 EASTVIEW SIDEWALK FOR DESIGN SERVICES TO EXTEND THE SIDEWALK FROM MCADOO DRIVE TO METAIRE LANE (\$57,100 TO BE PAID FROM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT BUDGET)**

Council Member Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-389-R. Council Member Bier seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO 2025-399-R: AUTHORIZING A CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT WITH WIREGRASS FOR ADDITIONAL INLET CONCRETE WORK ON PROJECT 21-024 | PUMPHOUSE ROAD DRAINAGE ISSUES (\$7,698.96 TO BE PAID FROM FUND 38)**

Council Member McKay moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-399-R. Council Member Lessmann seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-387: ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO POLICY SECTION 12, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, TO PROVIDE FOR NEW PAY SCALE FOR SWORN POLICE OFFICERS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO DISPATCHER PAY, AS WELL AS A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT (FIRST READING, REQUEST TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND VOTE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION)**

Council Member Lessmann moved to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2025-387. Council Member Bier seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

Council Member Goodson moved to approve Ordinance No. 2025-387. Council Member McKay seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **LEGAL**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-406-R: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR AND JOINING THE CITY OF TUSCALOOSA IN LITIGATION CHALLENGING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED SELLERS USE TAX BY THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Council Member Bier moved to amend Resolution No. 2025-406-R. Council Member McKay seconded. Council President Wroblewski opened the floor for Council comments. Council Member McKay thanked Mayor Maddox and others from Tuscaloosa that attended last week's work session and executive session. Council Member McKay also thanked the Madison City Staff for their hard work getting the work session together. Council Member McKay shared his affirmation that Madison City was hurting financially in terms of dollars that are not flowing into the city as it should be. Council Member McKay shared that SSUT is administered in our state, and the destination sourcing is handled in Alabama, which is considered an eligible seller. Council Member McKay shared his reasoning why he would vote the way he voted.

Council Member McKay shared that his rationale was, the more parties that entered the lawsuit provided safety and political cover for our city. He stated that; however, it was a polarizing lawsuit, and Madison should not get pulled into a narrative that they didn't create. Council Member McKay shared that he believed that it was a real possibility that it could affect current and future relationships with other cities and counties around us. He explained that after only one month of the new Council Administration they should not deteriorate relationships that have taken years to forge. Council Member McKay stated that he believed there would be repercussions in joining the lawsuit such as strained relationships, the loss of political capital and potentially affecting the chance for state grants and funding for major priorities down the road. Council Member McKay shared that the lawsuit was also against the adore commissioner at the current time. Council Member McKay stated that a lawsuit would not be cheap and would involve time without a guaranteed outcome, and he stated he worried about the direct and indirect cost.

Council Member McKay expressed concern about how he would approach a constituent that wanted an explanation as to why so much time was being devoted to the lawsuit instead of priorities such as infrastructures and parks. Council Member Bier shared that his background consisted in finance, and he wholeheartedly agreed that the city of Madison currently suffers from the current structure of SSUD. Council Member Bier explained expressed that he believed

that the lawsuit isn't the way to go based on the possible outcome. Council President Wroblewski voiced that she respectfully disagreed with Council Member Bier and Council Member McKay and stated that she thought the responsibility of council are to be good stewards and accept the resources that are given by the taxpayers.

Council President Wroblewski expressed she believed that as a Council Member there's a responsibility to fight for the taxpayers and she shared that if the pendulum were in a different way and the cities brought this legislation to the legislators and was tilted in favor of the cities at the harm of the counties, the county commission would be having the same discussion. Council President Wroblewski explained that she isn't willing to wait 16 months to get resources that she believes citizens deserve. Council Member Goodson shared that he felt this is a decision based on incomplete information. He stated that over the past few days he has gone back and forth over the correct decision.

Council member Goodson explained that he is data driven and had researched data and concluded that this year the projected SSUT is a million dollars. Council member Goodson stated that he hoped that some kind of solution forces negotiators to sit at the table and work out some type of solution that benefits everyone. Council member Goodson stated that the bulk of the money from this tax is going to counties and states. Council member Goodson stated that Council should keep in mind what is fair for the residents, sustainable for the city. Council member White shared a statement "As we consider the questions raised by the SSUT litigation, I think it's important to step back and look at the underlying issue: whether Madison is receiving a fair share of the online sales tax revenue generated by our own residents. Madison is one of the fastest-growing cities in Alabama. With that growth comes increased demand for police and fire services, roads and infrastructure, parks and recreation, and on the support, we provide to our schools.

These are real needs, and they continue to grow year after year. I also want to acknowledge that we are fortunate to have strong support from Madison County. The County invests in roads, schools, and shared infrastructure, and their partnership is an important part of our overall success as a region. But even with that support, the city still has significant obligations, and service demands fall squarely on municipal resources. At the same time, our residents, particularly younger adults, who tend to be the most frequent online shoppers—are generating a significant and increasing amount of online sales tax. Yet under the current SSUT structure, only a portion of that revenue actually returns to the community where those purchases are delivered and where those taxpayers live. The question before us is whether the existing framework aligns with the realities of modern commerce and with the needs of rapidly growing cities like Madison. Right now, SSUT treats major online retailers the same regardless of whether they have brick-and-mortar locations, distribution centers, or delivery operations in Alabama.

That has real financial implications for communities that are absorbing the impacts of growth but receiving only a fraction of the revenue generated here. For nearly eight years, municipalities across Alabama have asked the Legislature for updates to this system, updates that would reflect today's economy and ensure that local services are properly supported. Those efforts have not resulted in meaningful change. The current litigation raises important questions about fairness, constitutionality, and whether tax systems should reflect where economic activity actually occurs. It also raises questions about long-term fiscal sustainability for cities like ours, where online commerce is only expected to increase. As we evaluate our options, I think it's essential that we consider what is fair for our residents, what is sustainable for our city, and what ensures that the taxes paid by Madison households meaningfully support the services those households rely on every day—even as we continue to work collaboratively

with our County partners.” Council member Lessmann shared that she agreed with Council member White and Council member Goodson.

She shared that she agreed that being elected holds an obligation to take care of taxpayers’ dollars. Council member Lessmann shared that they were elected to take care of the City of Madison and the State of Alabama. She stated that there needs to be some negotiation, and she stated she believed that the city should partake in the lawsuit. Council member Bier shared that a lawsuit takes a significant amount of time. He clarified that he agreed that change needed to happen. Council member Bier stated that it comes down to what outcome is wanted. Mayor Bartlett complemented the council members with their thoughtfulness and the approach to the issue. Mayor Bartlett shared that the timing was less than ideal and she shared that she didn’t think anybody would have wished the issue upon council. Mayor Bartlett stated if she had an inkling that the judge would have set a deadline to join and participate, she would have tried to include in the council’s very first work session. Mayor Bartlett shared that it wasn’t found out until right before Thanksgiving.

Mayor Bartlett revealed that she was grateful that the new council had recognized that the County Commissioner Steve Haraway is the best friend Madison has ever had. She shared that he is constantly looking for ways to support the city and schools. Mayor Bartlett expressed that the City of Madison could not have better partners including Commission Chairman Mac McCutcheon. Mayor Bartlett shared with council that a Madison taxpayer has a right to expect to benefit from the taxes they pay. She shared that the current way SSUT law is being applied by ADOR diverts Madison tax dollars to other parts of the state. Mayor Bartlett affirmed to council that she believed in the wisdom of the collective body. She stated that she was glad that council was able to sit down and hear each other in their thoughts. Mayor Bartlett explained to council that they each have equally valid observations and thoughts. She assured council that if they decided to join the lawsuit or not, she was committed to advocating on the issue for the Madison taxpayer.

Mayor Bartlett explained that every time she reads an article on the topic, she becomes frustrated. She shared that those involved talk about the issue in terms of its city money or county money. Mayor Bartlett pointed out it’s your money. She affirmed that the taxpayer pays it every time they shop. Mayor Bartlett explained to council that their awareness of the issue is a win for Madison. She shared that she had never seen a more educated body in tune. Mayor Bartlett shared that she couldn’t be prouder of each one of the council members. She assured the council that every call, every email, and every text was well worth it because council is trying to do what is right. Mayor Bartlett expressed that she is confident that regardless of the outcome of the vote, Madison will remain a strong voice on the issue. She shared that when she hears discussions about repercussions or retaliation it only strengthens her resolve to fight for Madison.

Mayor Bartlett reassured council that it was okay to have a split vote. She explained that council wasn’t always going to be unanimous and to always vote for what you think is right. Mayor Bartlett shared that she would support council with whatever conclusion they reach. Council Member Bier asked the City Attorney Megan Zingarelli if she would read the amendment. City Attorney Megan Zingarelli stated that the amendment expresses support for the City of Tuscaloosa’s effort to ensure that SSUT allows the city to join the litigation. Mayor Bartlett explained to be clear that first the amendment must be made and addressed before addressing the underlying resolution as it was published in the agenda. Mayor Bartlett clarified that first council would vote on the amendment, and she explained that the last paragraph was taken out of the resolution. Mayor Bartlett asserted that it’s an up or down vote, a majority

vote. She explained that if it succeeds then council would vote on the resolution as amended. Mayor Bartlett expressed that if the vote fails the other resolution as published becomes the topic of the vote. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Nay
Council Member Billie Goodson	Nay
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Nay
Council Member Erica White	Nay
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Nay

Motion failed.

Council Member Goodson moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-406-R Council Member Bier seconded. Council Member Bier thanked Mayor Bartlett for answering questions and the statements. Council Member Bier emphasized that it's important that everybody understands that council does its best in this type of situation. Council Member Bier stated that once a decision is made in an open forum there is a United Council. Council Member Bier shared that once a decision is made council will move forward together. Council Member McKay stated that what's frustrating to him is the visibility, transparency, and accountability of ADOR. Council Member McKay stated that he asked them questions during the work session about obtaining more information. Council President Wroblewski explained that council has tried to reach out to ADOR (Alabama Department of Revenue) to see how much money was being lost and ADOR has failed to provide that information. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Nay
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Nay
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **PLANNING**

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-378: VACATION OF UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED WITHIN 170 RAINBOW GLEN CIRCLE, LOT 36 OF RAINBOW LANDING PHASE 5 SUBDIVISION (FIRST READING 11/24/2025)**

Council Member White moved to approve Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-378. Council Member Lessmann seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye

Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

## **POLICE**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-395-R: AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY USE AGREEMENT WITH SRI AMERICA, INC., FOR POLICE EMERGENCY DRIVER TRAINING (NO COST TO CITY)**

Council Member Jackson moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-395-R. Council Member Bier seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye

Motion carried.

## **RECREATION**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-400-R: AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SHARON RIVERS OFFICIATING FOR REVISION TO FEE SCHEDULE FOR PROVISION OF OFFICIALS FOR VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES (TO BE PAID FROM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET)**

Council Member McKay moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-400-R. Council Member White seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-401-R: AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LYDIA ZACLIS DEVENNY AND LYNDA WILE FOR LINE DANCING INSTRUCTOR SERVICES THROUGH THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT (NO CHARGE TO CITY, COURSES COST \$5 PER PERSON)**

Council Member McKay moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-401-R. Council Member Goodson seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:



Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-402-R: AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TIFFANI TUCKER FOR WOOD WORKING INSTRUCTOR SERVICES THROUGH THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT (NO CHARGE TO CITY, COURSES COST \$50 TO \$60 PER PERSON)**

Council Member White moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-402-R. Council Member Bier seconded. The vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Council Member Erica White	Aye
Council Member David Bier	Aye
Council Member Maura Wroblewski	Aye
Council Member Billie Goodson	Aye
Council Member Michael McKay	Aye
Council Member Alice Lessmann	Aye
Council Member Kenneth Jackson	Aye

Motion carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Minutes No. 2025-23-RG, dated December 08<sup>th</sup>, 2025, read, approved and adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2025.

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Council Member Maura Wroblewski  
District One

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Council Member David Bier  
District Two

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Council Member Billie Goodson  
District Three

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Council Member Michael McKay  
District Four

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Council Member Alice Lessmann  
District Five

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Council Member Erica White  
District Six

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Council Member Kenneth Jackson  
District Seven  
Concur:

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Ranae Bartlett, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa D. Thomas  
City Clerk-Treasurer

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Kerri Sulyma  
Recording Secretary