

The City Council of the City of Tuskegee met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the L.M. Gregg Auditorium at the Municipal Complex located at 101 Fonville Street, Tuskegee, Alabama.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Johnny Ford.
2. **INVOCATION.** Lord's Prayer Repeated in Unison.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Repeated in Unison.
4. **ROLL CALL.** Fartima B. Clark, City Clerk.

PRESENT

Mayor Johnny Ford
Mayor Pro-Tempore Lawrence F. Haygood, Jr.
Council Member Ala Whitehead
Council Member Georgette White Moon
Council Member Frank Christopher Lee, II

All Members of the Council were present for this Meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Motion was made by Council Member Whitehead to accept and approve the agenda as circulated. Council Member Lee seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** (Minutes for March 8, 2016)

Motion was made by Council Member Whitehead to accept and approve the minutes as circulated with the necessary changes/corrections. Council Member Lee seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

7. **CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Dr. Elaine C. Harrington RE: Asked Council Members to speak into the microphones so that they can be heard; and 13th Annual Carver Festival April 30, 2016 Downtown Tuskegee on the Square
2. Anna Owens RE: Conflict of Interest Issue regarding the Cox vs. UBT/COT Case
3. Samuel Davis, Sr. (918 Chisholm St.) RE: Chisholm's Laundry Mat Loiters

8. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.** (Mayor Johnny Ford)

- A. City Council Work Session.
- B. Announcements:

9. **SGA /OTHER AGENCIES, ETC. COMMUNICATIONS.** NONE.

10. **CITY MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS.** James W. Harper, City Manager.

- **6:30 PM Public Hearing:** Planning Commission's Recommendation to continue vacation of Alexander St.

6:30 PM Motion was made by Council Member Whitehead to start the public hearing on the planning commission's recommendation to continue vacation of Alexander Street. Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

Citizens Speaking for:

Dr. Elaine C. Harrington

Citizens Speaking Against:

There were no citizens to speak against the planning commission's recommendation to continue vacation of Alexander Street.

6:33 PM Motion was made by Council Member Lee to end the public hearing on the planning commission's recommendation to continue vacation of Alexander Street. Council Member Whitehead seconded the motion and all member voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

- **6:45 PM Public Hearing:** Housing Demolition 304 Bibb Street, 1805 A & B West MLK Hwy., 2002 West MLK Hwy. & 107 Short Street.

6:45 PM Motion was made by Council Member Whitehead to start the public hearing on the demolition of houses for the following properties: 304 Bibb Street, 1805 A & B West Martin Luther King Highway, 2002 West Martin Luther King Highway and 107 Short Street. Mayor Ford seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

Citizens Speaking for:

Mr. French Taylor

Citizens Speaking Against:

There were no citizens to speak against the demolition of houses for the following properties: 304 Bibb Street, 1805 A & B West Martin Luther King Highway, 2002 West Martin Luther King Highway and 107 Short Street.

6:48 PM Motion was made by Council Member Whitehead end the public hearing on the demolition of houses for the following properties: 304 Bibb Street, 1805 A & B West Martin Luther King Highway, 2002 West Martin Luther King Highway and 107 Short Street. Council Member Lee seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

City Manager's Communications continued.....

- A. Council Updates / Concerns:
 - o District I Clean-up (*Lenora Goode & Melvin Adams*)
- B. Street Maintenance Activities.
- C. Financial Report.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood to receive the financial report presented by Ms. Frankie Williams, Finance Director. Council Member Moon seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

- D. Planning Commission: Recommendation to continue vacation of Alexander Street

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood for council to accept and approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to continue vacation of the remainder of Alexander Street. Council Member Whitehead seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

- E. Housing Demolition: 304 Bibb St., 1805 A & B W. MLK Hwy., 2002 W. MLK Hwy. & 107 Short St.

Motion was made by Council Member Lee to continue the demolition process and approve the following four properties as public nuisance for demolition. Council Member Moon seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

- F. Head Start Report:
 - 1. Executive Director's Report (Feb. 2016)
 - 2. Revenue & Expenditure Report including Credit Card Report (Feb. 2016)
 - 3. Monthly Summary of Meals and Snacks Provided through USDA (Feb. 2016)
 - 4. Enrollment and Attendance Report (Feb. 2016)
 - 5. Selection Criteria
 - 6. Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - Child Assessment Winter Results
 - 7. Comprehensive Services and School Readiness (CSSR) Federal Review Results

Motion was made by to Council Member Moon to accept and approve the Head Start Report as presented and with commendation to Nannette Phillips, Head Start Director. Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

- G. Lease Agreement: Tuskegee Solar Services, LLC (Thomas Reed, Jr.) (Agenda for Next Meeting)
- H. Political Sign Ordinance. (*1st reading*)
- I. Soul Inn Update. (*Willie Smith, Fire Marshal*)

Capt. Willie Smith presented to Council the report and photographs regarding the Soul Inn Nightclub as it relates to the night club being in compliance according to Ordinance No. 2014-6.

Citizens speaking on behalf of Soul Inn Night Club:

- Mr. French Taylor: spoke on the agreement for parking with Soul Inn
 - Ms. Ashley Robie: spoke as a college student & attendee of the Soul Inn
 - Ms. Lenora Goode: spoke on all nightclubs being in compliance on all requirements
- J. Employee Recognition: "Years of Service "
 - o Fire Dept.: Capt. Marc Fulton - "10 Years of Service"
 - o Police Dept.: Detective Lt. Michael Provo - "10 Years of Service"
 - K. Announcements:
 - *All Public Officials, Current/Former Employees and Retirees, All Board and/or Commission Members who meet the filing requirements should file the 2015 Statement of Economic Interest Forms (SEI) by May 2, 2016. (www.ethics.alabama.gov)*
 - *City of Tuskegee will be Closed on Friday, March 25th for Good Friday.*

11. **ORDINANCES:**

- A. Ordinance No. 2016-6. An ordinance changing the number of days candidate can erect and display political signs for municipal election. (1st Reading)
- B. Ordinance No. 2016-7. Anti-Fracturing Ordinance. (1^s Reading)
- C. Ordinance No. 2016-8. An Ordinance changing the franchise fee to 3%.

12. **RESOLUTIONS:**

A. Resolution No. 2016-32. Commendations to BTW High School Jr. ROTC.

Motion was made by Council Member Moon to accept and approve resolution 2016-32 as stated giving commendations to BTW High School Jr. ROTC. Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-32

WHEREAS, the Booker T. Washington High School JROTC Units are to be congratulated for outstanding achievement on March 5, 2016, under the leadership of Senior Army Instructor Colonel Chipman Flowers and Army Instructor Sargent Major Kenneth Baker; and

WHEREAS, the JROTC Academic Team, which consists of Team Commander Zoia Jordan, Cadets: Brie Anna Williams, Aliyah Stewart, Cheyenne Marble, and Quentisa Williams participated in academic competition at Sydney Lanier High School. Each cadet achieved perfect scores, received a trophy of their own and placed No.1 individually; and

WHEREAS, the team itself achieved No.1 place in the competition. This team has consistently placed No.1 during previous years. This outstanding achievement is a tribute to the JROTC and academic program dedicated to the highest level of competition, sportsmanship and academic excellence that reflects positively on Booker T. Washington High School; and

WHEREAS, the JROTC Drill team which consists of Team Commander Malika Jones, Cadets: Shabrea Wilson, Shamayah Fort, Demetrius Foster, Khadejiah Council, Cambryana Burton, Kandra Purnell and Bianca Grant participated in drill competition at Sydney Lanier High School on the 5th of March 2016. The team received a 3rd place trophy.

WHEREAS, the Booker T. Washington High School JROTC participants and their leaders have demonstrated the teamwork and drive necessary to produce a successful JROTC Unit; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by me as the Mayor of the City of Tuskegee and the City Council of the City of Tuskegee officially commends and congratulates the outstanding achievements and contributions by the Booker T. Washington High School JROTC Unit, Army Instructors and staff and encourages each member of the team to continue his or her positive scholastic contributions.

In witness I have hereunto set my hands and caused this seal to be affixed this the 12th day of April, 2016.

CITY OF TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

Johnny Ford, Mayor

B. Resolution No. 2016-33. Commendations for 75th Commemoration of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood to accept and approve resolution 2016-33 as stated giving commendations on the 75th Anniversary Commemoration for the Tuskegee Airmen. Council Member Lee seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-33

WHEREAS, Tuskegee Airmen Foundation is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to continue to build on the successes of the past, highlight the role models of today and develop the workforce of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, in 1940 the military selected Tuskegee Institute to train pilots because of its commitment to aeronautical training; its facilities, engineering and technical instructors; and a climate for year-round flying; and

WHEREAS, the first Civilian Pilot Training Program students completed their instruction in May 1940, after which the Tuskegee program was expanded and became the center for African-American aviation during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most respected fighter groups of WWII, which proved conclusively that African Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft, paving the way for full integration of the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, March 22, 2016 marks the 75th Anniversary of the activation of the U.S. Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first black combat aviation unit comprised of pilots and support personnel trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field and other locations.,," which pays tribute to and honors the accomplishments of African Americans who participated in the "Tuskegee Experience" and

WHEREAS, this commemoration of the legacy born directly from the efforts and determination of over 16,000 courageous men and women recognizes the fortitude of these individuals to stand strong in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, their hard-won accomplishments continues on a grand scale through the introduction of young people across the nation to the world of aviation, science, technology, engineering and math through local, and national youth programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, one of the City of Tuskegee's priorities is Public Service Excellence which was exemplified by the Tuskegee Airmen;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Johnny Ford, as Mayor of the City of Tuskegee, Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2016, as

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN FOUNDATION DAY

in recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation 75th Anniversary Commemoration being held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Tuskegee, to be affixed this 22nd Day of March, 2016.

CITY OF TUSKEGEE

Johnny Ford, Mayor

C. Resolution No. 2016-34. Celebrating & Remembering the Life of James Collins, deceased.

Motion was made by Council Member Moon to accept and approve resolution number 2016- Celebrating & Remembering the Life of James Collins, deceased. Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Mayor Ford declared the motion carried.

13. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

Attorney Gray stated that he continues to consult and discuss on a regular basis on matters and/or concerns with the City Manager as well as other Dept. Heads. He stated that there were several cases pending and that he continues to be engaged in those cases and in fact Atty. Gray stated that he received a new claim today that he will be working on going forward. He stated that there is one case that has been pending for a while that is now in the hands of the City Manager that will be resolved later on this week.

- Fire Arms Policy.

Atty. Gray stated that he spoke with the General Counsel at Alabama League of Municipality today concerning the firearms policy. She shared several concerns and he followed up based on the concerns. The City of Tuskegee does not have a firearms policy or ordinance right now which really works to your benefit. He stated that if you adopt a firearms policy along the lines of that which is commonly adopted, then the City will have to in these particular places guards posted at the entrance, or have turn styles or have metal detectors or have other means of controlling and detecting the flow coming in and out the buildings. The City is in a better shape not adopting anything on this until you are in a position to enforce the areas of interest regarding firearms. The recommendation is for the city to not adopt an ordinance that they are unable to enforce and just enforce the state law as it relates to firearms.

- Fracturing Policy. (1st Reading)

14. **OTHER BUSINESS.**

Mayor Pro-Tempore Haygood asked that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance relative to the 3% franchise fee for consideration at the next council meeting (April 12, 2016).

There being no further matters to come before the Council at this time, Council Member Whitehead moved to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Mayor Ford declared the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

Johnny Ford, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fartima B. Clark, City Clerk