



**MINUTES NO. 2024-07-WS
PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF MADISON, ALABAMA
June 26, 2024**

The Madison City Council met for a public work session on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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 5:33 p.m. by Council President Ranae Bartlett.

The following elected officials were in attendance:

Mayor Paul Finley	Present
Council District No. 1 Maura Wroblewski	Present
Council District No. 2 Connie Spears	Present
Council District No. 3 Teddy Powell	Present
Council District No. 4 Greg Shaw	Present
Council District No. 5 Ranae Bartlett	Present
Council District No. 6 Karen Denzine	Present
Council District No. 7 John Seifert	Present

City Officials in attendance were: City Clerk-Treasurer Lisa D. Thomas, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer Kerri Sulyma, Administrative Assistant Myranda Staples, Municipal Records Coordinator Lori Spaulding, City Attorney Brian Kilgore, Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren, Information Technology Director Chris White, Information Technology Coordinator Toby Jenkins, Economic and External Affairs Officer Traci Gillespie, Court Clerk Amanda Garlen, Deputy Court Clerk Beth Bellomy, Finance Director Roger Bellomy, Fire Chief David Bailey, Building Director Dustin Riddle, City Engineer Michael Johnson via telephone, Parks and Recreation Director Kory Alfred, Police Chief Johnny Gandy, Human Resources Director Megan Zingarelli, City Manager Steve Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Spires.

Interpreting services provided by Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Public Comments were limited to two 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 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.*

CONNIE CHOW (DISTRICT 6)

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

- Support of funding Madison Library

KATIE MOORE (DISTRICT 4)

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

- Support of funding Madison Library

MARGI DALY (DISTRICT 6)

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

- Traffic light updates
- Adding sidewalks
- More bike-friendly city

JOCELYN BROER (DISTRICT 4)

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

- Pedestrian safety infrastructure on Hardiman Rd.
- Adding sidewalks

JEANETTA WILSON

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

- Library funding

DAN GENTIL (DISTRICT 4)

Mr. Gentil appeared before Council and Mayor Finley to voice her concerns on the following items:

- Road patches across the city
- Hardiman Place lane entrance

MITZI ADAMS

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

- Plans for climate resiliency

DAVID HERGENROEDER

Mr. Hergenroeder appeared before Council and Mayor Finley to voice her concerns on the following items:

- Making the City more walkable and bikeable
- More greenways

BEN HOLLINSWORTH

Mr. Hollinsworth appeared before Council and Mayor Finley to voice her concerns on the following items:

- Tax exemption on hearing aids

CIP List Update/Discussion

City Engineer Michael Johnson discussed the following items:

Fund 38 Project – Engineering

- Project 21-024 – Pumphouse Road
- Project 22-016 – Hughes Rd. and Portal Mill signal
- Project 22-002 – Madison Blvd. resurfacing
- Project 22-024 – Mill Rd. bank ditch and rehab
- Project 22-036 – Huntsville Browns Ferry/Burgreen roundabout
- Project 22-040 – Wall Triana/Gillespie intersection improvements
- Project 23-008 – Royal Dr. signal
- Project 99-007 – Hardiman (Madison Branch Blvd) roundabout

Capital Improvement 3-Year Plan

Mr. Johnson reviewed the construction and design plans the City has for the next three fiscal years.

Council Member Maura Wroblewski asked if there are any plans for a roundabout at Browns Ferry and Balch Rd. Mayor Finley replied that that intersection is not in the top ten intersections that has the most accidents.

Council Member Karen Denzine asked if we had more internal design work done if it would save the City money. Mr. Johnson answered yes it would, however the City does not have the staffing for that at the moment, but the City is doing as much internally as possible

Director of Parks and Recreation Kory Alfred discussed the following items:

Fund 38 Project – Parks and Recreation

Town Madison (Hexagon) Pickleball Courts

- Pickleball courts (12) completed
- Athletic fields completed
- Sand volleyball under design (funded in Recreation budget)

Sunshine Oaks Park

- Disc golf course completed
- Playground completed
- Pavillions (2) under construction
- Parking/access road under construction

Council Member Connie Spears asked about the possibility of getting fans in our pavilions to keep the space cool during the hot months to keep the air flowing. Mr. Alfred responded that he will look into them.

Madison Community Center

- Building renovation under construction
- Anticipated opening date: October 2024
- Additional parking under construction
- Connection to Bradford Creek greenway planned

Council Member Karen Denzine asked about an update on a splash pad being put in. Mr. Alfred responded there are not any plans for it at this time. He has an estimate for the cost it will be to put one in, but there is no timeline at this time.

Director of Facilities Gerald Smith discussed the following items:

Fund 38 Project – Facilities

- Public Safety Building
- Approximate cost of building is 4.7 million with the fire station and the building combined
- New Animal Control building
- New training facility to be used by Police and Fire

Council Member Maura Wroblewski asked if the Animal Control building is in the budget for next year. Mayor Finley answered that it is not.

Council Member John Seifert asked what kind of an impact the training facility will have on us regionally. Fire Chief Bailey answered that their focus is for our own people to be utilizing the facility for now. He commented that they do plan to use the training room at Hexagon for regional classes eventually. Chief Gandy added that they felt it would be financially beneficial for the City to have both the Police and Fire departments share the space.

Council Member Teddy Powell asked the Chiefs how having the training facility will affect their budgets. Chief Gandy responded it would immensely affect them. They will no longer have to pay to send their staff to other places for training.

Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren discussed the following items:

Fund 38 Project – Planning

- Wayfinding Phase 1 Sign Program

Comprehensive Plan Recommendations

- Project S1 – New road from Hardiman Rd to Segers
- Project C1 – Street capacity – Wall Triana Hwy/Sullivan St from Mill Rd to Gooch Ln
- Project S2 – New street connection from Royal Dr extension from County Line Rd to Westchester Dr

- Project S3 – New street connection from Henderson Lane extension from Huntsville-Browns Ferry Rd to Hwy 72
- Project S4 – New street connection from Garner Ave extension from Madison Blvd to Life Way
- Project C3 – Street capacity – Slaughter Rd from Old Madison Pike to Hwy 72
- Project C4 – Street capacity – Huntsville-Browns Ferry Rd from County Line Rd to Greenbrier Pkwy

Tax Exemption for Hearing Aid Sales

City Attorney Brian Kilgore explained the background of the purpose in proposing this tax exemption. Beginning October 1st, if the City decides to opt-in, they offer to have hearing aids be tax exempt.

Mayor Finley and the City Council Members discussed when the budget for the employee compensation study would be discussed and they agreed to discuss the topic at the next Work Session meeting tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, July 17th. They mentioned that the upcoming budgets will look a lot different than in recent years, due to not having the extra funding coming in from grants.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the work session adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes No. 2024-07-WS, dated June 26th, 2024, read, approved and adopted this 8th day of July 2024.

Council Member Maura Wroblewski
District One

Council Member Connie Spears
District Two

Council Member Teddy Powell
District Three

Council Member Greg Shaw
District Four

Council Member Ranae Bartlett
District Five

Council Member Karen Denzine
District Six

Council Member John Seifert
District Seven

Concur:

Paul Finley, Mayor
Attest:

Lisa D. Thomas
City Clerk-Treasurer

Myranda Staples
Recording Secretary