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Council authorizes Sports Foundation funds

Also awards \$299,963 street paving contract to Mallory Burkhalter

By **Burton Flanagan**
Special to *The Gazette*

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 27 the Northport City Council authorized a request from the Tuscaloosa Sports Foundation for an appropriation of \$20,000.

Chuck Citasson, representing the Sports Foundation, appeared before the Council and made the request for funding on behalf of the Foundation. The funds, Citasson said, would be used to attract major sporting events to the City of Northport as well as to all of Tuscaloosa County. Both the City of Tuscaloosa and

Tuscaloosa County had made financial commitments to the Sports Foundation, but both commitments were contingent on the City of Northport's financial participation.

Citasson indicated that an immediate goal of the Foundation was to get the State High School basketball championship back to Tuscaloosa. Don Staley, former head soccer coach at the University of Alabama, also appeared on behalf of the Foundation and outlined broader goals that the Foundation envisioned. He also pointed out to the Council that activities of this sort generated economic benefits, not only to Northport, but to Tuscaloosa

County as a whole.

Councilman Scott Collins expressed some concerns about the financial obligations required of the City of Northport. He questioned whether the \$20,000 commitment from Northport would be a one-time commitment or whether Northport would be expected to continue that commitment over an extended period of time. Citasson replied that the Foundation had requested only a one-year expropriation, but ultimately envisioned a three-year commitment. Citasson also stated that the Foundation had previously submitted a proposed budget to

♦ See Council, Page 4A