

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF ETOWAH**

**CITY OF RAINBOW CITY- COUNCIL MEETING-MAY 8, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Rainbow City, Alabama, met in regular session at City Hall at 5:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Clark Hopper. Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Taylor, and upon roll call by City Clerk, Beth Lee, the following members answered present: Anita Bedwell, Randy Vice, Jeff Prince, Clark Hopper and Mayor Taylor. Jameson Jenkins-Absent. The same constituting a quorum of the City Council, the following business was transacted.

1. Mayor Taylor presented the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 24, 2023 and asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions. There being none, Clark Hopper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Randy Vice seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
2. Mayor Taylor presented the resignation of Dudley Parker from the Industrial Development Board and the Commercial Development Board effective May 8, 2023. Jeff Prince moved to accept the resignation. Clark Hopper seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
3. Clark Hopper moved to authorize Mayor Taylor to sign the AIA Document Agreement with GMC for architectural design of the new recreation center with approximately 35,000-40,000 sq. ft., 2 basketball courts, 3-lane track, multi-use room and administrative offices, 10-lane, 25-meter outdoor pool with associated pump room/chemical room and storage with approx. 200 parking spaces. The cost of the new facility will be \$15,000,000-\$17,000,000. Jeff Prince seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
4. Mayor Taylor recognized Teresa Rhea, Challenger Center Taskforce Member, who spoke about the need for the Challenger Center to be located in our area. She explained we must show broad local support/commitment to compete for this center. The Challenger Center use space-themed simulated learning and role-playing strategies developed by NASA to help 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students bring their classroom studies to life and cultivate skills needed for future success, such as problem solving, critical thinking, communication, teamwork and collaboration. A feasibility study has been completed. The closest Challenger Center is in Chattanooga, TN. Discussion followed.
5. Mayor Taylor presented a request to appoint Sherry Newman to a 4-year term on the Library Board to replace Donna Badgett. Jeff Prince made a motion for the appointment of Sherry Newman. Clark Hopper seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
6. Mayor Taylor presented the following personnel changes:
  - Accept the resignation of Eric Self, Planning Coordinator, effective Friday, May 12, 2023. Anita Bedwell made the motion to accept the resignation of Eric Self. Jeff Prince seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
  - Promote Fire Lt. Jason Green to Captain effective Friday, May 12, 2023
  - Promote Firefighter Todd Cook o Lieutenant effective Friday, May 12, 2023
  - Promote Firefighter Scott Richardson to Lieutenant effective Friday, May 12, 2023

- Promote Firefighter Nick Hill to Lieutenant effective Friday, May 12, 2023

Clark Hopper made a motion to approve the Fire Dept. personnel changes. Randy Vice seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.

7. Mayor Taylor presented Resolution No. 23-11 – Sparks Orthopedics & Sports Medicine. Mayor Taylor asked if anyone was here to speak for or against this resolution. No one was present to speak for or against the resolution. A Public Notice was printed in The Messenger on Friday, April 28, 2023. This resolution allows for a one-time local sales tax exemption of \$37,500 for the purchase of the only open MRI machine in Rainbow City. Sparks Orthopedics will add additional staff for this purchase. Anita Bedwell made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-11. Randy Vice seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
8. Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 576 – Amend Ordinance No. 559 – Increase the Street Cut Permit from \$500 to \$2,000. Anita Bedwell made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Jeff Prince seconded the motion. Jeff Prince moved and Anita Bedwell seconded the motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration. Mayor Taylor asked for a roll call vote as follows:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Anita Bedwell   | Yes    |
| Randy Vice      | Yes    |
| Jeff Prince     | Yes    |
| Jameson Jenkins | Absent |
| Clark Hopper    | Yes    |
| Mayor Taylor    | Yes    |

Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried. Jeff Prince moved and Anita Bedwell seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 575. Mayor Taylor asked for a roll call as follows:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Anita Bedwell   | Yes    |
| Randy Vice      | Yes    |
| Jeff Prince     | Yes    |
| Jameson Jenkins | Absent |
| Clark Hopper    | Yes    |
| Mayor Taylor    | Yes    |

Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.

9. Mayor Taylor presented the monthly departmental reports from Animal Control, Building, Community Center, Court, Fire, Library, and Police.
10. Anita Bedwell moved to hire Jerry Haney, Street Dept. effective Friday, May 19, 2023. Jeff Prince seconded the motion. Mayor Taylor stated all in favor say aye. All ayes. Mayor Taylor declared the motion carried.
11. Mayor Taylor recognized Josh Tanner, Interim Director of the Gadsden Etowah County EMA. Josh gave an update on the grants that were available for applicants. They are BRIC (Building, Resilient, Infrastructure, Communities) for generators and wastewater treatment. Hazard Mitigation Grant – storm shelter and mitigating floods. DHS Grants – open in June/July and awarded in October.

12. Mayor Taylor gave an update on the public safety grant Rainbow City was awarded from Gov. Ivey through ADECA. Rainbow City was awarded \$23,370 to purchase heavy-duty protective body armor. Rainbow City Utility Board was also appropriated \$6,000,000 from Senator Tuberville's office to upgrade Wastewater Treatment System. Mayor Taylor also announced that Ms. Swindall's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Civics class from RMS came to City Hall on Friday, May 5 and held a mock Council meeting. They plan to attend a mock Court soon.

13. Kenneth Payne gave an update on the Clean Up day in Rainbow City. A total of 274 bags were picked up with 54 bags picked up by Riddles Bend Baptist Church. He also complimented Officer Brett Page and his professionalism that day.

**Announcements:**

- Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – Employee Wellness Screening beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – Planning Commission meeting at 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – Library Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 29, 2023 – City Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. Garbage is on schedule. Monday-Friday

There being no further business to come before the Council, Anita Bedwell made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Prince seconded the motion. Time Adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

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Beth Lee, City Clerk

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Joe Taylor, Mayor