

**HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting - May 28, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers, Municipal Building**  
**Huntsville, Alabama**

**Members Present:** Mr. Devyn Keith, President  
Mr. Will Culver  
Dr. Jennie Robinson  
Mr. Bill Kling  
Ms. Frances Akridge

**Mayor:** Mr. Tommy Battle  
**City Administrator:** Mr. John Hamilton  
**City Attorney:** Mr. Trey Riley

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The meeting was called to order by President Keith at the time and place noted above.

President Keith stated that there would be a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council on May 14, 2020, were approved as submitted.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions and Special Recognitions.

President Keith stated that at this time he would recognize Mayor Battle, and then there would be the Administration updates.

Mayor Battle stated that on the prior Friday, the State of Emergency for the City had ended, and they had chosen not to continue it, noting that they felt like they were getting everything done through regular Council sessions and Council ordinances

that they needed to have done. He stated that they were very proud to be able to end the State of Emergency.

Mayor Battle stated that the prior week, the Governor had opened up a lot of retail and restaurants. He stated that as these things were opened, it did not mean that COVID-19 had left, that it meant they were opening up and were still trying to do the socially responsible things, separation and sanitation, making sure that everyone did what they had done through the last 8 to 12 weeks, and that persons should wear a mask if they felt they could not control their surroundings by six feet, and just to do all the things that had gotten the city to where it was at this time.

Mayor Battle stated that persons might recall that it was February 27th when there was the first press conference on COVID-19. He stated that they had gone from February into March and into April, and at this time into May, and three months later they were looking at a community that had responded well, that persons had done what they had been asked to do, that they had stayed separated, stayed sanitized, and had worn face masks, and the result was that the city had one of the lowest counts of positive COVID-19 in the state.

Mayor Battle stated that this did not mean that COVID-19 was not still out there, that it was still out there, and persons had to continue to do the same things they had done the prior three months. He stated that if persons did this for the next three months, they would get through this very well, and the community would be a success, as it had always been. He stated that he was asking everyone to continue to do what they had been doing, to continue to separate, to sanitize, and to wear a mask if one could not control one's environment.

Mayor Battle stated that he wanted to thank everyone for their hard work on this matter, noting that if one looked at Huntsville's numbers versus some of the other larger metropolitan areas in the state, one could see the results of this work. He

thanked Huntsville Hospital, Crestwood Hospital, and the Alabama Department of Public Health for their partnership, noting that this had meant a lot to the community, and it meant that the community had been prepared for what had come along. He thanked everyone for the job they had done and asked that they please keep it up.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Announcements.

President Keith stated that there were a number of changes to the Agenda, that there were some items that needed unanimous consent for consideration, and, also, there were some items that the Administration had asked that the Council give consideration to and approve at this meeting.

President Keith stated that as Mr. Hamilton made the update concerning City services, he would also be talking about items 14.d, Ordinance No. 20-445, and item 14.e, Ordinance No. 20-446, under New Business Items for Introduction, as well as item 15.w, Ordinance No. 20-469, under New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

President Keith recognized Mr. Hamilton, City Administrator.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the City workforce and City services, as related to the response to COVID-19, that at the prior Council meeting, they had talked about the City staff essentially being back to 100 percent manning throughout all the Departments. He stated that this had continued, and that, like any other workplace, there were the restrictions concerning social distancing, wearing masks, and those kinds of things. He stated that they certainly expected the employees to act in accordance with all these standards throughout the workplace, and particularly being cautious in those places where they were engaged with the public, for the Departments that had those kinds of functions. He stated that this should be seen throughout all the City facilities and workplaces.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the one Department that had actually had some

things that had been shut down during the height of the crisis was now reopening in phases, that a lot of the recreational and athletic facilities were in the second phase of reopening. He stated that once the updated order from the State had come out in late April, they had begun the reopening process, and then the update to the order had allowed them to open additional areas. He stated that at this time, all of the recreational facilities and all of the programming that was occurring in the recreational facilities was as was allowed under the State order.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were some constituents who were engaging with the recreational staff and asking why certain things were not allowed. He stated that at this point, under the local order for the operations in the recreational centers, the answer was because those things were not allowed by the State order. He stated that they had really pushed right up to the limits of what was allowable, and that they would continue to monitor this. He stated that they were seeing, in general, good compliance from the patrons who were coming into the facilities, in complying with the standards that were being held at the facilities, and they would continue to monitor this.

Mr. Hamilton stated there were some things that were allowed under the State order that they had allowed under the City order, as it related to youth sports, but those were sports that were executed and managed by the volunteer leagues throughout the city, and that, for example, with baseball, the leagues had chosen not to set up and operate a full, formal season as one would typically see, although they did expect that they would do some things at the park level with some of those things. He continued that there might be some of that type of program that would actually be executed by an outside, private entity, where they might choose not to actually do it, but it was not prohibited by the City order. He stated that, for example, Little League baseball could start in the City facilities under the State order, but the local

Little League might choose not to do that. He stated that that was their choice, that these were their volunteers, so there was not a requirement for this.

Mr. Hamilton stated that some of the ways the Council meetings had been being conducted had been altered, and that what the Administration was prepared for, at President Keith's direction, was at the next Council meeting to start returning these things to normal. He stated that, obviously, it was the Council's meeting, but the Administration generally played a role in helping to get it set up. He stated that the expectation was that at the first Council meeting in June, they would start going back to some of their normal procedures, and that the Administration would, of course, work very closely with the Council staff and the Council president in making sure that that was set up.

Mr. Hamilton stated that one of the things that was stopped during this crisis was some of the staff updates. He stated that the Council had asked for presentations on certain things, but in order to kind of keep the population down inside the room, those had been delayed. He stated that at this time he was tracking at least two that were on the to-do list, to come in and do presentations at Council meetings. He stated that one of these was a discussion by Animal Services on the barking dog ordinance, and that Dr. Sheppard would be prepared to do that at the next Council meeting. He continued that, also, the Planning staff, at one of the upcoming meetings, most likely in June, would do an update on the Alt Modes program, for Transportation. He stated that there were also other presentations the Council had asked for from staff, and he would make sure those were scheduled for upcoming Council meetings.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would continue to work on having some barriers and markings, et cetera, in the Council Chambers, even though they would be returning back to more normal procedures. He stated that under the State order, they could certainly have in attendance a larger group than was present at this meeting, but

they still had requirements for social distancing, et cetera. He stated that they would use markings, et cetera, in the seating area to make sure that persons who attended the meeting would understand where they could sit and stay safe. He stated that the Administration was prepared to work with the Council to get the meetings back to a more normal process.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the items President Keith had mentioned for unanimous consent, that the Administration was requesting that the Council consider items 14.d and 14.e, which he noted were related to the same matter. He stated that item 14.d would create a new position in the Mayor's office, and 14.e would provide the personnel authorization so they could move forward with hiring for the position. He stated that Tara Sloan, who had served in the Mayor's office, had been promoted to another position within the City, so they needed to fill that vacancy.

Mr. Hamilton stated that one of the things that had happened in that position over time was that the expectations for it, the workload and the types of things it required, in terms of communicating with constituents, primarily through the Huntsville Connect system, had grown significantly. He stated that while they had previously audited this position and made some modifications to it, that as they reviewed the duties that were there with Human Resources, the determination had been made that they had evolved the position so much that it would be more appropriate to create a new position.

Mr. Hamilton stated that as the Council members could see in the paperwork, this would be a Constituent Services Program Officer. He continued that while this position had quite a few significant duties, the most important was managing the Huntsville Connect system. He stated that when these requests were coming in, the system was set up so that some of them would go directly to the appropriate Departments, and this position would monitor these and make sure they were

responded to, make sure they were going to the right Department, et cetera. He continued that the position would actually do training for the customer service staff throughout the Departments, that it would do a lot of things that were very managerial in nature, in terms of helping to make sure that system was running properly. He stated that this took this position to a different level than what they had previously asked of the position.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would like to go ahead and get this hiring action started. He stated that it would be hired internally, so it would be advertised only within existing City staff. He stated that with the Council's consideration at this meeting on these two items, the Administration would be able to move forward with this hiring action and get the position filled.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning item 15.w, that the City had a piece of property out in far western Huntsville, not too far off of Martin Road, that the City had had possession of for a while. He stated that there were a lot of water issues, swamp issues, things such as that, that when they had gotten this property, it was not in great condition. He stated that they had asked Landscape Management to spend some time on this property over the prior couple of years, doing some things to start converting it into a nature preserve. He stated that they were getting close to the time to open this up to the public, noting that this was not something they had talked about a lot because they had wanted to give Landscape Management the opportunity to work on it and get it into a condition where it was suitable for the public to use the property.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Mayor had recommended that this new facility be named in honor of Dallas Fanning. He stated that Mr. Fanning had played a significant role in the growth of Huntsville, particularly out to the west, that he was actually personally involved in the City ending up in possession of this piece of property, so this was particularly fitting in this case. He stated that the Administration

thought it was appropriate to acknowledge his service to the City and his role in planning and urban development, and, also, as many of the Council members were aware, he had actually served, and retired as a General, with the National Guard, so it would be appropriate to acknowledge his service to the nation as well.

Mr. Hamilton stated that because this was an ordinance, it would require unanimous consent for the Council to consider it at this meeting, if they so chose.

President Keith asked if the Council members had any questions for Mr. Hamilton concerning City services.

President Keith asked Mr. Hamilton, concerning the opening of some of the facilities, in the timeline of the next few months, how the Administration was planning these openings, the ribbon cuttings. He continued that he was aware there would be a restructuring, but he was just inquiring as to the time frame of some of these openings.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were quite a few facilities under development at this time, particularly in the quality-of-life category, that just about every district had something that they would be cutting the ribbon on within the next few months. He stated that at this time, their assumption was that they would do this as it was typically done, that once a facility was ready to be open to the public, they would have that ceremony. He stated that, obviously, these would have to be conducted in a way that would be in adherence to the standards of social distancing, et cetera. He continued that they were moving forward with each of these, but, obviously, if something came up where they would need to stop that, they could. He continued that they certainly would not want to stop the construction, necessarily, but if there would be some reason why they would need to leave a facility closed, they could certainly do that. He stated that it was easier to turn something off than to turn it back on, but he believed that at this time all the timelines were supportable.



President Keith stated that he was certainly excited about the one that was in his District, that he believed it was going to be something special.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if the property that would potentially be named for Mr. Fanning needed to be preserved so that it would not come under any kind of federal construction.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the negative.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if it was off of Martin Road.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was actually off of Old Jim Williams Road, but it was very close to Martin Road, not too far from the Lake Forest neighborhood. He stated that they were constantly looking across the city, at places where they had had growth, and they still needed to bring public infrastructure in, in terms of amenities. He stated that at this time that part of the city, as far as City facilities, was not extremely well served by green spaces and things, and they had been looking for places to do that. He stated that this piece of property had actually had a lot of top soil stripped off of it, and it had had a lot of debris dumped on it, so it had required a cleanup. He stated that as they had looked at what kinds of things could reasonably be done with this property, he would not have said it could not be developed for some other commercial purpose, but it would have been very, very challenging.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they had felt this could provide some green space in the area, preserving it in a more native state. He stated that Landscape Management had built a number of nature trails throughout the property, and they had planted trees in the area, to create more green space. He stated that this was intended to be much more natural, and they had purposely not installed lights out there. He stated that they had talked to citizens who wanted to have a place to go and look at the stars, and that as far as City facilities, this would be one of the best places to do that. He

stated that it was also a great place for people to run on the trails, walk on the trails, or whatever it might be.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if this area would be more like the Hays Preserve or Goldsmith-Schiffman.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it would most likely be more like the Hays Preserve than Goldsmith-Schiffman.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he would certainly applaud the Administration for wanting to name this facility the "Dallas W. Fanning Nature Preserve." He stated that he and Councilman Kling, and perhaps Councilwoman Robinson, had had the opportunity to work with Mr. Fanning from the dais when Mr. Fanning was the City Planner, and that he knew, unequivocally, that the astronomical growth the city had experienced, and more so in the western part of the city, was directly attributable to Mr. Fanning. He stated that, also, this park was awesome. He stated that he had run on that road and ridden up that road, and it was beautiful, that it was like being out in the country but still nestled in the city. He stated that people in that area had been complaining about not having any park or recreational activities. He stated that he was aware that they had an agreement with the Huntsville City School System for using the gymnasium in the area for recreational activities after school hours, up to 9 or 10 o'clock in the evening.

Councilman Culver stated that this was going to be great for something that the City was putting in this area, that that was what people were asking for. He stated that this was about the only thing they had, except for a parcel of land on Capshaw Road, as a city park, outdoor space, in District 5. He stated that everything else was more centrally, northerly, southerly, or easterly located, so this was a big thing for the west end of the city.

President Keith stated that, also, under New Business Items for Consideration or Action, item 15.y, Resolution No. 20-471, would be discussed, as well as 15.n, Resolution No. 20-460. He stated that he believed this would be more respectful to the Department heads. He stated that the Mayor had been concerned about this, that the Department heads who had nothing to discuss at a Council meeting should not be in attendance, and, also, for the Council to not hold the Department heads who were in attendance too long.

President Keith stated that one of the Council members had asked for a conversation with the Chief, and he had discussed this with the Administration, and they had felt it would be best for the Chief to be in attendance at the next Regular Meeting of the Council.

President Keith stated that under New Business Items for Introduction on the agenda, item 14.d, Ordinance No. 20-445, was the introduction of an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan.

President Keith read and introduced an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-445)

President Keith moved that unanimous consent be given for the immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver, and upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote resulted:

AYES: Akridge, Robinson, Kling, Culver, Keith

NAYS: None

President Keith stated that the motion for unanimous consent for immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance had been unanimously carried.

President Keith thereupon moved that said ordinance be finally adopted, which

motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he had no problem with this ordinance, but he asked if the Council was being premature in taking it out of order on the agenda, noting that normally the Council did not like to consider items until the public had had the opportunity to comment, and then items would be taken up at the appropriate time on the agenda.

President Keith stated that this was an immediate administrative action, that it had been requested by the Administration. He continued that in looking at the list of members of the public who had signed up to speak, he would guess, from the subjects they had indicated they would speak concerning, that their comments would not correlate to either item 14.d or item 14.e on the agenda. He stated that he definitely thought this would just be a decision between the Council and the Administration.

Councilman Kling asked Mayor Battle if he had any problem with the Council considering this ordinance at this time in the meeting versus after Public Comment.

Mayor Battle stated that he was fine with the Council considering the ordinance at this time as long as it was not listed on the sign-up sheet for the public to be heard as any of the conversation.

President Keith stated that it was not so indicated.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion concerning the ordinance.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-445, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that item 14.e on the agenda was the introduction of an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 19-785 to modify the authorized strength

of a Department.

President Keith read and introduced an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 19-785, to modify the authorized strength of a Department, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-446)

President Keith moved that unanimous consent be given for the immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, and upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote resulted:

AYES: Akridge, Robinson, Kling, Culver, Keith

NAYS: None

President Keith stated that the motion for unanimous consent for immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance had been unanimously carried.

President Keith thereupon moved that said ordinance be finally adopted, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-446, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that he would like for the Council to also consider item 15.w on the agenda at this time.

President Keith read and introduced an ordinance naming the City of Huntsville Nature Preserve on Old Jim Williams Road the "Dallas W. Fanning Nature Preserve," as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-469 )

President Keith moved that unanimous consent be given for the immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver, and upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote

resulted:

AYES: Akridge, Robinson, Kling, Culver, Keith

NAYS: None

President Keith stated that the motion for unanimous consent for immediate consideration of and action on said ordinance had been unanimously carried.

President Keith thereupon moved that said ordinance be finally adopted, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle stated that he had served on the Planning Commission when Dallas Fanning was Director of Planning for the City of Huntsville, which was much the same role that Shane Davis held at this time. He stated that Mr. Davis had been trained by Mr. Fanning, and he had been told that he would be the City Engineer by Mr. Fanning, and he believed that Mr. Fanning had also told him he was going to be moved up, without a lot of choice by Mr. Davis.

Mayor Battle stated that Dallas Fanning was truly one of the most strategic planners the state had ever seen, and that probably they would have to put him up at the very top of the nation. He stated that Mr. Fanning was the person who had driven the city's expansion to the west, that he was the one who had brought in the property that was at one time considered for Volkswagen and at this time was MTMUS, and that much of the land where at this time there was Polaris and GE Aviation had been brought in during Mr. Fanning's tenure.

Mayor Battle stated that it was really very fitting that this Preserve be named for Mr. Fanning. He stated that this was a Nature Preserve, with a walking trail through it, and there were a lot of people in that area looking for places to walk, and he believed this gave an outlet that was needed for this community. He stated that

something that had long needed to be done was to name something in honor of Dallas Fanning. He thanked the Council for this.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had not been on the Council when Dallas Fanning was the Director of Planning, but she was on the School Board. She continued that she recalled having many meetings with Mr. Fanning when he had introduced the concept of TIFs. She stated that the School Board had had to sign off on this, and they had some concerns, and there were many times when they had sat with Mr. Fanning and his staff going through this. She continued that, also, he had taken her and Sandra Moon on a drive over to West Huntsville and showed them things. She stated that Mr. Fanning had been playing chess when the rest of them were thinking checkers out there, that it was amazing how his mind worked, as they looked at how that entire area was going to be encompassed into the city, as he had strategically laid the sewer out there, and basically encircled the city of Madison.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had been delighted when she had seen this item on the agenda, that it was a great memorial for Dallas Fanning.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he would also like to voice his support for this ordinance, noting that he thought it was a great thing to do. He stated that Mr. Fanning was a person who had had them spending money on sewer over in West Huntsville and who had them spending money on a new industrial park. He stated that at the time, the Council members were a little concerned that they might be overextending on it, but Toyota had come to town, and then that industrial park was pretty much taken over. He stated that Mr. Fanning really loved the city and loved the nation, that he was a great guy to have known, and he considered it a privilege to have worked with him.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-469, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that next he would like to consider item 15.n, Resolution No. 20-460, out of order on the agenda.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Dunlap Contracting, Inc., for construction services for Huntsville Depot Roundhouse, new roof and repairs, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-460)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson inquired as to why the City was once again paying for a project for Constitution Village.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was for the Roundhouse, and that the City actually owned that property, so they were oftentimes working with them on maintenance issues. He stated that in this case, the roof needed repair. He continued that without repair, they would start running into a lot of other problems in the building, so they had to make sure it stayed watertight. He stated that they had a Roof Replacement Program in the Capital Plan that Mr. Wilkinson and his staff executed on an annual basis. He stated that this was just routine maintenance, from their perspective.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that, then, they considered this City property, that it was not a Constitution Village project.



Mr. Hamilton stated that was correct. He stated that that was true for a number of these kinds of entities, that Burritt, for example, was a City property, and the Museum, where the City was actually the owner of the real property.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-460, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that there would be an explanation given for two additional items on the agenda, under New Business Items for Consideration or Action, item 15.r, Resolution No. 20-464, and item 15.y, Resolution No. 20-471. He stated that this would be just for explanation at this time, and the items would be considered in the normal order on the agenda.

President Keith recognized Mr. Byron Thomas, Director of Human Resources, for an explanation concerning item 15.y, Resolution No. 20-471, on the agenda.

Mr. Thomas stated that this was a resolution providing for an additional deferred holiday for certain employees in appreciation for their work during the pandemic, as well as their continued work. He stated that this deferred holiday would have to be used on or before December 31, 2020. He stated that if an eligible employee did not use it by that date, it would be forfeited, that it would not carry over to the following year.

President Keith stated that it was understood that this deferred holiday would have to be approved by the Department heads, that everyone could not sign up at once and then just not show up for work.

Mr. Thomas stated that it was correct that any leave time that an employee would request had to be approved by a supervisor or a Department head.

President Keith asked, as this resolution was written, who would be included and who would be excluded.

Mr. Thomas stated that all the full-time employees, regular part-time employees, and temporary full-time employees would be eligible, that in accordance with their policy, those were the employees who were eligible for holidays. He stated that those to be excluded would be any elected officials, as well as appointed officials, Department heads.

President Keith asked if there were any questions concerning this resolution. He stated that he and Councilman Culver had wanted to tease out the structure and really find those individuals who had made true sacrifices for the City, and what they had found was that the efficiency of the City was a team effort, whether a person was at home or on the front line. He stated that he did not believe he could have found enough money to give to people. He continued that he thought there was a value to the fact that the City had separated itself once again from the State, in the structure they had created and how they had handled COVID.

President Keith stated that any further discussion of this resolution could be done later in the meeting when the Council would consider it, but he had just wanted to provide Mr. Thomas the opportunity to explain it at this time in the meeting.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson asked what the cost of this would be to the City.

Mr. Thomas stated that in regard to the cost, he would rely on Ms. Penny Smith, the Finance Director, to answer that, and he would yield the floor to her.

Ms. Smith stated that it cost approximately half-a-million dollars for the City to pay all its employees for a day of service. She continued that the cost was not really specific to the numbers, that, obviously, that would be a day of lost production by employees and offset in the Departments for time lost. She continued that if it were to be specific to the Fire Department or the Police Department, those forces had to be manned, so alternative people would have to be brought in, potentially with overtime.

She stated that that would be the cost to the City.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that her next question would be with regard to productivity. She asked if they had any idea what kind of impact this would have. She stated that since this would be staggered, and all persons would not be taking it at the same time, she would think the impact on productivity would not be as great as it might be if everybody was gone in a big chunk.

Ms. Smith stated that usually that would vary Department to Department, and, like Mr. Thomas had said, it would depend upon how the supervisors would handle that time off.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she applauded the intent behind this, but the City was looking at some financial considerations at this time, that the annual budget was going to take a hit. She asked if they could afford half-a-million dollars to say "Thank you." She asked if there were other ways that they could potentially do this. She stated that she hated to say that this came down to money, but it came down to paying salaries when they did not know about the budget yet. She asked if the Council could make this decision once they could get a better idea of what the budget numbers would look like.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he certainly shared Councilwoman Robinson's view that half-a-million dollars was a lot of money, but what they had to consider was that if they looked at this as a loss, it was a paper loss, that it would not be where they would have to be physically paying that money to employees, per se. He stated that to give a different perspective, he would like to talk about the 230 or 240 million dollars that was in Operations in the General Fund. He stated that approximately 80 percent of that went to, basically, Employees Salaries, so when they looked at that and put it in perspective, this was a relatively small piece of the pie, less than a quarter of one cent.

Councilman Culver asked Ms. Smith if she could explain that better, 80 percent of the General Fund.

Ms. Smith stated that approximately 70 to 80 percent of the General Fund was Personnel, which included Salaries, Benefits, and everything that was pulled into that, over time. She continued that there were a few other salaries that were located in other funds, Public Transit being one of those. She stated that she believed approximately \$233 million was the expenditure amount total.

Councilman Culver stated that, then, they would be looking at approximately 160 or 170 million dollars for Salaries.

Ms. Smith stated that was correct, about \$170 million.

Councilman Culver stated that, then, \$500,000 would be one-half of one percent of \$100 million, and when they would factor in another \$70 million, it would drop down to less than one-third. He continued that they were looking at about one-fourth to one-third of a penny, that that is what it would cost for this deferred holiday, in comparison to the overall budget. He stated that that number was not exact, that he was just kind of doing it in his head, but it was somewhere in proximity.

Ms. Smith stated that she did not have those figures in front of her at this time.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling asked Ms. Smith if it would have less impact on the budget if instead of it having an expiration of December 31, 2020, they would carry it over to, say, December 31, 2021, so that it could be spread out more, and, at the same time, the employees might actually appreciate the flexibility of it. He stated that this would be comp time, not something that they could cash out upon retirement. He asked if that would have less impact on the budget and if it would be easier for them.

Ms. Smith stated that it would spread it across time, and that might give more flexibility to the Departments. She continued that from a budget perspective, it might

affect a little less the current year's budget and push a little more into the following year's budget, that it would all depend upon how the employees would take that time.

President Keith asked Mr. Thomas if an employee had time approved between this time and the end of December, time that had been already approved, that they had a vacation coming up, if this deferred holiday would offer the opportunity for them to use that rather than the time they had already accrued.

Mr. Thomas stated that this could be used in addition to any time that an employee had already accrued.

Mr. Thomas stated that he would like to go back to Councilman Kling's question. He stated that currently, in their policies and procedures that were in place, any deferred holidays that carried over would expire by a certain time in June, so if this was carried over beyond that, it would be inconsistent with the policy they might already have in place. He stated that, of course, the Council could do whatever, but normally deferred holidays would end by a certain time.

President Keith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Thomas how many full-time employees the City had at this time.

Mr. Thomas stated that the City had 2,070 full-time employees.

Mayor Battle asked how many employees had not gotten to take a day or two, or whatever, off during that eight-week period.

Mr. Thomas stated that he had looked at a seven- or eight-week period, and they probably had about one hundred twenty-something employees that did not take some time off, whether as administrative leave or just personal leave.

Mayor Battle asked if one of the members of a fire crew took off, and there were standards that they had to have seven people on a truck to run the truck, or five people on a truck to run the truck, if they would have to replace that person, and did they

usually replace them at time-and-a-half.

Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative. He stated that Chief McFarlen or one of his chiefs would have to look at that, but they did have to have the appropriate number of fire personnel on there, so someone would have to replace a person, and it could be with overtime.

Mayor Battle asked if a Sanitation worker took an extra day off, if it was correct that they would have to replace that person in order to run the routes.

Mr. Thomas replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Battle stated to President Keith that he applauded what he was trying to do in this regard and what he was trying to say to the employees, because the employees were certainly appreciated, that they had done a great job through this, but that all of them except about 122 had gotten some time off during this pandemic. He continued that they needed to keep that in mind. He stated that \$500,000 was a lot of money at this time, especially with looking at 15 to 20 million dollars of losses. He stated that they, as City leaders, had to look at, No. 1, how they made sure they took care of their employees. He continued that through this, he believed they had, that they had provided time off for a lot of them, and some had worked from home, telework, and everything they had done to try to make sure they protected everybody. He stated that, secondly, they had a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayer, to the citizens of Huntsville, to make sure they spent their money wisely. He continued that they already had 13 holidays, and this would be an extra holiday, that it could be an 8-hour holiday or a 10-hour holiday or a 24-hour holiday, that it was a shift, and different shifts were different amounts of time.

Mayor Battle stated that he would like to work with the authors of this, and also work with the Finance Committee, to determine a way they could do this and do it in a cost-efficient way. He stated that \$500,000, no matter how they put it, was a lot of

money. He stated that he believed there was a way to do it, that they could get the Finance Committee to look at it, and to see what they could do to make sure that everyone was taken care of through what they had already tried to do through this.

President Keith stated that he would hold his comments concerning this until the resolution would be considered by the Council.

President Keith asked if there were any further direct questions for Mr. Thomas or Ms. Smith.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge asked Mr. Thomas if there were any employees who did not get paid during this time period, during the last eight weeks, because they were sent home, that, basically, they had to be off.

Mr. Thomas stated that all of the regular full-time and part-time employees would have received administrative leave with some type of pay. He continued that they had temporary employees, and if they were not scheduled, they would not get paid, so if they were temporary, more than likely they would not have been paid. He stated that any employee who was normally scheduled to work would have received administrative leave, or something of that nature, that they would have been paid.

President Keith stated that an hourly worker that did not have fixed hours, who was correlated to the time that they spent, as a lifeguard, or whatever, that because of COVID, there was not a demand for that individual, and they would not have met their normal hours, so they did not get paid because they would not have worked the hours they normally worked.

Mr. Thomas stated that the employees who would have been scheduled to work on a regular basis received pay if the facility was closed or they could not report to work. He continued that they had temporary employees, and regardless of whether it was during COVID or any other time, if they were not scheduled to work, they would

not receive pay, because they were temporary. He reiterated that the regular full-time employees and regular part-time employees were normally scheduled to work, and they received some type of pay, their administrative pay or whatever.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if the Recreation workers for all the facilities that had been closed had still been paid.

Mr. Thomas stated that was correct.

Councilwoman Akridge asked what categories the 122 employees who could not take time off worked in.

Mr. Thomas stated that he did not want to use the words that they "could not take time off," but they did not take time off. He stated that that was during a brief period of approximately seven weeks that he had looked at, and that at that time those employees worked all the time, during that period, that they did not get any administrative leave or they did not take or request any time off. He stated that that was approximately 122 people in various Departments throughout the City.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that her question would be for the staff, and perhaps Mr. Riley also. She asked if there was any reason the Council had to consider this resolution at this time, or if they could possibly consider it after they received numbers from Finance, a better budget picture of how much the hit was going to be. She stated that they knew they were going to take a hit, but they were hoping that perhaps it would not be as bad as they thought it would be, but they knew it would be worse than what they would have normally projected. She stated that they could have clear numbers, and then make a decision about an additional half-a-million-dollar expense. She stated that she knew that sometimes there was a timing thing, that they had to do something at a certain time before something else. She asked if they were aware of any reason why the Council would need to take action on this resolution at



this time, before they would have solid budget numbers.

Mr. Trey Riley, the City Attorney, stated that he was not aware of any legal reason, that it just happened to be that it was being brought before the Council at this time.

President Keith stated that he looked forward to addressing this as a held item on the agenda.

President Keith stated that next there would be a presentation concerning item 15.r, Resolution No. 20-464.

President Keith stated that to give understanding as to why he was holding this item, that it had been discussed for the past six months, and Mr. Erwin would be discussing a number of things concerning it.

President Keith stated that prior to Mr. Scott Erwin, Interim Director of Community Development, making this presentation, he just wanted to say to him that his Department had been amazing amid everything, that it had been a shining star. He stated that he believed the Council needed to understand just how important this matter was to the city.

Mr. Erwin stated that in the prior late summer or early fall, his Department had embarked on their consolidated planning process, which he noted was required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for participating jurisdictions that got Community Development Block Grant Funding and HOME Investment Partnerships Funding. He stated that they had done this five-year plan in conjunction with Dr. Constance Wilson with Progressive Strategies. He continued that she was a consultant who had had many years of experience doing consolidated planning, so she was tremendously helpful during this process.

Mr. Erwin stated that they had started this by doing a lot of community engagement, that HUD expected them to identify the needs within the community. He

stated that they had done on-line engagement, and they had done physical sessions in different parts of town, neighborhood associations. He continued that they had provided many, many opportunities for the public to be engaged, as far as getting their feedbacks through different visioning-type sessions.

Mr. Erwin stated that the items that were prioritized, through the community, were Housing, Economic Development, and Youth/Senior Services. He stated that when it came to what they were funding, and looking forward for the next five years, these were the items that were at the top, that they needed to look at and consider.

Mr. Erwin stated that back in the spring, they had issued a Request for Proposals from local non-profits, that these were partners that could help them identify strategies and activities that could accomplish the goals they were trying to achieve through that initial planning process.

Mr. Erwin stated that the agencies identified through the next five years for the Community Development Block Grant Funding were the Philanthropy and Knowledge Legacy organization, PAK Legacy, which did economic development and workforce training for some of the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; the Alabama Non-Violent Offenders organization, which when persons were released, they assisted with some of their paperwork and documentation so they could re-enter the workforce, get housing, et cetera; the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama, which they were all familiar with and which did tremendous work with youth in the community; the Harris Home for Children, another tremendous organization, a shelter that was serving the community very well; the Village of Promise, which was actually doing a program for youth at risk, and that something new this year was the Education Corridor, up along Meridian Street, from Oakwood Avenue north to Alabama A&M, where there was Drake State, A&M, Martin Luther King, just a tremendous legacy of education there. He stated that they were partnering together to

maintain this as an Education Corridor and to keep some of those students attending those schools within those same higher education and learning opportunities.

Mr. Erwin stated that, of course, within the Community Development Block Grant, they would have Code enforcement. He stated that they targeted some of the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, so when they had public nuisances, when they had blighted properties, that would fund those type activities, to go into those certain neighborhoods. He stated that, in addition, there was their Deferred Maintenance Rehabilitation Program for Seniors, where they recruited volunteers and used the HUD funding to buy the materials so they could actually assist a senior or a disabled individual who was in need of deferred maintenance on the exterior of their house, whether it would be siding, a roof, or a yard cleanup, to maintain some neighborhood standards. He stated that there were administrative costs to provide these services for the Department itself.

Mr. Erwin stated that the HOME Investment Partnerships Funding actually created housing units, re-stabilized neighborhoods. He continued that they had partners identified in this plan. He stated that Family Services had done a lot of work within the Terry Heights neighborhood, and that the Alabama A&M Community Development Corporation was currently working in the Edmonton Heights neighborhood, and, of course, Habit for Humanity had had scattered sites, and their emphasis was currently on Meridian Street.

Mr. Erwin stated that these were some of the partners that had developed single-family housing. He continued that they also worked with Family Services through a Down Payment Assistance program, which facilitated first-time home buyers when they had the quality credit, they had the job, but they were sometimes simply lacking that initial investment. He stated that that could provide those qualified applicants those resources. He continued that their commitment was to stay

in the house for a period of time and continue to invest in those neighborhoods.

Mr. Erwin stated that they would also see some multi-family funding, that they had done Requests for Proposals for the last seven or eight years, and that some of the projects they had funded with HOME Funds were Franklin Hills, near Oakwood; Clarkston; Lenox Park; Flint River; and The Cottages at Indian Creek. He stated that all of these were as a result of HOME Funds being invested through this type of planning process.

Mr. Erwin stated that in the upcoming fall, they would do another Request for Proposals, which as yet had not been determined. He stated that they would use some funding from this year and previous years to make an allocation to create affordable housing within those neighborhoods.

Mr. Erwin stated that this was where they were at this time, and they were bringing this Consolidated Plan before the Council, noting that he had provided copies of it to them, the Executive Summary, and also the document on how they were affirmatively furthering Fair Housing, which was also another HUD requirement. He stated that it was a very lengthy document, and it was certainly very HUD specific. He stated that the Executive Summary was intended to give them a little bit of a snapshot, in terms of what they were doing and where they were placing their funding and some of the priorities they had. He stated that five years would go by fast. He continued that they would provide to the Council annual Action Plans that would be submitted to HUD, and if they found that needs had changed within the community, they would bring that before the Council, and they would adjust that with HUD.

Mr. Erwin stated that in the current year, they were doing about \$2.49 million, which was mostly the grants, but they did have about \$337,000 of what was called "Program Income." He continued that when they did these HOME projects, all the multi-family, that got paid back, and when they invested in a single-family

development, that got paid back, and those proceeds actually got reinvested in new projects. He stated that this year they had the \$2.49 million. He continued that for a five-year period, they expected HUD and the Program Income to be about \$12 million.

President Keith stated that he would start things off, because for him this was fun reading, but for others it was probably sleep reading.

President Keith stated that the assessment on the CDBG funding, for those who did not know, was that they went through the rigors of trying to vet those programs, and they would come to CDBG funding, which was at this time a unique place because, inversely, a lot of places came for just direct appropriations. He continued that they went through their programs, their missions, and the things they did, which was very rigorous with HUD. He stated that he saw that Village of Promise had been added, and he asked if perhaps Mr. Erwin could speak as to why it was added.

Mr. Erwin stated that with Village of Promise, a new program had been added. He stated that historically they had funded them through some of their youth at-risk programming, and this upcoming five-year plan would do that program, and in addition the Education Corridor with Drake State, noting that they had actually partnered together.

President Keith stated that that was what he had wanted Mr. Erwin to speak concerning, if he could speak to the importance of having this so that his colleagues on the Council could understand this. He stated that this was actually something new, and that it could be advantageous to the community.

Mr. Erwin stated that it absolutely could. He stated that on the Education Corridor, Dr. Sims and Ms. Bradley were working together, along with many other entities, in trying to capture that as an Education Corridor, from A&M to Drake to MLK and Lee High School, so they could capture all the educational prominence within that particular area and continue to promote it, from MLK all the

way up to the workforce development, or further, in higher education. He stated that they did not have that much concentration anywhere else in the city, from pre-K all the way up to higher education.

President Keith stated that it was pre-K to a Ph.D.

President Keith stated that there was another thing he wanted to consider. He stated that they had been talking about new home construction, and he would love to have a conversation about the next year's programming. He asked if they had ever considered just land banking. He stated that perhaps Mr. Erwin could allude to some of the success they had had with just demolition and razing. He asked if HOME Funding would allow them to just land bank residential properties, for the assessed value, which would allow them to get more properties rather than just trying to build homes, acquiring the property and then building.

Mr. Erwin stated that if the City acquired the property, the City would own it, so they could not sell it to a developer because that would mean the City would be realizing a profit on it, which it was not allowed to do. He stated that in the past they had had certain properties that they had transferred ownership of to the developer, whether it would be Alabama A&M CDC or Family Services, and that would be at no cost, but they could actually use that amount of value for their match, which HOME required a 25 percent match.

Mr. Erwin stated, concerning land banking, that there was State legislation that benefitted many cities, that whenever people had property, and they did not pay their taxes, the property would go to the State. He continued that in some communities that were much more economically depressed and distressed, there were large numbers of these properties. He stated that if one would go to the State Department of Revenue website, one could see exactly how many properties were in Madison County that would be eligible for them to pick up, and there would be very,

very few. He continued that, however, there was a structure that if they identified a property, that as a municipality, for a \$100 fee, they could gain access to that.

Mr. Erwin stated that they had actually done this at 2821 Union Drive in Terry Heights, that they had purchased it for \$100 and transferred ownership to Family Services Center. He stated that they had had to quiet the title, which he would advise. He stated that legal work could be expensive, sometimes more expensive than, actually, the cost of the property. He continued that one thing they were doing was creating opportunities for more home ownership. He stated that a huge issue was title in these neighborhoods, that many persons were dying without wills. He stated that they tried to help neighborhoods, help families, and if they acquired these properties, they would go through the expense of cleaning the title, so it could actually be a productive, tax-producing property.

President Keith stated that in Terry Heights, where the majority of this work had been done, the average property value had risen nine percent in about two years, so the work they were doing, in conjunction with others, had true value.

President Keith stated that with everything that was happening with the budget, with Mr. Erwin's projections and conversations with others around the nation, and with the census returning, if Mr. Erwin saw a shift in their location, that they might target other locations of economic development. He stated that they were going through the redevelopment of Butler Terrace and such. He asked if Mr. Erwin was seeing that they were still going to be on trend to have enough money, or if he believed they had enough support, specifically speaking of private partners, to see continued development, economic development, and not just the housing.

Mr. Erwin stated that he did, and that, in particular, he could speak about Terry Heights. He stated that they had been investing there for many years, and they were at the point that for them to purchase houses, the opportunities were no longer

there because private developers were ahead of them, so they were actually going to make that change.

Mr. Erwin stated that when they used Code enforcement, that sometimes just removing a property improved the value for everyone around. He stated that the Council members might recall that on Venona Avenue, there was some investment taking place at this time because distressed, public nuisance properties had been removed. He stated that that was one example. He stated that he had shown the Council members examples of where they had had blighted properties, unsafe buildings, and public nuisances, and they had flipped those from those type structures to new housing. He stated that there had been another location where they had eliminated a house, and that had also benefitted the neighborhood. He stated that they were continuing to promote strong neighborhoods around the community, and they were doing it one house at a time.

President Keith stated that the community of West Arbor had seen an increase, and a downturn in traffic, and property values had gone up just because they had bought a property and turned it into something nice. He stated that, inversely, like Mr. Erwin had said, their tearing down a property on Venona Avenue had added value to Riah Rose, and then someone had come in and built a \$200,000 home on Glen Park.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling asked Mr. Erwin if he could talk a little bit about some of the things they were working on in the Lowe Mill neighborhood. He stated that, obviously, he was interested in this inner-city area, which had been going through a process and appeared to be really turning around.

Mr. Erwin stated that Lowe Mill was an area that had been identified as a priority neighborhood, and they had built new houses in the area. He continued that



they had worked with the neighborhood association, and they had also worked with developers who were doing substantial investment in the area. He stated that this would certainly grow into a destination neighborhood, mixed use/mixed income, and they had played a small role in that. He stated that as projects were identified, either through Engineering or through the Choice Planning Grant, and they looked at what was happening along Seminole, all the way down to 9th Avenue, there were opportunities that they were actually meeting and discussing daily, as to how they could be a partner in that transformation.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge asked Mr. Erwin if they were seeking the Council's approval, for them to say for them to make this submittal, and she asked if this would be to HUD.

Mr. Erwin stated that it was the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State office. He stated that the Council members could see that "Draft" was all over this document, that it was still a draft, and it would be a draft even when it was submitted because HUD would then provide their feedback. He continued that if they provided any comments that would change it substantially, then he would come back to the Council. He continued that normally they did not have that process, but it would be in draft format until accepted by HUD.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that Mr. Erwin had mentioned the process of creating this document, which included some public meetings, on-line surveys, and, of course, his staff involvement, and history. She asked if the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council had seen this document.

Mr. Erwin stated that they had not seen this document, but they had seen it when they were planning it in the fall. He stated that they would normally see the annual Action Plans., that but for COVID-19, they would have seen this back in April.

Councilwoman Akridge asked why they could not just deliver this document to them at this time.

Mr. Erwin stated that they could, that he would see that each one of them got a copy of it.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she would be hesitant to tell Mr. Erwin to go ahead and submit this without their input.

Mr. Erwin stated that their input had been gathered during that process in the fall of the prior year. He stated that they had not provided the final document to them because they had not had regular meetings, but he could correct that.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was aware that the Harris Home for Children was a foster home, but she did not understand how it in particular met the overall objectives of housing and economic development and Senior Services.

Mr. Erwin stated that it was Youth and Senior Services. He continued that it was like the Boys & Girls Club, the Village of Promise, and Harris Home. He continued that the needs assessment had indicated that they needed to pay particular attention to some of the low-to-moderate income youth.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was well aware of the idea that Dr. Sims had of naming the Meridian Street Corridor as an Education Highway, basically. She continued that they needed flags, that they needed placemaking in the future. She asked if that need would possibly be covered by this particular grant.

Mr. Erwin stated that it would be for a very, very small portion, that it would be for the five-year period. He continued that he believed the amount was \$15,000 per year, and the entire budget was, like, \$150,000, so they would have many other funding sources. He stated that, also, it was more than flags, that it was the programming that would go behind it and the partnerships between Drake, and the high schools, and A&M, and the elementary schools.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that as she was writing down all the partners Mr. Erwin had identified, she had thought that Village of Promise was one entity, and the Education Corridor was another. She asked if Mr. Erwin was telling them that Village of Promise would spearhead this idea of the Education Corridor.

Mr. Erwin stated that Village of Promise was the funding entity for this, so they would manage the funds, with the other groups involved.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that, then, there was no such thing as an "Education Corridor" at this time.

Mr. Erwin stated that they needed an established, non-profit organization that could manage those particular funds.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she would like to have clarity as to why they were not investing in the dilapidated homes in Edmonton Heights, that had title issues, et cetera. She stated that there were many of them that were boarded up. She continued that, instead, they were asking Habitat for Humanity to build brand-new ones, when they could be buying those.

Mr. Erwin stated that their primary partner within Edmonton Heights was the Alabama A&M Community Development Corporation, so they were working with Mr. Lee on the new construction, and, through their Deferred Maintenance Rehabilitation Program, with some of the seniors or disabled in that area, to provide them with roofs, windows, siding, and things such as that. He stated that they partnered with many different entities. He stated that Habitat for Humanity had their particular program they were moving forward with, where they would do a couple of houses over there. He stated that they worked with many different organizations.

Mr. Erwin stated that he believed that Edmonton Heights, as they moved forward, would be somewhat of their next Terry Heights, over a period of time. He stated that they had not transformed Terry Heights overnight, that they had invested

in it year after year after year, and they would do the same thing for Edmonton Heights.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she had spoken with Mr. Erwin about East Mastin Lake, Edgemont Circle, et cetera, and she asked if that would be a target area also.

Mr. Erwin stated that Tier 1 and Tier 2 were the priority neighborhoods, and the historic neighborhoods in this five-year plan were Terry Heights and Lowe Mill, and that they had come up, as President Keith had mentioned, that they had elevated the property values, elevated many things within the neighborhoods, through their investments, so they were, like, a Priority Level 2, and some of the other priority levels would be Edmonton Heights; East Mastin Lake; Archer Park, just south of Drake; and around Cavalry, just off of Pulaski Pike. He stated that they had looked at the demographics there, the census tracts, and that was how these were identified, as to where some of their priority investments should be.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if it was correct that they were not in this five-year consolidated plan at this time.

Mr. Erwin stated that they would be in the one going forward.

President Keith asked if there were any further questions.

President Keith stated that the Council had discussed this previously, and he asked if Mr. Erwin's office, in conjunction with the Administration, could assess the fines that were levied by Inspection, and then also the fines, inversely, as he had talked to Judge Robinson, that were levied, and to present this to the Council at their July 9 meeting. He asked if July 9 would provide enough time to bring such a presentation to the Council. He asked if there could be a presentation given as two-fold, the fines themselves, understanding how they came to that point, and also including some information across the state, as to how some cities had made these fines very heavy,

and also assessing the fines in court that were levied, residential and commercial. He stated that he had discussed previously how commercial properties could be assessed at a different value, if possible. He stated that if July 9th would not work for this, that would be fine, but he noted that it was about 40-something days from this time.

Mr. Erwin stated that he would get with Mr. Riley and his staff and see what kinds of proposals they could iron out with the Administration, and he would be prepared to present something concerning this at the July 9th Council meeting.

After further discussion, President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to be Held.

President Keith stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on zoning 1.37 acres of land lying on the west side of Taylor Road and north of Olmstead Road to Residence 1-B District, which hearing was set at the April 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.

President Keith recognized Mr. Thomas Nunez, Manager of Planning Services.

(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Nunez stated that this property was annexed as of March 2020, and the Petitioner was seeking to zone the property as Residence 1-B District. He stated that it was approximately 1.37 acres, and there was an existing single-family residence on the property, which was located on the west side of Taylor Road and north of Olmstead Road.

President Keith asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

There was no response.

President Keith stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-307, zoning 1.37 acres of land lying on the west side of Taylor Road and north of Olmstead Road to

Residence 1-B District, which ordinance was introduced at the April 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-307)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-307, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on amending the Transect Plan, Development Plan, and Thoroughfare Map of the approved General Development Plan for Lendon Planned Development - Housing, LUI Rating 45/50, to include a relayout of the approved Lendon Planned Development, which hearing was set at the April 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.

President Keith recognized Mr. Nunez.

(Mr. Nunez made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Nunez stated that this property was bounded by Carl T. Jones on the north side, Garth Road on the west, and Four Mile Post Road on the south side, and that it was part of the Lendon PUD. He stated that the request that was before the Council was for approximately 4.12 acres, to adjust the transect map for the Lendon PUD, from Transect 4 to Transect 5. He stated that this would be an increase of approximately 4.12 acres. He stated, as to the difference between Transect 4 and Transect 5, that, essentially, those were the same, with the exception of the fact that within Transect 5, four stories were allowed, and Transect 4 allowed for three stories. He stated that within this request, the Developer was seeking to move this development forward in a mixed-use fashion by increasing that particular capacity for the Transect 5 area. He continued that there was a substantial development to the south that had acquired and utilized a lot of Transect 5, and there was at this time the

request to adjust that in order for the development to move forward.

President Keith asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

There was no response.

President Keith stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-309, amending the Transect Plan, Development Plan, and Thoroughfare Map of the approved General Development Plan for Lendon Planned Development - Housing, LUI Rating 45/50, to include a relayout of the approved Lendon Planned Development, which ordinance was introduced at the April 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-309)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge inquired of Mr. Nunez as to what kinds of buildings were on Transect 5 and what they wanted to do with Transect 4.

Mr. Nunez stated that on Transect 5, as it currently existed, there was a daycare facility. He indicated the area on the display, and he stated that within this area there was a daycare facility that was located on the south end, by Four Mile Post Road. He stated that that was taking up a substantial portion of the property.

Mr. Nunez stated that Transect 4 allowed for single-family development, single-family attached, multi-family, and also some commercial development within it. He stated that Transect 5 allowed for an increase in the number of stories, but the same, exact uses were allowed for Transect 4 and Transect 5.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that there was a sign posted at this location that appeared to suggest there would be a small shopping center there, and she asked if that was correct.

Mr. Nunez stated that he had not seen the sign, but that the intent was for a mixed-use development, a shopping center and a multi-family development.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-309, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties.

President Keith recognized Mr. Scott Erwin, Interim Director of Community Development.

Mr. Erwin stated that this resolution would authorize the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties. He stated that this included 27 properties, and the total cost was \$6,732, with an average per cost per property of \$249.34. He stated that there were four out-of-state owners and three out-of-city owners.

Mr. Erwin stated that due to non-payment by the stipulated date, the property owners had been notified, by first-class mail, that this May 28, 2020, Council meeting would be the time and place that he or she could appear to present any objection to the assessed cost.

President Keith asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

Ms. Paulette Williams appeared before the Council, stating that she was appearing on behalf of her daughter, Kinitra Fewell, who was the Executor of her



father's estate, Hugh G. Lacy, with the residence of 105 Wilkenson Drive, which she received notice that they were going to cut the property. She stated that, however, her daughter had put in an address change at the post office, as well as in the City. She continued that, however, the mail was sent to the resident.

Ms. Williams stated that her daughter was in the Air Force, stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. She stated that the mail had come to the resident, at her father's P.O. Box. She stated that the Post Office had failed to forward the mail in accordance with the instructions that her daughter had put in, a change of address. She stated that the neighbors across the street had been picking up the mail, out of the Post Office. She stated that her daughter had been coming home one to three times a week (sic); however, as of the 13th of March, the Department of Defense required that they stay within a radius of 50 miles, so she had not been able to come home, so she had not received that information until after the fact. She stated that the first notice had been sent out on the 26th of March, with a deadline of the 9th, and she had gotten an invoice on the 15th, and then she got a second notice on May 6th, saying that the deadline was the 20th, and they had indicated that they would send a picture of the cutting, which she had not received.

Ms. Williams stated that her daughter was asking that the assessment be waived, due to the circumstances she was incurring at this time. She stated that her daughter had made arrangements with a lawn service company to cut not only this property but also her father's primary home. She reiterated that her daughter was asking that this fee be waived. She stated that to their knowledge, this was the first time there had been an assessment for not having cut the grass.

President Keith asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular matter.

There was no response.

President Keith stated that the public hearing was closed.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of cutting overgrown grass and/or weeds against certain properties, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-436)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that with everything going on in the community, if this speaker had taken the time and gone to the trouble to appear before the Council, and since this concerned someone who was serving in the military, he would like to see if there would be some way that they could eliminate the administrative fee on this, so that the assessment would just be the actual cost to the City of actually cutting the grass, and any administrative cost would be waived. He stated that he believed they tried to do what they could for military folks, and he believed this was something they could make an allowance for.

President Keith asked Mr. Erwin if he had a report on 105 Wilkenson, and if this was a first-time matter.

Mr. Erwin stated that it was. He continued that the property was initially inspected on March 26, and that courtesy notices were sent to two different addresses, a P.O. Box and an address in Harvest. He continued that after the 14-day period concluded, a work order had been issued for non-compliance, for violation of the grass and weed ordinance. He stated that the property had been cut on April 14th, and that they had pictures of before and after. He stated that this matter had been handled in the normal procedure. He stated that he had been in contact with Ms. Fewell in

Illinois. He stated that they had tried to email her pictures of what was happening. He reiterated that this was how they handled all the normal grass violations.

President Keith inquired as to the cost of this.

Mr. Erwin stated that it was \$252.24, and the administrative cost, specifically, would be \$150, so if they were to waive the administrative fee, it would be down to \$102.24.

President Keith asked if it was correct that this was the first time this property had had an assessment.

Mr. Erwin replied that that was correct, to his knowledge.

Councilman Kling moved that the administrative fee for the property located at 105 Wilkenson Drive, NE, in the amount of \$150, be waived, for this one time only.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked Mr. Riley if the Council could waive, in its totality, the assessed fee.

Mr. Riley stated that, unfortunately, he did not have an answer for that without researching the matter.

President Keith asked Councilman Kling if there was a reason that he had chosen to waive only the administrative fee.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed if the Council were to waive the entire amount, they would be getting into a violation of State law about providing a City public service for free.

Councilman Kling stated that the speaker had appeared before the Council because she cared enough about this issue, and he would state again that they were dealing with someone who was serving in the military, who, assumedly, had not gotten the contacts she should have gotten. He stated that he did not believe this was the City's fault, that he thought it had just not happened. He stated that this was a

first-time offense, and he would say that this would be something the Council could do. He continued that, however, he believed this was as much as they could do because if they did something else, they would be crossing the line, and possibly violating State law, giving away something for free that they were not supposed to.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she understood the reasoning behind this, but she also thought it was fair to have someone pay for a service that was delivered. She continued that if Ms. Fewell was arranging for lawn service, they would probably charge her that much anyway. She asked if by waiving the administrative fee, they would be setting a precedent for future requests such as this.

President Keith stated that if someone wanted to come before the Council and explain such an issue, as had been done at this meeting, he would like to meet the people that continued to have grass-cutting issues. He stated that if one was coming before the Council to attempt to explain why this was the sixth time they had had a grass-cutting from the City of Huntsville, he would love to meet them and discuss why that had happened. He stated that if the Council were setting a precedent, such persons should come on down to the meetings.

President Keith stated that this young lady had lost her father, that it was not her estate, it was her father's estate. He stated that while he gave nothing but respect to those in the military, this was actually just respect for a person who was responsible for property in the city of Huntsville. He stated that he agreed with Councilman Kling on this, although he wished the Council could waive the entire amount. He stated that, however, if it was felt that the administrative step was the best route, he would have no trouble following that.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that it appeared that there were extenuating circumstances, also, with regard to the mail, the notification, and some other things.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if it was correct that the notices went to a Post Office Box and to the address.

Mr. Erwin stated that they went to a separate address, not the physical address of the property, that it had gone to an address in Harvest, which he believed had been referred to as Ms. Fewell's father's permanent address.

Councilwoman Akridge inquired as to the address on the tax record.

Mr. Erwin stated that it would have been one of the addresses he had mentioned, and that most likely it would have been the address of the permanent residence of the owner.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she wanted to make sure that they used Tax Assessor records for the address. She stated that with all the comments about the address having been changed, et cetera, they needed to go by where the tax bill would go.

Mr. Erwin stated that they did so, that they went by the Tax Assessor and/or the Probate Judge, if there had been any change in ownership.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that he was certainly in agreement with Councilman Kling and all the comments that had been made. He stated that he understood that March 14th was when they had taken notice, as in the City, and that they had cut the grass on April 14th.

Mr. Erwin stated that the day of the notice was March 26.

Councilman Culver asked what the typical turnaround was from the time someone complained about a property, or the inspectors would find it themselves, to the City of Huntsville going out and cutting it. He asked what was the normal, typical lapse of time for that process.

Mr. Erwin stated that it would really depend upon the volume. He continued that they were into a high-volume grass season, that grass was growing very fast. He stated that after the 14-day period if the property was reinspected and had not been brought into compliance, a work order would be issued, and it would go in line. He continued that he believed there were about 60 in the work queue at this time, so they would work through that. He stated that they liked to see if they could do it within a week, with their three-person grass crew. He continued that after a work order had been issued, and they had been given the 14-day period to bring it in compliance, they tried to get it within a week after that.

Councilman Culver stated that what he was about to say certainly did not apply to Ms. Williams and her family, but this was one of the reasons why they needed to double the fines. He continued that it seemed that, at a minimum, it was going to be three weeks, but it could be four or five weeks.

Mr. Erwin stated that he would certainly hope not, noting that they did their best to get through these.

Councilman Culver stated that this was not a reflection on Mr. Erwin's Department, that they did an incredible job, that it was just the legal requirement, the 14-day notice, et cetera, and people were using the City as the grass-cutting for their properties, which would be cheaper. He stated that \$252 was inexpensive, considering how long it took for the City to go out and cut the grass, that, otherwise, the property owner would have had to pay someone three times, if not four times, to cut that grass. He stated that this was going to a previous point he had made, that if they could, if it was at all possible, they should double this cost, for future people who purposely violated this ordinance. He stated that there were always extenuating circumstances, and he was not talking about those, that he was talking about persons intentionally, deliberately, on their own volition, violating the local grass-cutting ordinance.

President Keith called for the vote on Councilman Kling's motion that the administrative fee for the property located at 105 Wilkenson Drive, NE, in the amount of \$150, be waived, for this one time only, and it was unanimously approved.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-436, as Amended, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the boarding and securing of certain properties.

President Keith recognized Mr. Erwin.

Mr. Erwin stated that this resolution would authorize the assessment of board-and-secure actions on four properties, with the locations being 1507 Barrington Road, Units B, C, and D, and 2629 Blue Spring Road, NW. He stated that the total cost was \$997.21, with a per assessed cost of \$249.31. He stated that three of the owners were out of state, all at the property on Barrington.

Mr. Erwin stated that due to non-payment by the stipulated date, the property owners had been notified, by first-class mail, that an assessment would be placed on the property, and that this May 28, 2020, City Council Meeting would be the time and place when he or she could be present to present any objection to the assessed cost.

President Keith asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular issue.

There was no response.

President Keith stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Robinson read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the boarding and securing of certain properties, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-437)

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Keith.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-437, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Public.

President Keith stated that when persons' names were called, they could go to either microphone, and he asked that if they were wearing a mask, to please speak clearly, and he asked that persons state their name and address for the record.

Ms. Reed asked President Keith if he was allowing the public to speak.

President Keith replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Jackie Reed, 303 Jack Coleman, appeared before the Council, expressing appreciation to the Council for allowing public input. She stated that she wanted to apologize for what had happened at the prior meeting, but that President Keith talked so fast, and it was hard to understand what he was talking about. She stated that he did not talk into the microphone, and he mumbled. She stated that she was trying to help him, that she was not fussing at him, although she could fuss. She stated that she had been attending Council meetings for 30 years, and she had had some people that respected her, and she had had some people that did not respect her, and that did not matter. She asked if they had ever heard her song, "The Legend of Jackie Reed" -- "She's a woman you will love or she's a woman you will hate." She stated that they had a choice.

Ms. Reed stated that she wanted to thank them for the paving that had been done on Whitesburg Drive. She stated that she did not know who had inspected it, but



the lines were not wide and white. She stated that she would like to be the inspector. She stated that in the wintertime, when it rained and it got dark, persons should be able to see the lines. She stated that she wanted to say to Reed, or whoever was in charge of this, that they should make the lines wide and white.

Ms. Reed stated that there was a lot going on in the city, and this was sort of keeping her up and getting to her. She stated that she had been at the Planning Department recently, and she had seen that Brahan Spring Park was about to be torn up. She stated that there were so many master plans, and she wanted to get her hands on them, that there were a lot of master plans in the Planning Department that the people did not know about. She continued that she believed the public had a right to know what they were doing in the city, and what they intended to do.

Ms. Reed stated that there were speeders running over everybody in the city, that they had a traffic problem, and they had a road problem. She stated that she looked at the shopping centers, with the empty buildings, and they were really nice shopping centers, but, yet, they were out there building and developing and paying for parking garages for the developers, and everything else.

Ms. Reed stated that someday she wanted to meet with the Finance Director and see exactly how much they were spending on these things.

Mr. Chad Ayres, 100 Washington Street, appeared before the Council, stating that he was appearing before the Council on behalf of Big Cove Mobile Home Park, concerning item 14.c on the agenda. He stated that he was aware that this was the first reading, but his client had wanted him to be present at this meeting.

President Keith stated that it was correct that the item was just for introduction at this time.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Appointments to be Voted On.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution reappointing Dr. Ollye Conley to the Historical Preservation Authority of the City of Huntsville, for a term to expire June 3, 2026, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-438)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-438, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution appointing Natasha Parker to the Beautification Board, for a partial term to expire September 30, 2021, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-439)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-439, and it was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kling read and introduced a resolution appointing Shelly McCulley to the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council, for a term to expire July 1, 2022, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-440)

Councilman Kling moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-440, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Appointment Nominations.

Councilwoman Robinson nominated Kyla Kelly for appointment to the Alabama Constitution Village and Historic Huntsville Depot Board, Place 3, for a term to expire June 26, 2023.

President Keith asked if there were any further nominations.

There was no response.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Expenditures.

Councilwoman Robinson read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-441)

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Keith.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-441, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith asked if there was a Finance Committee report.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the Finance Committee had met. She continued that they were in a very critical period at this time, where they were beginning to see real numbers come in. She stated that even today they had gotten new numbers.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had asked Ms. Penny Smith, the Director of Finance, to provide a report on this at this time. She stated that it was absolutely critical that every decision they made would be made in light of the new numbers.

President Keith recognized Ms. Penny Smith, Director of Finance.

(Ms. Smith made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Smith stated that just to continue the conversation they had been having over the past few Council meetings concerning the financial condition of the City of Huntsville and the effects of the COVID virus, that they had recently passed the 20th of the month of May, which she noted was the monthly payment due date for many of the taxes. She continued that the preliminary numbers indicated that they would be down on remittances for Sales and Use Tax, although at this time they did not know exactly how much that would be. She stated that that was for collections in May, which she noted was remittance from sales in April. She stated that they were closed the entire month, that for the month of March, they were open part of that month, but for the month of April, they were closed.

Ms. Smith stated that Lodging Taxes were down more than 75 percent for that month as well, during the same time frame.

Ms. Smith stated that the display indicated the biggest ones they were tracking, but they were also tracking others.

Ms. Smith stated that on the positive side, the Departments were continuing to work under the restricted spending guidelines that had been given to them by the Mayor, and that was going very well, that they had seen positive results in spending, and the numbers were down.

Ms. Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Kling asked if Ms. Smith could give them any type of a very ballpark, general idea of what the impact had been up to this point. He stated that he did not know if she could provide this on a month-to-month basis or just at this point, but just in whatever form.

Ms. Smith stated that she could not really provide numbers to date, that they

were looking at projections across time. She stated that they had used the number 15 to 20 million, that that seemed to keep getting thrown out there. She stated that that was originally an estimate. She stated that she still believed that if they continued to reopen in a manner that was positive throughout the summer, that that number would remain a good number for the City for this fiscal year. She continued that they would be looking toward budgets for the next fiscal year, and that that was 15 to 20 million across their funds.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that one of the things they had discussed during the Finance meeting, and which she believed they had mentioned previously also, was that this impact had come at the end of the fiscal year and when they would be moving into a new budget cycle, so they would have the advantage of being able to look ahead and forecast and create a very conservative budget rather than being caught unaware. She stated that that was why it was so critical to get really good numbers, and that Ms. Smith and her staff were working very diligently to make sure they had these numbers. She continued that the problem they were going to have going forward was that they would be taking best guesses at a target they were completely unfamiliar with and that was moving all the time.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she wanted to commend Ms. Smith and her staff for the work they were doing in a very difficult situation. She stated that the Council would continue to get better information as this went along.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she wanted to commend staff for finding ways to reduce their expenses between 11 and 12 million dollars, which, if everything were to stay the same, would leave them a gap of 4 to 8 million dollars. She stated that she did not want them to get too focused on what revenue they were not bringing in because staff was doing their job, that they were proactive in anticipating this and had already reduced expenses. She stated that she wanted to focus on the gap rather than

the total lack of revenue.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Mayor.

President Keith recognized Mayor Battle.

Mayor Battle stated that the past weekend, there had been an internet/television ceremony for Memorial Day, to remember those who had fallen. He stated he believed that as a community, they had done the right thing on this. He stated that there were so many veterans who were older and were in the at-risk population, and they wanted to make sure they protected them. He stated that they remembered, as a community, those who had fallen, and they had done their duty as a member of the Armed Forces community, and they had done their duty for Memorial Day.

Mayor Battle stated that on the following Saturday would be the Mayor's Bike Ride, and he wanted to invite President Keith to participate in this, noting that he would assist him in any way possible, and he wanted to also invite the other Council members and all the Department heads to participate. He stated that persons could sign up on the following Saturday, at 9:30 a.m., in front of the YMCA, or down on the back side of Big Spring Park and City Hall. He stated that they would ride at 10:00, and there were three rules: No hills; Ride at a slow pace; The Mayor wins.

Mayor Battle stated that this was part of Healthy Huntsville, and he invited everyone to come out for this. He stated that they would be doing sanitizing, and they would make sure that as persons rode their bikes, they would not be too close to someone else. He stated that this would get them back to a little bit of normal of what they did. He stated that he was looking forward to this, and he hoped everyone would be a part of it.

Mayor Battle stated that Concerts in the Park would be moving to the MARS

Music Hall, and it would be livestreamed, on Monday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m. He stated that persons could visit the Arts Huntsville Facebook page in order to livestream. He stated that this was also part of the new normal, that persons used to gather in the park, but at this time they were doing it via livestream, but hopefully they would be back in the park at some point in the future.

Mayor Battle stated that Greene Street Market was going on at this time, and that persons there were wearing masks and making sure they stayed separated, and that they washed their hands and sanitized. He stated that if they did that, the city could get through this whole thing and get through it well.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Council.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson wished Jackie Reed a Happy Birthday, noting that her birthday had been on the prior Monday. She thanked Ms. Reed for always being in attendance at the Council meetings, noting that she was a great voice for the people.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had had the opportunity to attend a Planning Commission meeting, where Paige Colburn had delivered the Multi-Modal Report on behalf of the Planning Department. She stated that the Planning Department was one of those Departments that while a lot of people had had to be at home, they had been out, and they had been working very hard with businesses, to help them stay open. She stated that it had been pointed out to her again on this day how critical their role had been.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that they had an amazing team there, but they were going to be losing one of their members, and that was Paige Colburn. She stated that when Ms. Colburn had done her report for the Planning Commission, she did not believe any of them had realized she was going to be leaving. She stated that she had

been an incredible asset to that Department, and she would be unhappy that she was leaving if she did not know she was going to Johns Hopkins, to write for them. She stated that that was an incredible opportunity for her, and she wanted to wish her well and thank her for her work in the Planning Department.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that they had some really great events going on in District 3, and that one of them was going to be a drive-in movie, on June 6, at Haysland Square, at 8:15. She stated that at that time they would be showing Frozen 2, and then at 10:30, Indiana Jones. She stated that persons could find more information on the South Huntsville Main Business Association website. She thanked them for the work they were doing. She stated that before Haysland would be demolished, they were going to be having all kinds of things. She stated that the mural that was there had been a huge hit, not only with graduating seniors but with lots of other groups.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that Independent Musical Productions had rescheduled their event, which had been rained out, and that it would be held on May 30th, on Green Cove Road. She stated that persons could check their website for their drive-in cabaret, which would be exciting.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that Mayor Battle had mentioned personal responsibility, and she wanted to follow up on that as well. She stated that she and her husband had gone out to dinner on the previous Friday evening, and they had not felt comfortable with the situation in that particular restaurant, so it would be a while before they would go back there. She stated that then they had gone to lunch on Saturday at a different place, and it was an entirely different experience. She stated that this all depended on the way the venue handled it, and they were going to make their choices on where they went based upon how it was handled. She stated that there had been a similar experience when she went shopping at one of her favorite



stores that had been closed, and they had opened, and she had gone in, but it would be a while before she went back. She stated that, however, she had gone to another one, and it was fine. She stated that she believed as persons patronized these places, they would determine what they were comfortable with and change their habits, and that eventually some of those retailers would get the message.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that as a community, they had done a remarkable job, and she stated that she would give a lot of credit to the Mayor, to the hospitals, and to the entire team that had worked together to protect the community. She stated that this was a smart community, and the numbers showed it.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he knew all of them were aware of the situation that had taken place in Minneapolis, which was extremely unfortunate. He stated that he just wanted to kind of reiterate his support and to say how proud he was of the Police Chief and the police officers in Huntsville. He stated that they were very proactive in providing in-service training relating to cultural diversity, the de-escalation of force, and arrest and control techniques. He continued that he thought they were the types of folks that Huntsville was lucky to have. He stated that it was unfortunate that when a police officer went to work in the morning, there was a chance he or she might not come back home that night. He stated that he just wanted to say "Thank you" to the officers, the Police Chief, and the staff, noting that they were very professional. He stated that a lot of times he had neighborhood issues that he would relay to them, and they conducted themselves very professionally in dealing with the residents and helping to de-escalate situations.

Councilman Kling stated that during the past couple of weeks since the last Council meeting, the Board process had weighed heavily on his mind. He stated that to him all Boards, not certain Boards, were very important. He stated that the

City Council in many ways was the tip of the iceberg, that they worked with the Mayor on important issues, as far as dealing with the public, and he believed there were more than 250 appointments that they made to some 60-plus Boards. He stated that there was a partnership the Council had with the citizens, and they were all important. He stated that one of the things he believed they would like to do would be to make sure they did have representation from the community that reflected the community on these Boards, and that he had certainly tried to do his part on this.

Councilman Kling stated that he had just taken a look at this, and there was a new female, who had never served before, who would be going on the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council; that there was a member of the Hispanic community who would be joining the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council; and there was an outstanding leader in the African American community who had been reappointed to the Historical Preservation Authority. He stated that he was proud that he had nominated all three of these persons.

Councilman Kling stated that they talked about experience when they recognized City employees at the Longevity Banquet. He continued that many times, in looking at the great work that was done by their Boards, they singled out senior members and the leadership they had provided, the continuity they had provided. He stated that at this time they were going through some very unusual circumstances in the community, to say the least, with the virus and with the adjustments that were being made, as the City was taking a hit, and, also, as some of the Boards were taking very strong hits, and he believed it was extremely important to keep experience on the Boards. He continued that as they went into the future, he wanted to make sure that they did not accept discrimination, in any way, shape, or form. He asked that they also make sure to include age discrimination in this.

Councilman Kling stated that they were a team, that they worked with the

Board members they had, to provide so much to the community, that all of them were important, and they owed a debt of gratitude to every citizen, regardless of what Board they were serving on, because of how important every Board was to the community.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that anyone who knew him knew that he had OCD, that that was why he wore his gloves and mask. He stated that when going into the restroom, persons should always carry paper to turn the door knobs, and to turn the faucets on and turn the faucets off. He stated that he was saying all that to make his point at this time. He stated that someone had advised him that they were going to the nail salon to get their nails done, and he had questioned that under this COVID-19 situation, and the person had replied to him that she was going to do so, and that he should go and get a haircut.

Councilman Culver stated that he had gone to his barber, after calling him and asking what he had done and was doing, as it related to COVID-19, and he had been told that they had spaced the chairs six feet apart. He continued that he had gone to the barber shop, masked and gloved, and he had gotten a haircut.

Councilman Culver stated he had talked to his barber about how it had been over the last several weeks, and he had been advised it had been rough, that his barber had told him that was his only livelihood, and he was taking care of his wife and kids, a mortgage, car notes, and he had nearly gone bankrupt. He continued that his barber had said that he had come back to his job, and there was a tax notice on his door.

Councilman Culver stated that this really hit hard with him after he had talked with his barber. He continued that he had been going to that barber shop for more than 25 years, and to see that business impacted in that manner, that the barber had nearly lost his business, and that he had then thought about the other businesses that would not open after COVID-19.

Councilman Culver stated he had said all that to say that he certainly supported the President of this great United States of America, President Donald Trump, in terms of opening the country back up; he supported the Governor of this State, Kay Ivey, in opening the state back up; and he supported Mayor Tommy Battle of Huntsville, Mayor Paul Finley of the City of Madison, and Commission Chairman Dale Strong, all with opening the cities and the county back up. He continued that when he said all of this, it did not mean that they should go out haphazardly. He stated that he was still cautious in everything he did, but he also realized that these businesses had to survive. He stated that it was a very meticulous balancing act, opening things up, trying to get the economy back on track while preserving and protecting life. He stated that it was a fine line between that. He stated that if they could put man on the moon, they could navigate that if they did it strategically and meticulously.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that her only observation about the way the entire state had handled the reaction to the novel virus was concerning some numbers which were making it really clear that the people who were at the most risk were people who did not have access to regular healthcare. She stated that on behalf of the Board of the public hospital, she had publicly, via social media, supported expanding Medicaid, and that she was also doing so at this time. She stated that this was a way to help Huntsville's public hospital in particular, so for her it was a city topic, not a national topic. She stated that it was just not sustainable to do it the way they were attempting to do it at this time, which was to try to squeeze blood out of a turnip, with donations, et cetera, and then, of course, trying to subsidize the lack of income with other procedures. She stated that some might think this was political, but she thought it was nuts and bolts.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that as the economy had opened back up, she was continuing to get more complaints about speeding in the neighborhoods. She stated that she had been in touch with Mayor Battle and the Chief of Police about this matter, and she had learned from the Chief that he would prefer to have more LIDAR, or radar, as they normally had it, so she had put out an APB for donations. She stated that she had not realized that people were not aware that they could make donations to the Police Department. She stated that the City, typically, in their budget, supplied anything the Police Department needed to do their job, and she would imagine that that would be handled in the upcoming budget, but her offer was to get people, including herself, to donate if they wanted those LIDAR machines in people's hands sooner, and that request still stood.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was excited about some new blood on Meridian Street. She stated that her hat was off to Wesley Crunkleton, yet again, for putting together a great investment team that had purchased Lincoln Mill. She stated that they had big plans for Meridian Street, and that, hopefully, they could get some additional investments on that corridor, noting that it was south of Oakwood Avenue. She stated that the Mill was already being painted, and that was exciting. She stated that she had a personal interest in that, not only because it was in the District she served, but because she had previously had a set of beehives on the roof, and that she had sweat bullets to get some of them out of the wall. She stated that she had been watching this ever since there were fat goats in the side yard and chickens running around. She stated that she was excited about the new life, yet again, that was happening there on Meridian Street.

President Keith stated to Councilman Kling that his words were well stated and well received. He stated that he believed he spoke for all the members of the Council in stating that they understood, appreciated, and respected all individuals, not in

relation to age, but in the value that they brought to any Board or to any City Council.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-404, granting a Small Cell Wireless Facilities License to New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, dba AT&T Mobility, which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-404)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Keith.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she saw that Mr. Hargrove from AT&T was in the audience, and she knew that there had been some concern expressed regarding their ordinance and some restrictions. She stated to Mr. Riley that she believed he had said there were going to be some conversations, and she asked if that had been worked through, or if this was something entirely different.

Mr. Riley stated that this was a continuation of the Small Cell matter. He stated that he was happy to report that AT&T was their first licensee applicant. He stated that the ordinance before the Council was to consider the approval of their license, and this would be the first one under the new Small Cell ordinance.

Mr. Riley stated that they would never get full agreement on these things because the City's interests may differ from the industry's, but they had worked together, and he thought it had been a pleasant surprise for everyone concerned as to how smoothly it had gone. He continued that credit for this had to go to Ms. Claudia Anderson in his office, who had worked very hard on this.

Mr. Riley stated that AT&T had been standing at the door ready, that they said

they wanted to come here and do 5G and such, and their actions were speaking for that. He stated that they had made the license application, and it was before the Council to be approved at this time, and then from that point forward, he was aware that they already had a number of site permits ready to roll, and they were about to formally file those, once they received this license.

Mr. Riley stated that he thought these things were working out real well, that he knew from the City's perspective, they were real excited to move over into a less confrontational viewpoint and more toward working together. He stated that they were working to make the process as easy for them as they could, as efficient as they could do this, and, hopefully, they would agree as they went through this on the first round of permits that would be coming.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that some persons listening to this conversation had heard "5G," and their radar had gone off. She asked if it was possible for this Council to say, "No, you can't come with 5G to Huntsville." She asked if Mr. Riley would answer that question.

Mr. Riley stated that he would say that it was always possible to say "No," but the question was if they could dictate, for instance, to communication companies what their methodologies would be, and that that might be a difficult task.

Mr. Riley stated that he was aware, obviously, that there were some people who had concerns about 5G. He continued that he wished he could say that he was qualified, that he knew enough to be able to say who was on the right side or who was on the wrong side, but at this juncture, with the major telecommunication providers, this was the next wave of development they were bringing. He stated that he did not know that this particular process would be the proper place for those concerns to be raised.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was not referring to the concerns that had been voiced through emails and such, related to reports, that she was asking about the business realities. She asked if this body could say there would never be 5G in this city, or if the federal government had basically mandated that, yes, there would be 5G, however, the City would have some control on a local basis on how it would be done.

Mr. Riley stated that the City would have some control, in fairness. He stated that Councilwoman Akridge was asking a question that seemed simple enough, but it was steeped in a lot of difficult questions if one looked at the FCC and their response to these things, so he would not be able to provide a "Yes" or "No" answer on this. He stated that he was aware that a lot of these things were very complicated, and there was a lot that went on in making those decisions. He stated that the decision on whether or not there would be 5G here was a little bit bigger than what they would be making here before the Council. He stated that that was his off-the-cuff judgment on that. He stated that he did not know that they could stop it in that fashion.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-404, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Robinson, Culver, Kling, Keith

NAYS: Akridge

(NOTE: This ordinance, Ordinance No. 20-404, was reconsidered at the end of this meeting, resulting in a unanimous vote for adoption.)

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-405, amending Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan, which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-405)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Keith.



President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-405, and it was unanimously adopted.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-406, amending Budget Ordinance No. 19-785, to modify the authorized strength of a Department, which ordinance was introduced at the May 14, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-406)

Said motion was duly seconded by President Keith.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-406, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Introduction.

President Keith stated that items 14.d and 14.e had already been considered and passed by the Council.

President Keith read and introduced Ordinance No. 20-442, annexing 1.32 acres of land lying on the north side of Mohawk Road and west of Taylor Road.

President Keith read and introduced Ordinance No. 20-443, annexing 4.33 acres of land lying on the north side of Miller Lane and west of US Hwy 431.

President Keith read and introduced Ordinance No. 20-444, annexing 25.05 acres of land lying on the south side of Worley Drive and west of Cherokee Lane.

President Keith stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

President Keith stated that item 15.n, Resolution No. 20-460, and item 15.w, Ordinance No. 20-469, had already been considered and passed; that 15.r, Resolution

No. 20-464, had been presented; and item 15.y, Resolution No. 20-471, was being held from the consolidation.

President Keith asked if any of the Council members would like to hold any items from the consolidation.

Councilman Culver asked to hold item 15.g.

Councilwoman Akridge asked to hold items 15.f and 15.i.

President Keith stated that items 15.f, 15.g, 15.i, and 15.y would be held from the consolidation.

President Keith read the items on the agenda that had not already been considered by the Council or held from the consolidation, consisting of items 15.a through 15.e, item 15.h, items 15.j through 15.m, items 15.o through 15.v, item x, and items 15.z and 15.aa.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of the following Consolidated Items, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted/approved.

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-447)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 19-785 by changing appropriated funding for various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-448)

Ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 19-785 by changing the authorized personnel strength in various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 20-449)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low bidders meeting specifications as outlined in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-450)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Richland Plaza, Inc., for Detention Facilities Maintenance Agreement, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-451)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Parking Lease between the City of Huntsville and Holder Construction, within North Huntsville Industrial Park, in support of construction activities related to Project Starbelt, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-454)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, McCord Construction, for Periodic Bid for Sanitary Sewer Jack and Bore Items-2020, Project No. 71-20-SP25, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-456)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, Dynamic Construction, L.L.C., for Periodic Bid for Sanitary Sewer Directional Drilling-2020, Project No. 71-20-SP24, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-457)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Garver, L.L.C., for WPC 2020 Process Improvements On-Call Engineering Services, Project No. 71-20-SP18, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-458)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Tetra Tech, Inc., for On-Call Engineering Design & Construction Administration Services for SCADA Projects, Project No. 71-20-SP28, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-459)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 1 to the

agreement between the City of Huntsville and Fuqua and Partners Architects, P.C., for architectural services for the Monroe Street Parking Deck, located at 705 Monroe Street, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-461)

Resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Bryant Bank Letter of Credit No. 1294 for Oak Grove at Farley Farm Subdivision, Phase 8, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-462)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Motorola Solutions, Inc., for maintenance of the City's Fire Station Alerting System, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-463)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to approve and submit the City of Huntsville 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan & Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to the Department of Housing & Urban Development, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-464)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agency Appropriation Agreement with the Food Bank of North Alabama for the cost of purchasing and distributing food during the COVID-19 emergency, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-465)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute, with attestation by the City Clerk-Treasurer, a final plat entitled "Schrimsher-Willowbrook Subdivision," on behalf of the City of Huntsville, as a Mortgagee, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-466)

Resolution requesting the Mayor to make application to the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, for financial assistance from Section 5307-6, in an amount not to exceed \$6,830,268, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-467)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement between the City of Huntsville and All African People's Development and Empowerment Project, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-468)

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Maddie's Fund Pet Foster Care Stimulus Grant, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-470)

Request for authorization to advertise and fill vacant Firefighter positions (Fire & Rescue), at higher than minimum if necessary.

Request for authorization to advertise and fill one Full-Time Fitness Center Programmer, Grade 13 (Parks and Recreation), at higher than minimum if necessary.

President Keith stated that the Council would now consider the items that had been held from the consolidation.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and S&ME, Inc., for Engineering Services for Huntsville Stormwater Management Manual Revisions, Project No. 71-20-SP31, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-452)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith recognized Mr. Shane Davis, Director of Urban and Economic Development.

Mr. Davis stated that this contract was within the Engineering Department. He stated that both the Natural Resources Department and the Engineering Department had to turn in annual Stormwater Reports to the Alabama Department of

Environmental Management. He stated that these rules had changed statewide, so they were updating their manual and updating things within the manual to comply with the new reporting that would be required, and they were using an outside consultant to help them expedite this. He stated that the first report would be due the coming October, so, with everything they had going on, S&ME would be helping Engineering in developing the testing procedures for their existing NPDES Permit.

Mayor Battle stated that this was not to exceed \$34,280.

Mr. Davis stated that it was time and material, so they knew it would not exceed that amount, and that it would most likely come in much less than that. He stated that it was an hourly rate. He stated that Kathy Martin and her staff needed this assistance.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she understood it needed to be updated, but what she was looking at was that this would be a good time to evaluate, to ensure that neighbors would not make changes to their lots and discharge water onto a neighbor's lot.

Mr. Davis stated that, certainly, they would look at that as they updated the manual, that they had had issues with that, and that Councilwoman Akridge, as well as other Council members, had been involved in these. He stated that they did the best they could in permitting, with site grading permits, to try to prevent that, but at the end of the day, someone discharging water onto a neighbor's property was a civil matter, that it was between two private property owners.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that that was as it stood at this time.

Mr. Davis stated that he believed it always would, as far as a true resolution, but, certainly, as they updated the manual, they could put in some design standards,

or some examples, that they could issue with permits, to help guide a property owner, to, hopefully, better educate that.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that there were a lot of things that got done that never required a building permit, so there was no oversight on what would happen, that a person could pour a new concrete pad or make a pump track in their back yard, that there were lots of things, a garden.

Mr. Davis stated that he did not disagree with that. He stated that he thought that came down to how much governance a government would want to have on their citizenry, if they wanted permits and fees and fines on every little thing citizens would do. He stated that he believed historically they had said no on certain things, that they wanted to look at things that were very significant in construction, that really made a huge change to a piece of property, and coming to get grading permits, and, of course, building permits.

Mr. Davis stated that, certainly, as they moved through this process, it was something they could look at and get back with Councilwoman Akridge concerning.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was not looking to increase fees or oversight, that it was to not just say it was a civil matter, but then they would end up paying for it anyway.

Mr. Davis stated that he would not say that they would pay for it, that he did not know that they had ever done work on private property with taxpayer funds. He stated that they had gone out and provided free advice, but any work they did had to be within a public right-of-way or easement. He continued that sometimes they would go out and work on a side lot line, noting that, typically, in most residential neighborhoods, there was 5 feet on either side of the property line, giving them a 10-foot U&D between two properties, and they could come in and maybe help if there was a topography issue, but if it was simply that someone had built something, and it

was blocking water and putting water on a neighbor next door, that was not an issue for the City to take on.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she was aware of cases where they had paid for it, but they could discuss this at another time. She stated that it was \$80,000 a year that had been spent on topics that quite often were simply because of changes in a neighbor's yard, and that over time, this added up.

Mr. Davis stated that they could have an off-line discussion concerning that.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-452, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and OMI, Inc., for Archeological Study for Proposed Courthouse Site, Project No. 71-20-SP30, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-453)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that this was part of their Phase I, Site Clearing, with Government Services Agency, or GSA. He stated that this pertained to the site the City currently had title to, for the proposed new federal courthouse. He stated that as part of the City's preparation for construction of the new federal courthouse that GSA was currently working on, certainly the architectural design of that property, the City was working on the civil site portion of it, clearing the site, under federal regulations, to be able to transfer the property. He continued that the property had been purchased many years prior with this intention, and this was to perform the archeological services that were required. He stated that OMI, in concert with the



University of Alabama, would do field tests, the normal operations they would do for any site in doing a Phase I archeological.

Mr. Davis stated that this was a time and materials contract. He stated that the community had asked for the federal courthouse, and it was certainly funded, that GSA was going as fast as they could with the design, and that what they had done to expedite this was to ask for a proposal which was time and materials, which Engineering would manage. He stated that then if they found something of historic significance, and they had to retrieve that, record that, document that, and actually curate it, in Moundville, Alabama, that would be the worst case. He continued that that was what the proposal would do, and it would keep them from coming back to Council multiple times just to clear the site.

Mr. Davis stated that this contract was in the amount of \$775,648.49. He stated that they believed, based upon the preliminary information they had for the site, that the investigation and report completion would be significantly lower than that, probably more in the range of what they would typically see of approximately \$200,000. He stated that what they had wanted to do, in order to expedite the project with the schedule the GSA was on, was to go ahead and do a proposal and get it covered for any worst case should there be something of significance. He continued that they were not looking at an unknown cemetery or anything like that. He stated that it had been a fruit orchard many years prior, and there were some row houses along Lowe Avenue, so they would kind of be looking in those areas.

Mr. Davis stated that they felt good about the site, and GSA felt good, that this was just a process they were going through in preparation to provide the site for a new federal courthouse.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver asked if this \$775,000, which they hoped would drop down

to approximately \$200,000, was just for the archeological study.

Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative, noting that it would finalize what they had been working on also, which was what they would call a "clean bill of health" for the site, of the whole Phase I completion, such that they would have all the approval letters from the agencies, the Alabama Historic Commission, Fish & Wildlife, and those, such that when they completed this, they would be ready to transfer the property.

Councilman Culver asked if the City would have to demolish the existing structure on the property.

Mr. Davis stated that the former Mental Health facility had been located on that property, but it had been demolished. He stated that there was a partial parking lot at the location, and that as part of the site assessment they were about to do, they would remove the asphalt that was there. He stated that the only remaining thing then would be a couple of trees, and that they would not remove those, that GSA, with their project, would actually determine whether to save the trees, in their design. He stated that the only thing the City would have would be the demolition of a very, very small piece of asphalt, a parking lot, that would occur during this process.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling asked, in addition to the land in this contract, what else the City would be financially responsible for concerning this project.

Mr. Davis stated that at this time, that would be it. He continued that all the utilities needed for the project were currently along the curb line. He stated that the City's commitment had been to, No. 1, preserve the property, many years prior, so they had secured the property, and then to do the initial environmental work, just to show GSA that the property was suitable for development.

Councilman Kling asked if there was a very general ballpark estimate as far as

how much GSA, or this project, was going to bring in.

Mr. Davis stated that he did not know what the final budget would be for the federal courthouse, but it would certainly be very significant.

Councilman Kling asked if they would be talking about in excess of 50, 70, or 100 million dollars.

Mr. Davis stated that \$110 million was what Mr. Hamilton was stating that GSA had reported, a \$110 million construction project in the community. He stated that he knew this would bring a significant number of jobs into the downtown area because there would be programs from throughout the region that they would consolidate into the new facility.

Councilman Kling asked if the City would have any say over things such as construction companies, making sure that local firms got a fair shake, or if all of this would be in the hands of the GSA.

Mr. Davis stated that it would follow GSA rules, very much like they would see with Redstone Arsenal construction. He stated that if one looked at the buildings that had been built recently on Redstone, and that continued to be built, with the FBI moving in, that many, if not most, of those facilities had been built by local construction companies.

Councilman Culver stated that the federal government doing this project would be better than the locals doing it because they had guidelines they went by that were more inclusive than what the City was required to do.

Mr. Davis stated that GSA would require MB/WB participation and percentages in that, so that Councilman Culver was correct on that.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge asked if it was correct that they would not be recouping any of this money from the federal government that they would be investing in

clearing this land, or authorizing it.

Mr. Davis stated that was correct. He stated that this was moving the project site forward. He stated that many years ago, actually when Dallas Fanning had been with the City and he was working for him, Senator Shelby had been a big help in getting them on the list for a new federal courthouse, noting that, certainly, the current one was inadequate for a community of this size.

Mr. Davis stated that the City's commitment was that if they could get a commitment from the federal GSA agency to build a new facility in Huntsville, they would provide the site. He stated that he believed this was a very small contribution, compared to the return-on-investment for the community. He stated that they had committed to do these type things more than a decade ago, in fact, almost to the 15- or 20-year mark.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the question repeatedly came up as to why the City was paying for a federal project, and she would guess that the bottom line answer was that it was an economic development project. She stated that it would impact downtown because they were going to be bringing those jobs there, and then that would revitalize the downtown area.

Mr. Davis stated there was that, and then the other reason that they had chosen many, many years prior to provide the site was to secure the site in Huntsville, for one thing, and they had been able to jump many hurdles, through a GSA process of site selection, studies, et cetera. He stated that they had done all those things early on and had said they would go ahead and preserve the site if they would approve it. He stated that, oddly enough, they were almost 17 years into it, that they were actually in an advanced stage as to where they would have been if they had just asked GSA for a new federal courthouse, and they had said, "We will handle it from here." He stated that this was protecting the community, to make sure that it happened here.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that, then, this was an investment they were making, and that they were not going to be reimbursed, but it was in anticipation of a payoff.

Mr. Davis stated that that was correct, and that it would be a very wise investment by the Council.

Councilman Kling stated to Councilwoman Robinson that he would imagine that the sales tax on construction materials would probably be pretty significant, versus the cost of the land, and then, of course, jobs and local firms. He stated that he thought that was a pretty good argument. He stated perhaps somebody could run the numbers on this and try to come up with a ballpark estimate.

Mr. Davis stated that as far as securing the land and doing what they were doing, the Council members had to remember that there was an economy attached at this time to the existing federal facility in the city, and for that to leave the community would be lost revenue from what they were currently seeing. He stated that they were very wise in the steps they were taking on this.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-453, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to work with NASA Earth Observations DEVELOP Program to evaluate the existing Urban Tree Canopy and Land Surface Temperature patterns for future Planning Purposes, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-455)

President Keith moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Keith recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that this was a unique project for Urban Development in the city. He stated that Councilwoman Akridge had been very instrumental in this and excited about it. He stated that there had been a lot of talk about the tree canopies throughout the community, and being a Tree City USA. He stated that the NASA Earth Observations DEVELOP Program actually assisted cities in getting a baseline, through LIDAR technology and using their GIS software, and some of the data they had, where they would cross share data, and it would produce some heat maps for them, showing where tree canopies were working well, and where they could find ways to improve areas that might not be working so well. He stated that the Planning and GIS and Engineering staff would be working with NASA to help provide data, and in the end result, they would provide them some data. He stated that there was no cost associated with this, so there would be no cost to the City to do this.

Mr. Davis stated that should the Council approve this at this time, they would get started on it the following month.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that on the previous evening when she had looked at this, she had not seen the agreement with NASA. She asked if it was in the package at this time.

Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative.

President Keith asked if there was any further discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-455, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Battle stated that Councilwoman Akridge had done a great job working with NASA and going through a lot of people to make sure they had gotten to the place to be able to put this agreement together. He stated that he thought this was going to be very valuable to the community, to be able to measure the canopy and

measure how it changed over the years. He thanked Councilwoman Akridge for her work on this matter.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that he was certainly welcome. She stated that she was certain that having information in an information-heavy city would be greatly appreciated by many.

President Keith read and introduced Resolution No. 20-471, providing for an additional deferred holiday for certain employees, in appreciation for their dedicated service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and moved for approval, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Culver.

President Keith stated that while he understood the perspective of the \$500,000, and he appreciated the work of the Finance Department, he wanted to give a quick summation of how he had gotten to this point and the understanding of what it was to delineate between hazard pay and what it was to give appreciation, but, more importantly, what he believed this should represent, which was an honor and a deferred holiday.

President Keith stated that many cities during this COVID time had moved toward giving out hazard pay. He continued that the assumption with hazard pay was that an individual would be in a location or a situation where their impact was valued, that they were a necessity, so they were paid more to keep going, and to keep doing, or whatever, for the City to be efficient. He stated that on that issue, he thought he agreed on a more conservative metric, but that was not necessarily fair, because a person who was driving a bus might get taxed on hourly pay differently from someone who was a police officer. He continued that the second they started giving out checks, taxes would play a humongous factor.

President Keith stated that the highest value of anybody at this moment in the COVID time was actually their time. He stated that stories had come to him about

individuals who could not take time to deal with kids, daycare, parents, and the list would go on, because their job, within itself, could not be done from a home or a computer. He stated that with respect to a statement that had been made about 130 individuals, that he would say to those 130 individuals who were watching that the City was immensely blessed. He continued that what had not been stated was that there were those individuals who had not taken any hours in those three to four weeks, and there were a number of individuals, hundreds, who had taken one to five hours, and individuals who had taken five to ten hours, whether for a certain meeting or having to run and get some food for their kids, et cetera. He stated that he thought if they took this case by case and only stuck to the 130, they would exclude a large number of people who had no choice but to take an hour here or an hour there.

President Keith stated that \$500,000, within the microeconomics of correlation, was stagnant, but that did not mean in any way that the value of a person, or productivity, could actually be assessed. He continued that the reason for that was because one could not assume or project what was going to happen in the next six months. He stated that somebody would be sick, and they would lose productivity in that Department, and the accountability for that person would have to happen whether the Council gave this deferred holiday or not.

President Keith stated that the beauty of this deferred holiday was that they put an end date to it, so that that person, who would have to take that time off, which they had not predicted but absolutely had to happen, and they would have to call somebody to fill in, would use the deferred holiday. He stated that most of the people who retired from the City, most of the people who left the City, left with time on the books. He stated that the reason, again, that the deferred holiday was a better metric of that was that it would run out.

President Keith stated that the \$500,000 was actually not a true number



because they could not overvalue that there were individuals who had already assessed time off, who had already put in time. He stated that they were now saying that they were going to take one of those days, and the employee could keep it inside his bank. He continued that that would mean that the employee could potentially work out that hour, or, again, as a lot of individuals here, in a lot of Departments, could continue to carry time. He stated that if somebody had time in the bank, they, for a lot of reasons, had money against the City, so a deferred holiday, in his metric, was a reasonable point to say to those individuals, as he was now saying to every individual in the City, "You have earned, through your efficiency, accountability from the City Council that we are different from other cities. If I could pay you a reasonable check that correlated to a sliding scale, and you could not be taxed, I would do such."

President Keith stated that he could not do that, that he did not think they should do that, that he believed they would get into a headache. He continued that other cities had done that. He stated that this was probably the most reasonable, in his consideration, that he wished he could do more, but that this would give enough of an umbrella to be respectful to those who absolutely had gone above and beyond, but also to be reasonable, in the fact that the effects of it would be managed by the Department heads.

President Keith stated that he could not press enough that they could not predict eight months of impact. He stated that he believed the best example of this was the past four months. He stated that productivity was subjective and relational to the position, that it was a sliding scale. He stated that he believed a firefighter was the most important person in the city when a fire was happening, and he believed an inspector was the most important person in the city when an inspection was happening, that it was all correlated to position, time, and effect.

President Keith stated that productivity within this rate did not fit into the

algorithm of consideration. He stated that 500,000 was the exact correlation between time and the amount of somebody's worth, through grade and scale. He continued that, inversely, he would not want to give anybody less equity by saying, "Because you are a bus driver, you are not as important as somebody who is a Grade 15, 16, 17, or 18." He stated that the list would go on about why 130 people was not a true list, because if someone over the past four weeks had only taken one hour or two hours and did not fall into the "no hours," they still were productive and efficient to the City. He stated that giving consideration to why someone would even take an hour, he would imagine it was for a personal reason, inside of the last four months.

President Keith stated that he wanted to say something that was very important, and that was that the longer they took, as a Council, to make this decision, the further they would have to push back the date because the date would run out. He stated that if they held this and did not make that decision for those employees who were watching this at this time, they would be cutting into the potential time of usage. He stated that the reason he had brought this up at this time, on this very date, was because he wanted to give the optimal opportunity for that individual to consider it or to restructure their consideration for that date, which, again, had to be approved by a Department head.

President Keith stated that he was in no way giving this as a gift, that he was saying that the City employees had earned it, and if he could do more, he would, but he did not think there was anything right now, in moving forward, in the scale of reason, that valued the City's budget, and the time of an individual, more than saying, "If you are going to take time, it is on us, and how you use that time is on you, whether you are sick during that time or whether you have that time already set up, or you are going to set up a day that you need to set up, if you need to make up for an appointment, or if you need to make up for daycare," that the list would go on. He

stated that this was what this holiday represented.

President Keith stated that there was something he could not stress enough, and he wanted to thank Councilman Culver for understanding. He stated that this did not fit in a perfect metric, that they could not go person by person in a 2,000-plus employee system and say "Thank you," that they could not understand the sacrifices that individuals had made, in a police car or a fire truck or on a bus route, but they could, from their dais, give representation to the whole of the City and say that they understood, that they understood what they meant to the City, and that they were set apart from other cities. He continued that that was the reason for most of it, in his opinion, because of who they were as employees.

President Keith stated that he wanted his colleagues to understand that it was easy to throw out a big number, but it was not fair to not tease it out, to not give correlative and respective data, that it was not fair to assess that the number was stagnant and that there were not variables that would affect it. He stated that the assumptions and forecasts within this time, until December 31st, were nearly impossible. He stated that when someone earned something, it was given to them, and they assessed that that group, organization, or person would be reasonable in their understanding of it, and then you would move on.

President Keith stated that he did not think they should overbear this, that he thought it was a small step, that other cities had gone above and beyond. He stated that he would like to add that private corporations had gone above and above and above and beyond, and they were sitting here discussing what invariably could be a wash for a number of the employees.

President Keith stated that he had discussed this with Councilman Culver, and this was their best perspective for the budget, and, relatively, what was more important than a budget, which was appreciation for the City employees.

President Keith recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that they were talking, basically, about a six-month period, that it was sort of like "use it or lose it." He stated that he believed there would be a benefit in stretching this out, that rather than it being December 31st of the current year, if they could stretch it out to December 31, 2021. He stated that he believed that would help the Administration, that it would help the budget, as far as having this impact spread out, where they were hoping, and anticipating, that things would get better for the City financially. He stated that, also, the employees who they were wanting to show their appreciation to would sort of be faced with a quasi ultimatum, use it or lose it, by December 31st or it would be gone. He continued that they could spread it out. He stated that there was not too much traveling going on at this time, and if he were a City employee, and he had a chance to plan for things, and things might get better, this might be something that he could use on a vacation, perhaps taking a week off.

Councilman Kling stated that he thought this might be of help, that, again, it was planning for the employees, and it would help the City, as far as spreading out the impact. He stated that he believed President Keith had a good idea, but maybe there was some tweaking that they could do, and the Administration might have some ideas concerning it, noting that they had six elected officials.

President Keith recognized Councilman Culver.

Councilman Culver stated that they had heard from Mr. Thomas, the Human Resources Director. He stated that, typically, when deferred holidays accrued, they had to be taken by June of the following year, if he was not mistaken. He stated that they would not want to violate their own ordinance, but they certainly could entertain extending it to June, which would give the City of Huntsville employees more than a year to look at this. He stated that he thought things might change by

that time, and it would afford the employees an opportunity to use this without having to worry about losing it within this calendar year.

President Keith stated that he believed that was a fair point. He stated that his selection of a date was more to give consideration for preparation by the Department heads to maneuver. He stated that he actually agreed that it should be a full calendar year, and if it were approved at this time to go from year to year, that he thought to give a full calendar year, as long as it would hit before June, would be within the guidelines.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she applauded President Keith's intent, that she thought he had a great heart, that that was one of the things for which he was known. She stated that she knew he wanted to thank the employees by giving them this gift of time off, but that this was not his money, that it was the taxpayers' money, and they had an accountability to the taxpayers. She continued that they had just heard a report in which they had told the taxpayers that they knew they were going to be down \$20 million potentially. She stated that Councilwoman Akridge had made a good point, that the Department heads had stuck with their restricted spending guidelines, that they had made cuts in their Departments, that they had done, with discipline, what they had been asked to do because they recognized that the City was facing a financial shortfall. She stated for the Council to then turn to those same Department heads and say, "We are going to pay half-a-million dollars for your employees to have time off," she thought was not fair to those Department heads, and it was not good stewardship on the Council's part.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she would suggest that they get good numbers and figure out how much this was going to cost them, because it was going to cost them something. She stated that City services would have to continue even if the

employees were not there, that somebody was going to have to pick up the trash, or protect the streets, or pave the streets, or answer the phones, or whatever it might be. She continued that they were going to be paying time-and-a-half in some cases to some of these employees, and that was going to cost the City money. She stated that they needed numbers on how much that was going to be, so that homework needed to be done.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the other piece of this was that they needed to have clear budget numbers on how bad the hurt was going to be, how bad their hit was going to be. She stated that it would be very short-sighted of them to offer deferred time off to employees who, if the City was in significant trouble, if they had a tremendous outbreak and a real downturn and had to be shut down again, could potentially be looking at layoffs, in an extreme situation.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she did not want to put the City in that position. She stated that they had to have clarity as to whether they could afford to do this. She stated that as much as they wanted to thank employees and feel good about what they had done, and their hearts were in the right place, this was a time when they had to use their heads, because they were in a very difficult situation in the community. She stated that she would again suggest that they delay this decision until they had a clear picture of how much it was going to cost and if they could afford it, knowing what they would know in a few months regarding their budget position. She stated that they owed this to the community, to the taxpayers, and to the employees.

President Keith stated that he just wanted to say to everybody watching that he paid taxes, that he was a taxpayer in the city of Huntsville, and he had no problem dedicating his taxpayer dollars to the people who worked in the City. He continued that a lot of the City employees he had talked with, and Department heads, agreed with this perspective. He stated that he had actually started somewhere else on this

and had ended up with this because persons had worked with him, through his perspective, to get to this point.

President Keith stated that he believed it was a little lost that a lot of the City employees who were actually essential were in his District. He continued that, to be honest about it, they would have asked for five days if they could have.

President Keith stated to Councilwoman Robinson that he was not in any way saying that she was not correct in consideration of the amount of money that COVID had had as an effect to the City system. He continued that with that being said, the number that Councilwoman Robinson kept implying was not a real number, that it was, at best, a forecast of a very stagnant projection, that an individual equaled a correlated data point, a number, because of their grade and their position.

President Keith stated that in the next year, these individuals would take time off, that that was a fact, that in the next year, individuals would take time off, for whatever reason, and productivity, within itself, would be assumed by whatever mechanism it would go through. He stated that all this would do would be to offer, in between a year, accountability for that person, through the time, and whatever it would be, sickness, et cetera, that they would have to use it. He continued that he would imagine, if this were approved, individuals would be proactive in trying to set a time of projection, but the oversight was for the Department heads.

President Keith stated that he would again say that he had spoken with Department heads, and all of them had agreed that it would not be in itself difficult to manage, and they wished they could do more for those who had done a lot. He continued that since he could not tease out the numbers of those individuals that they wished they could do more for, this was his appreciation, and it was not something given, that he thought it was earned by the City employees.

President Keith stated that he understood the budget, that he had not disagreed

with Councilwoman Robinson tenfold, but to talk about the productivity as a value, it just could not be valued, that they could not assume that every position had 100 percent optimal productivity, that if they could, then the City would have no issues at any time, that no one would get sick, and no one would take off. He stated that that was just not a real qualitative statement, nor quantitative metric, that they could correlate for 500,000.

President Keith stated to Councilwoman Robinson that he was not disagreeing with her on the understanding of the budget, that they just disagreed that \$500,000 could actually be correlated over a year. He continued that he agreed with Councilman Kling that to push it back would actually offer more opportunity and leeway to the Departments that would make that decision. He continued that the Departments he had spoken to had felt it would be easy and not a problem at all.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that President Keith had just mentioned that many employees retired with time on the books. She stated that the number of 500,000 was if everybody was off, that that was the payroll amount. She stated that she did not believe everyone was going to take this, that she believed there were going to be some Department managers who would look someone in the eye and say, "Gosh, you have had all this," or, for whatever reason, they would simply say, "No." She stated that she believed the people who needed this restitution would be the people who were going to take it. She stated that she agreed with the proposal, but she also agreed with Councilwoman Robinson, that they should wait until they had firmer numbers so that they could fully assess the impact. She stated that she would suggest that they do two things: No. 1, be realistic about how many people were actually going to use this what she would call a "Thank-you gift," and, No. 2, get some information about where they stood.



Councilwoman Akridge stated that she did not know when the right time would be, but she would like to propose that they wait until July 1st.

President Keith stated that he was going to make a motion to change the date in the resolution. He stated that he believed that the further they pushed back would not change the premise, by any means, and why they would do it. He stated that even if they found out things were worse, their premise still had to be that an individual was worth a day. He stated that if that was not shared by the Council, he did not believe postponing it would do anything. He stated that he thought if they did not believe they were worth a day, they were just not worth a day. He stated that if the numbers came back, and they were horrible, they were going to vote no, and if they came back and said that they were great, they were probably going to vote no. He stated that he believed they should just vote it up or vote it down. He stated that, again, if they believed 500,000 was a correlated data point, he disagreed, because they could not predict, nor forecast, productivity when it came to 28 Departments.

Councilman Kling stated to Councilwoman Robinson that she had talked about carrying this matter over, and he asked how much time she was talking about, if it was, like, a month, or several months, or what.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she believed Ms. Smith had said that she believed they could have some near close numbers by mid July.

Councilwoman Robinson moved to postpone consideration of Resolution No. 20-471, until the July 9, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Keith stated that they could kick this can down the road, and Ms. Smith would come back with bad numbers. He stated that until they started this, they could not offer the opportunity to individuals in the City. He stated to the employees who were watching that this premise of \$500,000 was not a real number,

that it was a number correlated to how much employees were worth on paper, but, inversely, they could not predict the productivity of any individual, whether they lived, died, got sick, got COVID, that the list would go on. He stated that all the Council would be doing at this point would be pushing down the same decision, with more data points about what was probably going to be a forecast of less money. He stated that he thought the only ramification inside of this was actually to push the date back as Councilman Kling had said, but since they were at the end of May, and they wanted to get it done before June, this date was actually the best opportunity to pass this resolution, for the citizens and the City employees.

Councilwoman Robinson stated to President Keith that she believed he had just made the best argument for moving this to July 9. She stated that if he truly believed that the numbers that were going to come in on July 9 would be bad numbers, and that they would be more likely to vote no, then she thought they should do that, if they were making the decision based upon the financial reality.

President Keith stated that he was not, that that was what he was saying, that he was not going to make the decision based upon financial reality, because he did not believe they could correlate \$500,000 just out of a budget, for personal use. He stated that they just had two different views of the economics of it. He stated that he was going to vote yes, no matter the numbers, because he believed, on a sliding scale, they could not correlate somebody's Grade, because of the value of a person inside of the time period they were considering. He stated that a bus driver, within itself, had a higher value because transportation was a necessity, but that did not correlate directly to a Grade of 8 or 9, and that 8 or 9 was how they got to the 500,000. He continued that, therefore, instead of trying to give out all these days and all this money on hazard pay, the best perspective to him, in order to not miss anybody, was to just give a day, which would more than likely be taken by \$500,000 worth of employees.

Councilwoman Robinson asked President Keith where the \$500,000 would be coming from, out of what pot. She stated that they had asked all these Departments to cut back, with restricted spending guidance.

Councilman Culver stated that he would like to share his perspective. He stated that he thought both Councilwoman Robinson and President Keith were correct. He stated that when he had been Chief Magistrate, Chief Probation and Chief Court Referral Officer, that with the Magistrate's Division, which stayed open 24 hours a day, if somebody took off, somebody had to fill in. He stated to Councilwoman Robinson that that was where the cost would come in. He stated that most of this was comp, but it would accumulate at a rate. He continued that most of the time, he did it himself. He stated that with other positions, like Court Referral Officers and Probation Officers, if they were to take off, he would not have to call someone in. He continued that it would depend upon the office setting. He stated that with Police, they would probably have to have someone, and the Fire Department would have to have someone to come in, because they were a unit.

Councilman Culver asked that they look at the Clerical staff, Engineering, and Parking. He stated that he was not saying that those Departments were not important, that what he was saying was that no one would have to be called in if they were to take off. He stated that with a bus driver, somebody had to be called in if they took off because there was a route that had to be run. He stated that the 500,000-plus dollars was a real paper number, but it might not equate to actual cost. He continued that only certain Departments would incur that cost, where persons were indispensable in terms of their duties. He stated that they did have certain Departments that were in that category, but they also had a large number of other Departments, where other individuals could share those duties. He stated that, for instance, in the Council office, if one of the employees took off, then the other employees would pick that up, and they

would not have to call someone to fill in. He stated that that was what he was hearing from both Councilwoman Robinson and President Keith, so he just wanted to put that out there, for clarification.

President Keith stated, there were 27 Departments in the City, and if they were going to stick to the number, Councilman Culver was absolutely right, that they could not fairly project, nor forecast. He stated that this projection solely offered specific numbers inside of a Grade system.

President Keith stated that, as he had said earlier, there were Departments that balanced whether a necessity was a certain amount of Police officers on the road, but, inherently, they would just talk about Inspections. He stated that if Inspectors could share routes and/or pick up for another individual, the day on and the day off would not affect the Department nor the productivity of the City, so productivity was a variable and could not be put to a specific number, that it should not be assumed inside of \$500,000. He stated that the City would not collapse within a year if individuals took off. He continued that, again, the more important part was that the Department heads had the discretion, and the expertise, to decide what would be a reasonable time to have an individual on and off.

Councilman Kling asked if there would be any benefit or if it would be worse if rather than this being a flex time day off, that they would do something else, like, maybe, adding an extra sick leave day for each employee, which would kind of tie in with the virus situation. He stated that he was just trying to think if there would be a different way they could do something to show appreciation to the employees and not have to get into something that might have an impact on the budget.

President Keith stated that he had done the work to assess all of those things, and he had started at a different place and ended up with this. He stated, using sick leave as an example, that that was a valued number, specific to individuals who

accrued it in different ways. He stated that for an employee to hold onto sick time, it would cost more to the City in the inverse, at the outpoint, with an individual leaving with sick time. He stated that when they did a deferred holiday, the employees would have a certain time frame to get it done. He stated that he did not know how else to say it, but whether they did it on the front end or the back end, they had to ask themselves if it was worth a day. He stated that that was the question on the table, whether they would do it now or later, and if they believed that \$500,000 was a stagnant, real number that had a direct impact, then they just disagreed on economics.

Mayor Battle stated that the only number they had, the only correlated data point they had, was \$500,000. He stated that they did not have any other numbers, that no one else had worked any other numbers. He stated that when they first started out with this conversation, they were talking about, probably, 125 or 150 people who had not had time to take off during the pandemic. He stated that that was a number that was achievable, but that now, when they were looking at this, they had asked every Department head to cut their budgets by five percent, that they had done a limited hiring freeze, and they had held back on hiring, and now they would have to make up another \$500,000. He continued that whether it was \$300,000 or \$500,000, it was adding to the deficit they were facing at this time.

President Keith stated to Mayor Battle that he respected his point, but he disagreed as to how they had gotten to the 130, that that was why he had started down this road. He stated that they would just have to agree to disagree. He stated that this data point was easy to say out loud because it sounded big, but it was just not a real number. He stated that the only number he had at this time was all the employees and a deferred holiday. He stated that those two correlated very differently because everybody had a different job, much like Councilman Culver had said.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she had a feeling that all that was going to happen was rather than an employee taking what they had earned on vacation time, they would get to take a day that would not count against their leave, in which case it would not change how the City was handling the pay. She stated that she did not know what the policy was for how long an employee could take a vacation day, but she was hearing that people were retiring with time off available to them. She stated that the more she thought about it, it did not seem like this would affect the budget at all, that it was already going to be covered. She stated that with that, she would like to ask that they vote on the motion on the floor, which was to wait until July 9th, and then proceed from there.

President Keith called for a roll-call vote on the motion to postpone consideration of Resolution No. 20-471 until the July 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Culver, Kling, Robinson

NAYS: Keith, Akridge

President Keith stated that consideration of Resolution No. 20-471 had been postponed to the July 9, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.

President Keith recognized Councilwoman Akridge.

Councilwoman Akridge stated that she would like to change her vote on Ordinance No. 20-404, now that she more fully understood that AT&T Mobility was not the first licensee. She stated that she was recalling pictures about 5G being already built. She stated that she wanted to change her vote to an "Aye" on item 13.a on the agenda, Ordinance No. 20-404, under Unfinished Business Items for Action..

After further discussion, President Keith moved for reconsideration of Ordinance No. 20-404, granting a Small Cell Wireless Facilities License to New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, dba AT&T Mobility, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Culver.

President Keith called for a roll-call vote on the above motion, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Culver, Kling, Keith, Robinson, Akridge

NAYS: None

President Keith moved for approval of Ordinance No. 20-404, granting a Small Cell Wireless Facilities License to New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, dba AT&T Mobility.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Akridge.

President Keith asked if there was any discussion.

President Keith called for the vote on Ordinance No. 20-404, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Keith stated that the meeting was adjourned.

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PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK-TREASURER