CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, AL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2026

The City Council of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 2026, at City Hall.

1. Call to Order
The Council President, Donnie Linley, called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call
Present: Chris Hall, Gina Clark, Willis Thompson, Ken Sockwell, Donnie Linley
Absent: None

3. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
James Vance delivered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President, Donnie Linley

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Council President announced he would entertain a motion to seek bids for the repaving of the Fire and Police Department Parking Lots. A motion was made by Gina Clark and seconded by Willis Thompson. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

4. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Willis Thompson and seconded by Chris Hall to approve July 13, 2026, agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Willis Thompson to approve the June 15, 2026 council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Mayor's Comments
Mayor Billy Hudson welcomed those in attendance and thanked the citizens for participating in local government. The Mayor recognized the efforts of the Street Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department, Fire Department, and all City employees for their continued work in maintaining City facilities and responding to the needs of the community.
The Mayor highlighted the continued success of the Beats & Eats events and thanked Parks and Recreation staff for organizing the events. He also encouraged the public to attend the upcoming W.C. Handy Block Party and other festival activities scheduled throughout the week.
The Mayor further commented on the City's ongoing beautification efforts, including installation of patriotic flags throughout the City, and expressed appreciation to employees responsible for maintaining public spaces.

7. Reports of Officers
A. Chief Hyde- presented revisions to the Fire Department compensation proposal previously approved by the Council. Chief Hyde explained that after implementation of the pay plan, an error was discovered in the calculation involving the Fire Department's annual work schedule.

He advised that the revised calculations corrected the error while maintaining the approved compensation structure. He further explained that the adjustment resulted in a minimal fiscal impact to the City.

B. Reimbursement to Susan Bentley for eligible expenses incurred for the Avalon Block Party- The Mayor reported that he had been working with Susan Bentley on organizing the Avalon Avenue Block Party. He presented a request to reimburse Ms. Bentley for expenses she personally incurred for the event, including payments for the band's performance, the W.C. Handy Festival participation fee, and promotional flyers, totaling $2,250.00. Following discussion, the Council agreed that, rather than reimbursing Ms. Bentley directly, the City would issue payment directly to the applicable vendors for the approved expenses. The vendors would need to reimburse Ms. Bentley.

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

9. Financial Reports:

10. Resolutions, ordinances, orders & other business:

A. Resolution for Appointment to the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board
Council President Lindley announced that applications had been received to fill the vacant position on the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board. Mr. Linley recused himself from voting. There was a roll call vote made:

Chris Hall: Waylon Hugley
Gina Clark: Waylon Hugley
Willis Thomposn: Waylon Hugley
Ken Sockwell: Waylon Hugley

B. Resolution for Appointment to the Muscle Shoals Board of Education
Council President Linley announced the consideration of applicants for the unexpired term on the Muscle Shoals Board of Education. A motion was made by Gina Clark, seconded by Willis Thompson, to appoint a member to the Muscle Shoals Board of Education to complete the unexpired term. There was a roll call vote made for this appointment:

Chris Hall: Caitilin Burns
Gina Clark: Caitlin Burns
Willis Thomposn: Caitlin Burns
Ken Sockwell: Caitlin Burns
Donnie Linley: Caitilin Burns

C. Resolution to approve the revision made to the Fire Department Pay Proposal. A motion was made by Willis Thompson and seconded by Ken Sockwell. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution to authorize the purchase of a 14LP Big Tex 7' x 14' dump trailer for the Parks & Recreation Department for $9,700.0 out of General Fund Reserves. A motion was made by Willis Thompson and seconded by Gina Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution to authorize the transfer of City owned RICOH Copier from the City Clerk's Department to the Parks & Recreation Department. A motion was made by Ken Sockwell and seconded by Chris Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Resolution to authorize the purchase of a 2022 JLG T350 30-foot towable electric boom lift for the Parks & Recreation Department for $30,123.84 out of General Fund Reserves. A motion was made by Willis Thompson and Ken Sockwell. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Resolution authorizing funding for the Civil Service Board for $16,400 to support its operations and the administration of employee grievances matters. A motion was made by Chris Hall and seconded by Gina Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Executive Session

The City Attorney certified that the Muscle Shoals City Council can meet in an executive session to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet ligated but imminent likely to be ligated, or controversies imminently likely to be ligated if the City pursues a proposed course of action. Any action the City decides to take, must be deliberated in public. This complies with Alabama Code 36-25A-7(a)(3). The Executive Session is estimated to last approximately 45 minutes.

A motion was made by Willis Thompson to enter into executive session and was seconded by Gina Clark. Motion was passed unanimously. Executive Session started at 6:20 PM

A motion was made by Ken Sockwell to come out of the executive session and seconded by Willis Thompson. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 7:42 PM.

Following Executive Session, the Council reconvened in open session.
Upon returning to open session, the City Attorney addressed comments made by Mr. Underwood during the Work Session, clarifying that the matter referenced by Mr. Underwood was not the subject of the Executive Session. The City Attorney explained that the settlement discussed had been directed by the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC), and did not constitute an admission of liability by the City. He further stated that the decision to settle was based strictly on economic considerations, as the anticipated costs of preparing for and litigating the case would have substantially exceeded the settlement amount. The settlement was not based on any perceived risk or acknowledgment of liability on the part of the City.

11. Adjourn

Motion was made by Willis Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

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Council Member- Place 1

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Council Member- Place 2

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Council Member- Place 3

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Council Member- Place 4

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Council Member- Place 5

ATTEST:

____
Finance Officer/Assistant City Clerk

Work Session Agenda

July 13, 2026

A. **Board Appointment Interviews-** The council interview several candidates for the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board & the Muscle Shoals Board of Education Board.
B. **Chelsea Lawson, Director of Business Development at Cramer CAC-** Ms. Lawson was not present for her presentation for the council.
C. **William Underwood-** Mr. William Underwood appeared before the Council to address several concerns involving City business. Mr. Underwood discussed the pending public records litigation involving the City and expressed concerns regarding transparency and the City's handling of public records requests. He also addressed the proposed Sportsplex property purchase, questioning various aspects of the acquisition process, property valuation, and the City's overall financial commitment to the project.
D. **Discussion on Annual Loss Control Report from AMIC-** The Council reviewed the Annual Loss Control Report prepared through the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC). Discussion centered on recommendations contained within the report and ongoing efforts to reduce the City's liability exposure.
   Topics discussed included:
   -Department vehicle assignments and take-home vehicle policies.
   -Safe driving practices and accident prevention.
   -Equipment maintenance and documentation.
   -Storm response equipment.
   -Departmental truck assignments.
   -Employee safety training and loss prevention initiatives.

Council members discussed the importance of implementing recommendations contained in the report while continuing to balance operational needs within each department. The Council agreed that the two vehicles equipped for Storm Drainage operations should be transferred back to the Storm Drainage Department to support the department's operational needs.

E. **Discussion of Proposed Cypress Lakes Golf Cart Path Resurfacing Project-** The Council discussed the condition of the golf cart paths at Cypress Lakes Golf Course. There were preliminary cost estimates for resurfacing and repairing the existing cart paths and discussed several potential funding options.
   Discussion included:
   -Estimated project costs.
   -Asphalt versus concrete construction.
   -Long-term maintenance considerations.
   -Potential financing options.
   -Scheduling improvements to minimize disruption to golf course operations.
   -Prioritizing infrastructure improvements throughout the City.

Council members expressed support for improving the golf cart paths; however, they agreed that other infrastructure and operational priorities within the City should be addressed before allocating funds for the project

F. Discussion of Fire & Police Department Parking Lots Resurfacing Project- The Council discussed the condition of the parking lots serving the Police Department and Fire Station No. 1. Departments advised that both parking lots have deteriorated and are in need of resurfacing. Council members discussed obtaining competitive bids to determine the cost of the project and to allow consideration during the Regular Meeting.

Following discussion, the Council reached a consensus to add an item to the Regular Meeting agenda authorizing the City to solicit bids for resurfacing both parking lots.

Glen Hall
Council Member- Place 1

Council Member- Place 2

Council Member- Place 3

Ken Sockwell
Council Member- Place 4

Council Member- Place 5

ATTEST:
Jami Castro
Finance Officer/Assistant City Clerk