CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

December 15, 2025

The City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, met in Work Session on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Present: Chris Hall, Gina Clark, Willis Thompson, Kenneth Sockwell, and Donnie Linley, Council President.

Also Present: Mayor Billy Hudson, City Clerk Brittney Walker, and department staff.

WORK SESSION

A. Allan Rice – Sports Facilities Companies (Sportsplex Update)

Mr. Allan Rice, representing Sports Facilities Companies (SFC), addressed the Council regarding the City's Sportsplex project. Mr. Rice acknowledged that SFC was not engaged early enough during the master planning process and indicated that the project team has paused progress to revisit design and scope in order to better align with budget and infrastructure constraints. He stated SFC remains committed to a long-term partnership with the City and described SFC's national portfolio of facilities and its mission to improve community health and vitality. Mr. Rice advised that branding for the project has been completed but has not yet been publicly released. He reported that SFC continues marketing and sponsorship outreach as part of its network, including communications with event and tournament partners, and emphasized that such work occurs well in advance of facility completion. Council discussion included questions regarding annual operations/management costs for various project scenarios, what expenses are typically included within SFC's operations estimate, and whether a sports complex can be successful without immediate adjacent retail development. Mr. Rice explained that complexes often stimulate surrounding retail and lodging growth after opening based on market demand and provided examples from other communities. Mr. Rice agreed to provide additional cost figures and clarifications to the Council.

B. Ben Weisman – Update on Zoning Ordinance Changes

Mr. Ben Weisman provided an update on proposed revisions to the City's zoning ordinances. He reported that staff and consultants have been reviewing definitions and standards and have drafted additional language related to automobile salvage/storage practices to ensure vehicles and outdoor storage areas are properly screened, secured, and maintained to prevent nuisance or "junkyard" conditions. He also reported that legal counsel recommended adding language clarifying that all applications and actions must comply with applicable state laws and regulations. Mr. Weisman stated that staff will continue review and anticipates bringing the proposed revisions back to the Council for action in the coming weeks.

C. Consumable Hemp Product License – Policy and Approval-Letter Process

The Council discussed the need to develop a City policy and approval-letter process for consumable hemp product licenses as required by the Alabama ABC Board beginning January 1, 2026. Council discussed that the ABC Board will require a letter from the City prior to issuing final licenses and directed staff to prepare a proposed process for Council consideration.

D. Council Discussion – Land Purchase

The Council discussed a potential land purchase. An appraisal previously provided to Council was referenced, and Council discussed next steps for consideration and possible action at a future meeting.

E. Discussion – Accounts Receivable Clerk Reporting Line

The Council discussed the reporting line for the Accounts Receivable Clerk and receptionist position, including administrative oversight considerations and internal control requirements for handling municipal funds. Council discussed possible job description revisions and staffing adjustments and directed staff to develop options for Council review.

The Council entered Executive Session to discuss a matter related to the land purchase.

The Work Session concluded at 6:14 p.m.

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CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2025

The City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Present: Chris Hall, Gina Clark, Willis Thompson, Kenneth Sockwell, and Donnie Linley, Council President.

Also Present: Mayor Billy Hudson, City Clerk Brittney Walker, and department staff.

1. Call to Order

Council President Donnie Linley called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

3. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Chad Holden delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. December 1, 2025

Motion by Kenneth Sockwell, second by Willis Thompson, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Billy Hudson thanked City departments and volunteers for their work supporting the Christmas Parade and related holiday activities. The Mayor provided brief updates on ongoing projects and thanked public safety and City staff for continued service.

6. Comments of the Public

No public comments were presented.

7. Reports of Officers

A. Finance Officer Jazmin Castro – End-of-Year Adjustments

Finance Officer Jazmin Castro presented end-of-year budget adjustments, including a $72,500 grant received by the Police Department from the State for Operation RX and a $1,650 bonus check received by the Library from APLS. Ms. Castro reported the funds were placed into the appropriate revenue and expenditure accounts.

8. Hearing on Petitions, Applications, Appeals, Communications, etc.

A. Public Hearing – Rezoning Request (Randal Fuller / Puritan Avenue & Glendale Avenue)

A public hearing was held for the rezoning request submitted by Randal Fuller for property located at the southwest corner of Puritan Avenue and Glendale Avenue, as recommended by the Planning Commission. No persons spoke in favor or in opposition. Council considered the rezoning request and proceeded with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Hall – Yes

Gina Clark – Yes

Willis Thompson – Yes

Kenneth Sockwell – Yes

Donnie Linley – Yes

10. Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders & Other Business

A. Resolution No. 3407-25 – Library Board Appointment (Robin Sessions)

Motion by Willis Thompson, second by Chris Hall, to adopt Resolution No. 3407-25 appointing Robin Sessions to fill the Library Board vacancy for a term expiring November 2029.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Hall – Robin Sessions

Gina Clark – Robin Sessions

Willis Thompson – Robin Sessions

Kenneth Sockwell – Robin Sessions

Donnie Linley – Robin Sessions

Result: Appointment approved unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 3408-25 – Agreement with ALDOT (Resurfacing/Traffic Striping on Avalon Avenue)

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Motion by Gina Clark, second by Chris Hall, to adopt Resolution No. 3408-25 authorizing the City to enter into and execute an agreement with ALDOT for resurfacing and traffic striping on Avalon Avenue (Avalon Avenue to Woodward Avenue from Cox Boulevard to the railroad tracks). Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution No. 3406-25 – Purchase of Lots 312–316 (Detroit Park Addition 1)

Motion by Gina Clark, second by Chris Hall, to adopt Resolution No. 3406-25 authorizing the City to purchase Lots 312 through 316 in the Detroit Park Addition 1 from B E Global for $6,500.00 and to execute all related closing documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned.

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