

CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2025 – City Hall Council Chambers

Work Session: Began at 5:00 p.m. and concluded at 6:08 p.m.

Council Meeting: Began at 6:08 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Council President Ken Sockwell called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Hall, Clark, Thompson, Sockwell, and Linley.

Council President Ken Sockwell presided. Mayor Mike Lockhart was present. City Clerk Brittney Walker was present and recorded the minutes.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Dr. Chad Holden. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Ken Sockwell.

4. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Hall moved to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2025 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Thompson moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting. Councilman Linley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Lockhart congratulated the City of Muscle Shoals on being recognized as one of the most affordable cities in Alabama, noting this recognition reflects the City's commitment to strong financial management and community service.

6. Comments of the Public

None

7. Reports of Officers

A. Court Clerk Jennifer Thorp was unable to attend due to illness. Her proposal to increase the Driving School program fee will be rescheduled.

B. City Clerk Brittney Walker presented a proposal to add a Pump and Equipment Maintenance Operator position in the Storm Drainage Department. Councilman Thompson moved to approve the new position, Councilman Linley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. City Clerk Brittney Walker, at the request of Council President Sockwell, presented an ordinance for the first reading to increase the municipal lodging tax from 3% to 10%. The ordinance will be considered on October 20, 2025, with an effective date of December 1, 2025.

D. Finance Officer Jazmin Casto presented the updated Financial Institution Council Report reflecting the 2025 analysis of the City's General Fund. The report was received for information; no action was taken.

8. Hearings, Applications, Appeals, and Communications

A. Set public hearing for rezoning Dalton Estates for November 3, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Set public hearing for ROW vacation for Wilson Dam Properties, LLC for November 3, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

C. A public hearing was held for Fuji 168, 2101 Woodward Avenue, Suite ____, for Retail Beer and Retail Table Wine licenses. No one spoke in opposition. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Hall – Aye

Clark – Aye

Thompson – Aye

Sockwell – Aye

Linley – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Financial Reports

None

10. Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders & Other Business

A. Resolution 3387-25 Authorizing Purchases for City Departments from the Mayor's Special Trust Account was presented. Councilman Thompson moved for approval, Councilman Linley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The total authorized purchases amounted to \$254,717.56.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be held on October 20, 2025.

Board Vacancies

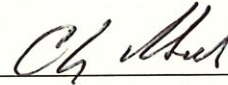
Colbert County Convention & Tourism Board – 1 expired term (term ending October 2028). Applications are available at City Hall and on the City's website under Government → Board Information.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

A Municipal Corporation

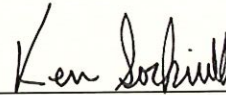


Council Member – Place One

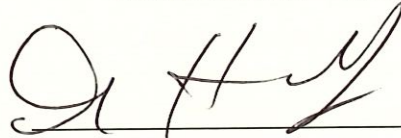
Council Member – Place Two



Council Member – Place Three

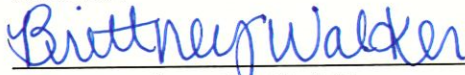


Council Member – Place Four



Council Member – Place Five

ATTEST:



Brittney Walker, City Clerk/Treasurer

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Date: October 6, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Present: Chris Hall, Gina Clark, Willis Thompson, Ken Sockwell, Donnie Linley

Absent: None

Council President Ken Sockwell presided. Mayor Mike Lockhart was present. City Clerk Brittney Walker was present and recorded the minutes.

A. Mr. Underwood requested to address the Council regarding the Sportsplex project, raising concerns about taxpayer funds, facility maintenance, and contract compliance, and questioning whether the Alabama Ethics Commission should investigate.

City Attorney Marcel Black recommended that Mr. Underwood not be allowed to speak due to his pending lawsuit against the City. Attorney Black requested a vote from the Council on whether to allow Mr. Underwood to address the Council. Upon vote, all Council Members—Hall, Clark, Thompson, Sockwell, and Linley—voted not to allow Mr. Underwood to speak on matters related to his ongoing litigation with the City.

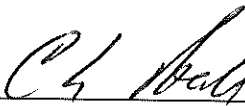
B. Mr. Jerry Gandy discussed the possibility of live streaming City Council meetings, noting that neighboring cities such as Florence, Huntsville, and Decatur already broadcast their meetings. He estimated an equipment cost of approximately \$3,000 and offered to provide detailed pricing to the City Clerk. The Council thanked him for his presentation and agreed to consider the proposal.

C. Building Inspector Jason Jones presented updates to the short-term rental (STR) ordinance and application process. He noted the addition of an application question confirming a property's good standing with the City, new enforcement language addressing breach of peace and safety concerns, and clarified zoning requirements. The Council took the report under advisement.

D. Mr. Ryan Swindle proposed adopting language requiring contractors on City projects exceeding \$1,000,000 to participate in certified apprenticeship programs. He cited examples from Tennessee and Georgia and highlighted workforce and economic benefits. The Council expressed support for further review.

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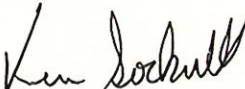


Council Member – Place One

Council Member – Place Two



Council Member – Place Three



Council Member – Place Four



Council Member – Place Five

ATTEST:



Brittney Walker, City Clerk/Treasurer

