RESOLUTION 2026-R-219

A Resolution Authorizing Participation in a Community Garden Project, Supporting an Application for a Grant from the Community Garden Project Fund, and Authorizing the Execution of Related Documents

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Irondale, Alabama (the "City") is authorized and empowered under the laws of the State of Alabama to promote the public health, safety, welfare of its residents;

WHEREAS, community gardens increase access to fresh produce, promote healthy living, provide educational opportunities, and foster neighborhood engagement and community building;

WHEREAS, the City desires to participate in a community garden project to be located in the City (the "Community Garden Project");

WHEREAS, Mary Catherine Lawson ("Ms. Lawson") will submit an application to the Community Garden Project Fund for the Community Garden Project, and the City desires to support Ms. Lawson's application and to partner with Ms. Lawson in establishing and operating the Community Garden Project on City property;

WHEREAS, Jones Valley Teaching Farm ("JVTF") administers the "Community Garden Project Fund," a grant program designed to help Good Community Food Fellows start new community gardens, strengthen existing ones, and increase neighborhood access to fresh produce and growing spaces;

WHEREAS, the Community Garden Project Fund provides in-kind infrastructure support, as well as one year of post-installation consultations by JVTF's Community Programs Manager, a five hundred dollar ($500.00) stipend for gardening supplies, and enrollment in JVTF's Seedling Share program providing free seedlings in the spring, summer, and fall;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Community Garden Project serves a valid public purpose by promoting public health, increasing access to fresh produce, providing educational and recreational opportunities, and fostering community engagement, and that the City's participation in the Community Garden Project and use of City property for the project are in furtherance of those public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that supporting Ms. Lawson's grant application, partnering with Ms. Lawson in establishing and operating the Community Garden Project, and permitting use of City property for that purpose are in the best interests of the City and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Irondale, Alabama, in regular meeting duly assembled, a quorum being present, as follows:

Section 1. **Approval of Community Garden Project and City Partnership.** The City Council hereby approves and authorizes the City's participation in, and partnership with Ms. Lawson in establishing and operating, the Community Garden Project within the city. The Community Garden Project may be located on any municipal property within the city. The initial proposed site is 6085 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, Alabama (the "Site"). The City consents to Ms. Lawson's use of the Site for the Community Garden Project.

Section 2. **Support for and Consent to Grant Application.** The City hereby supports Ms. Lawson's submission of an application to Jones Valley Teaching Farm for the 2026–2027 Community Garden Project Fund grant for the Community Garden Project.

Section 3. **Authorization to Execute Support and Related Documents.** Mayor James D. Stewart, Jr., or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute any letters of support, site consents, and any other documents necessary in connection with Ms. Lawson's grant application and, if awarded, the acceptance and implementation of the grant.

Section 4. **Reservation of Rights Regarding Site.** The City reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to relocate the Community Garden Project whenever the City deems appropriate for municipal purposes. No grant, partnership, or other agreement relating to the Community Garden Project shall create any vested property right in the Site or limit the City's authority to exercise the foregoing rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval.

ADOPTED & APPROVED: This 6th day of October, 2026.

David Spivey, City Council President

APPROVED:

James D. Stewart, Jr., Mayor

ATTESTED:

Leigh Ann Allison, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Leigh Ann Allison, the City Clerk of the City of Irondale, Alabama, hereby certify that the above to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Irondale at its regular meeting held on the 6th day of October, 2026, as the same appears in the minutes of record of said meeting.

Leigh Ann Allison, City Clerk