

**CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2026**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Donnie Linley, who presided.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by City Clerk Brittney Walker.

Present:

Hall

Clark

Thompson

Sockwell

Linley

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Mayor Billy Hudson, department heads, city staff, and members of the public

3. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Dr. Chad Holden.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Donnie Linley.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. March 2, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chris Hall

Second by Gina Clark

Vote: All Ayes

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hudson made comments and welcomed those in attendance.

6. Comments of the Public

7. Reports of Officers

Chief Reck and Chief Hyde presented a proposal for pay increases for public safety personnel.

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

9. Financial Reports

10. Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders & Other Business

A. Ordinance – Annexation (4310 Highway 43 South)

First reading only. No action taken.

B. Resolution – Vacation of Streets and Alleys (Highland Park Subdivision Plat 14)

Motion by Willis Thompson

Second by Ken Sockwell

Vote: All Ayes

Motion carried.

STATE OF ALABAMA

COLBERT COUNTY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3428-26

WHEREAS, Covenant Drive Storage, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company, and ROBBINS, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company, hereinafter collectively called Petitioners, being the only owners of those certain lots in HIGHLAND PARK SUBDIVISION PLAT NUMBER FOURTEEN, a subdivision in Colbert County, Alabama, known and designated according to the map of said subdivision recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Colbert County, Alabama, in Map Book 2, Page 125, that abut the streets and alleys hereinafter set out; said Petitioners being desirous of vacating the hereinafter described streets and alleys, have presented their signed Petition and Declaration of Vacation of said streets and alleys to the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, a municipal corporation, for its consideration, assent and approval; and

WHEREAS, the streets and alleys to be vacated are more particularly described as follows:

Tract I:

A portion of a 50' wide right of way, lying within Highland Park Subdivision Plat Number Fourteen, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 125, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, being North of a line from the Northeast corner of Lot 172 to the Northeast corner of Lot 213, said tract of land is subject to any and all easements or restrictions of record or unrecorded affecting said property.

Tract II:

A portion of a 50' wide right of way, lying within Highland Park Subdivision Plat Number Fourteen, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 125, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, being East of a line from the Southwest corner of Lot 176 and the Northwest corner of Lot 177 and West of a line from the Southeast corner of Lot 212 and the Northeast corner of Lot 205, said tract of land is subject to any and all easements or restrictions of record or unrecorded affecting said property.

Tract III:

A portion of a 50' wide right of way, lying within Highland Park Subdivision Plat Number Fourteen, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 125, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, being East of a line from the Southwest corner of Lot 184 and the Northwest corner of Lot 185 and West of a line from the Southeast corner of Lot 203 and the Northeast corner of Lot 198, said tract of land is subject to any and all easements or restrictions of record or unrecorded affecting said property.

Tract IV:

A portion of a 30' wide right of way, lying within Highland Park Subdivision Plat Number Fourteen, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 125, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, being South of a line from the Southwest corner of Lot 192 to the Southeast corner of Lot 196, said tract of land is subject to any and all easements or restrictions of record or unrecorded affecting said property.

Tract V:

A portion of a 66' wide right of way, lying within Highland Park Subdivision Plat Number Fourteen, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 125, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, with boundaries as described in the official plat, said tract of land is subject to any and all easements or restrictions of record or unrecorded affecting said property.

Tract VI:

Those portions of an 18' wide right of way particularly described in the official plat, subject to all easements and restrictions of record.

Tract VII:

Those portions of an 18' wide right of way particularly described in the official plat, subject to all easements and restrictions of record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, that the assent of the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama be and the same is hereby given and granted to the vacation of the streets and alleys herein above described.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, a municipal corporation, remise, release, and quit-claim whatever right, title and interest it may have acquired in and to the above described property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this the 16th day of March, 2026.

C. Resolution – Muscle Shoals High School Band 60th Anniversary

Motion by Gina Clark

Second by Chris Hall

Vote: All Ayes

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3427-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA, HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSCLE SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Muscle Shoals High School Band Program was organized in 1965 under the direction of Charles R. Stratford, establishing a tradition of excellence that has endured for six decades; and

WHEREAS, in its sixty-year history, the program has been guided by only five Head Directors—Charles Stratford, Dexter Greenhaw, Pat Stegall, David Waters, and Jessica Hood—each of whom has faithfully upheld and strengthened the program's proud legacy; and

WHEREAS, the Muscle Shoals High School Band has consistently represented a high degree of musicianship and continues to serve as a model for band programs throughout the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the band has received recognition for its musical achievements at the local, statewide, regional, national, and international levels; and

WHEREAS, the program has consistently produced student musicians of the highest caliber, with many earning positions in local, state, and national honor ensembles; and

WHEREAS, the band has been invited to perform at numerous state conferences and workshops, serving as an exemplary model for other band programs; and

WHEREAS, for sixty years, the Muscle Shoals High School Band Program has provided entertaining and inspiring half-time performances and concerts at home and throughout the state and region; and

WHEREAS, the band has received widespread acclaim in competitive events and festivals since its inception and continues to bring home accolades each year, demonstrating the highest standards of excellence, including over 30 consecutive years of Superior Ratings in concert band, 60 years of consistent Superior Ratings in marching band, four back-to-back Bands of America Class Championships, three Grand Champion Awards at the Vanderbilt Marching Invitational, numerous additional Grand Champion awards, and four Alabama Marching Band Championships; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, many student musicians from the program have pursued distinguished careers as music educators and performers, including the current Director, Jessica Hood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, that the Council hereby honors and celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Muscle Shoals High School Band Program, recognizing its extraordinary legacy of excellence, leadership, service, and commitment to the students and citizens of Muscle Shoals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Muscle Shoals City Council extends its sincere appreciation to the directors, students, alumni, parents, and supporters—past and present—whose dedication has made the Muscle Shoals High School Band Program a source of pride for the City of Muscle Shoals for sixty years.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March, 2026.

D. Resolution – Appointment of City Attorney

Motion by Gina Clark

Second by Chris Hall

Roll Call Vote:

Hall – Yes

Clark – Yes

Thompson – Yes

Sockwell – Yes

Linley – Yes

Motion carried.

Mark S. Boardman, of Boardman, Carr, Petelos, Watkins, Ogle & Howard, P.C., was appointed City Attorney.

RESOLUTION NO. 3426-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA, APPOINTING A CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS

WHEREAS, the City of Muscle Shoals requires legal representation to advise and assist the Mayor, City Council, and municipal departments in matters relating to municipal law, contracts, ordinances, litigation, and other legal matters affecting the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals is authorized under the laws of the State of Alabama to appoint a City Attorney to represent and provide legal services to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to appoint a qualified attorney to serve as City Attorney for the City of Muscle Shoals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, that Mark S. Boardman, of BOARDMAN, CARR, PETELOS, WATKINS, OGLE & HOWARD, P.C. is hereby appointed to serve as City Attorney for the City of Muscle Shoals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Attorney shall represent the City in legal matters as requested by the Mayor and City Council and shall perform such duties as required by Alabama law, municipal ordinance, and direction of the governing body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any agreement or contract necessary to formalize the appointment and compensation of the City Attorney consistent with the approval of the City Council.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March, 2026.

E. Resolution – ADECA RTP (Airport Sportsplex Walking Trail)

Item tabled.

F. Resolution – Appointment to Colbert County Convention and Tourism Board (Unexpired Term Ending October 2026)

Motion by Gina Clark

Second by Chris Hall

Roll Call Vote:

Hall – April Barton

Clark – April Barton

Thompson – April Barton

Sockwell – April Barton

Linley – April Barton

Motion carried.

April Barton was appointed to the Colbert County Convention and Tourism Board.

STATE OF ALABAMA

COLBERT COUNTY

Resolution No. 3425-26

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Colbert County Convention and Tourism Board for an unexpired term ending October 2026, and the City Council being desirous of making the necessary appointment to said board;

WHEREAS, notice was given to the public of said pending vacancy and applications were solicited for a member to said board;

WHEREAS, the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment and are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancy:

April B. Barton

Donnie Allen

Wes Sherrill

WHEREAS, a roll call vote was had by the City Council as follows:

Council Member Hall: April B. Barton

Council Member Clark: April B. Barton

Council Member Sockwell: April B. Barton

Council Member Thompson: April B. Barton

Council Member Linley: April B. Barton

WHEREAS, Council President Linley announced that April B. Barton had received a majority of the votes cast;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama that the following named person is hereby appointed to serve as set forth herein:

APPOINTEE	BOARD	EXPIRATION OF TERM
April B. Barton	Colbert County Convention and Tourism Board	October 2026

The Clerk is hereby directed to notify the above-named person of their appointment and to further notify the respective board of said appointment.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March, 2026.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Willis Thompson

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Attest

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

**CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 16, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama conducted a work session on March 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2010 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Council President Donnie Linley presided.

A. Interviews for the Colbert County Tourism Board

The Council conducted interviews for applicants seeking appointment to the Colbert County Convention and Tourism Board.

Applicants were present and interviewed by the Council.

B. Presentation by the Fire Chief

The Fire Chief recognized a member of the Muscle Shoals Fire Department for outstanding service.

A Life Saving Award was presented to a firefighter for actions taken on January 27, 2026, in which the individual responded to a medical emergency while off duty, administered CPR, and assisted in saving the life of a citizen.

C. Airport Ballfields Project – Dr. Chad Holden

Item was not discussed and will be brought back for discussion at a future council meeting.

D. James W. Bobo, II – Steenson Hollow Marina Update

Mr. Bobo provided an update regarding the Steenson Hollow Marina project, including:

- Recent acquisition of the marina property
- Planned improvements to docks and facilities
- Expansion to include additional boat slips and dry storage
- Installation of fuel services
- Development of a waterfront restaurant
- Future plans for residential development on adjacent property

Council members discussed timelines and project scope.

E. Cypress Lakes Pool Update – Dawn Woodall

The Parks and Recreation Director reported that:

- Pressure testing revealed leaks in the pool system
- Repairs would require significant investment
- Options include full renovation or future redevelopment

Council discussed potential next steps and public impact.

F. William Underwood – Public Comment

Mr. Underwood addressed the Council regarding:

- The August 19, 2024 council meeting
- The solar farm project
- Funding related to the Sportsplex

Concerns were expressed regarding the use of funds and prior council actions.

Attest

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

DRAFT