

CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, AL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2026

The City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2026, at City Hall.

1. Call to Order
The president pro tempore Chris Hall called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call
Present: Chris Hall, Gina Clark, Ken Sockwell
Absent: Willis Thompson, Donnie Linley
3. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
Chief Rick delivered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by president pro tempore Chris Hall.
4. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Gina Clark to approve the May 18, 2026 agenda.
5. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Gina Clark and seconded by Ken Sockwell to approve the May 4, 2026 council meeting minutes.
6. Mayor's Comments
The Mayor thanked citizens who spoke during public comments and acknowledged city department heads and staff. The Mayor also mentioned upcoming Friday night community activities and noted that Fire Chief Hyde was traveling to Minnesota to retrieve a new fire truck.
7. Reports of Officers:
 - A. Jason Jones – After-Hours Inspection Fees
Jason Jones presented a proposed after-hours inspection fee schedule:
\$100 inspection fee
\$10 issuance fee
The fee applies to inspections after 4:30 p.m. and weekends, with exceptions available for emergency situations.

A motion was made by Gina Clark and seconded by Ken Sockwell to adopt the after-hours inspection fee schedule. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Chief Clint Reck – Police Department Items
Chief Reck requested approval of the Lexipol police policy manual project totaling approximately \$45,297.90. He stated the department was nearing completion of the 180-day implementation process.

Chief Reck also requested emergency funding between \$15,000 and \$25,000 for repairs and upgrades to deteriorating radio repeaters and antenna systems affecting communication reliability.

A motion was made by Gina Clark and seconded by Ken Sockwell to approve the Lexipol police policy manual and authorize emergency funding not to exceed \$25,000 for radio system and antenna repairs out of general fund reserves. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Jazmin Castro – Budget Adjustments

Jazmin presented mid-year budget adjustments totaling approximately \$64,000, including: Veterans Day Golf donations, senior center donations, fire department donation from Tractor Supply, public works auction proceeds, insurance reimbursement for storm damages, and library grant funding.

A motion was made by Chris Hall and seconded by Gina Clark to approve the budget adjustments. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Dawn Woodall- Program Coordinator Position

Dawn announced: Community Block Party scheduled May 29th, movie nights in the park beginning June 12th, and summer camp enrollment nearing capacity with approximately 70 children weekly.

Woodall requested approval for a new Program Coordinator position within Parks and Recreation to assist with expanding childcare, after-school programming, grants, and city events. Funding was already included within the department budget. She also recommended Brooks Canup for the participation of the Leadership Shoals Class 37.

A motion was made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Gina Clark to approve the program coordinator position and Brooks Canup participation in Leadership Shoals Class 37. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Hearing on petitions, applications, appeals communications, etc.

A. Public Hearing- Alcohol License (4G Store 2)

Public Hearing conducted regarding a retail off premises only for 4G Store 2, 2526 Avalon Ave. No public comments were received. There was a roll call vote made to authorize the public notice posting.

Chris Hall: AYE

Gina Clark: AYE

Ken Sockwell: AYE

B. Public Hearing- Zen Spirits Inc, Inc., dba Shoals Liquor 2, for transfer of an Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Lounge Retail Liquor license- Class II (Package) and tobacco products license located at 818 2nd Street. Muscle Shoals, Al

Public Hearing was set for June 15, 2026

9. Financial Reports:

10. Resolutions, ordinances, orders & other business:

A. Tax Abatement – Caravals LLC

Council considered a 10-year tax abatement agreement for Caravals LLC related to a \$32 million project within Shoals Research Park involving facility construction, equipment purchases, and job creation.

A motion was made by Gina Clark and seconded by Ken Sockwell to approve the tax abatement agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Awarding Bid No. 003-26 For lawn maintenance services to Coldwater Landscapes
Council reviewed bids for lawn maintenance services at: City Hall, Public Library, Police Department, Fire Station No.1, Annex Building at Shoals Research Park.

The City Attorney noted only one responsive responsible bid was received.

Motion made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Gina Clark to award the contract to Coldwater Landscapes, finding that bidder to be only responsive responsible bidder.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

C. Colbert County Animal Shelter Funding Resolution

Council considered a resolution removing a previous earmark requiring annual payments toward a USDA loan obligation, which has now been satisfied.

Motion made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Gina Clark to approve the resolution.
Motion Passed unanimously.

D. Tax Abatement – Robins LLC

Council considered a 10-year tax abatement agreement for Robins LLC involving approximately \$3.225 million in manufacturing equipment investment.

Motion made by Gina Clark and seconded by Ken Sockwell to approve the tax abatement agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing Remarks


The next council meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2026. Citizens wishing to speak were reminded to register by 3:00 p.m. Thursday prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made Ken Sockwell and seconded by Gina Clark to adjourn the meeting.



Council Member- Place 1



Council Member- Place 2

Council Member- Place 3


Council Member- Place 4

Council Member- Place 5

ATTEST:



Finance Officer/Assistant City Clerk

Work Session Agenda
May 18, 2026 5:00 PM

A. Olivia Bradford

Olivia Bradford addressed the council regarding community unity, long-term planning, and transparency in decision-making. She emphasized the importance of respectful public discourse and responsible growth planning for Muscle Shoals. Bradford encouraged collaboration and thoughtful investment in recreational infrastructure while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

B. Randy Holden

Randy Holden, a longtime baseball coach and organizer, spoke in favor of the proposed Sportsplex project. He discussed the economic impact of youth sports tourism and referenced successful sports complexes in Hoover, Albertville, Oxford, and Northport. Holden emphasized the regional demand for large-scale turf facilities and the economic benefits associated with tournaments, hotel stays, and related development.

C. Dee Black

Dee Black, discussed his experience hosting youth baseball and softball tournaments in Muscle Shoals and surrounding areas. He expressed support for expanding local sports facilities and offered assistance in bringing additional tournaments to the city.

D. Lonzo Jones

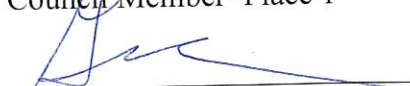
Lonzo Jones spoke as both a father and coach in support of the Sportsplex initiative. He emphasized the importance of creating opportunities and lasting memories for local youth through improved recreational facilities. Jones encouraged the council to invest in facilities that match the dedication and commitment shown by local athletes and families.

E. Linda C. Kennedy

Linda K. Kennedy presented remarks regarding civic unity and community values.



Council Member- Place 1



Council Member- Place 2

Council Member- Place 3



Council Member- Place 4

Council Member- Place 5

ATTEST:



Finance Officer/Assistant City Clerk

