

City of Pelham
City Council Work Session
December 10, 2009

MINUTES

The City Council work session originally scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2009 was rescheduled to Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 6pm due to the visitation for Police Officer Philip M. Davis. Proper notification of the rescheduled work session was given to the media, department heads and the general public.

Members of the Pelham City Council met on December 10, 2009 at 6 p.m. with Council President Mike Dickens presiding. The meeting was held in the conference room of Pelham City Hall and was open to the public.

The following elected officials were present:

Don Murphy, Mayor
Mike Dickens, Council President
Teresa Nichols, Councilmember
Bill Meadows, Councilmember
Steve Powell, Councilmember
Karyl Rice, Councilmember

Media Present: None

Others present: Tom Seale, Gary Waters, Eddy Jowers, Mike Morgan, Vincent Cottone, Officer Pete Folmar, Fire Chief Danny Ray, Janis Parks, Butch Byrd, other city employees and members of the public.

The council work session was called to order by Council President Dickens at 6 pm. All elected officials were present.

Mr. Dickens recapped the events of the past week with regard to the death of Police Officer Philip Davis. He commented on how proud he was of the Mayor and city, very heartwarming. Mr. Dickens thanked the Mayor for his leadership.

Mr. Dickens reviewed the council agenda and noted the work session was called to discuss the proposed sewer rate increase and other business as time permitted.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Murphy spoke about the fine employees in both the police and fire departments and the tragic waste of life, referencing the events of the week, a tragic event to all those involved. We were able to get through it. The Mayor praised the 11-7 shift who worked with Officer Davis and the cooperation of all law enforcement agencies and thanked Human Resources and the Council for their support. The Mayor reported Chief Tommy Thomas had asked him to consider requesting the Council amend the salary budget in order to pay overtime during the past week when various shifts had to be covered. The Mayor thanked the many individuals and businesses who provided food for the Police Department.

Councilmember Teresa Nichols offered her support in amending the police salary budget if necessary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bill Meadows to approve the November 16, 2009 work session minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nichols and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Meadows to approve the November 23, 2009 work session minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karyl Rice and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance Director/City Clerk Tom Seale informed Mr. Dickens and the Council that Dana Payne, Principal of Valley Intermediate School, had requested the presentation by the school's Student Council Ambassadors be removed from the council's agenda and rescheduled to a later date due to a conflict.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-01 Authorizing Education Incentive for Certain City Employee

Dr. Nichols explained the reasoning on placing the resolution on the council agenda since this employee had petitioned the council several months earlier. The employee's request for the education incentive had been tabled pending completion of the education incentive ordinance. Councilmember Steve Powell recommended this request be denied due to the fact Mr. Ingleright had not gone through the established approval process. Mr. Meadows made a motion to remove Resolution 2009-12-07-01 from the December 7, 2009 council agenda. Dr. Nichols seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-02 Approval of Service Agreement with the Alabama Symphony

No discussion.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-03 ABC Application for Kumar Enterprises D/B/A Helena Road Shell, 9249 Helena Road, Pelham, AL 35124

No discussion.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-04 Authorizing Grant Application and Matching Funds for the Pelham Police Department

Mr. Meadows spoke of several different grants Pelham could apply for. Mr. Powell spoke in favor of the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-05 Authorizing Payment of Certain City Council Members Health Insurance

No discussion.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-06 Authorizing Proposals for the Financing of Police Vehicles

No discussion.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-07 Approval of Education Incentive Pay Eligibility

Dr. Nichols and Mr. Dickens commented to make sure all documents are properly approved by the Education Committee. Mr. Powell stated the resolution as written was not consistent with the Education Incentive Ordinance. He requested the following be removed from the resolution:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by approving these degree courses at this time, in no way guarantees the employees will be granted the education incentive pay upon completion of their degree, pending the results of a salary study currently underway which may or may not change the Education Incentive Pay plan for the City of Pelham.”

Mr. Powell read from the Ordinance regarding his question. A motion was made by Mr. Meadows and seconded by Dr. Nichols to remove Resolution 2009-12-07-07 from the December 7, 2009 council agenda. Mr. Powell and Mr. Meadows continued discussing the proposed resolution and its interpretation with regard to the Education Incentive Ordinance.

Mr. Dickens expressed his concerns with the resolution as written. Motion to table consideration of Resolution 2009-12-07-07 was withdrawn by Mr. Meadows and Dr. Nichols. The “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” portion of Resolution 2009-12-07-07 was removed in order for immediate consideration for passage by the council.

Mayor Murphy left the work session at 6:25 pm to attend a Planning and Zoning meeting.

RESOLUTION 2009-12-07-08 Authorizing Payment for Street Repairs to Stonehaven Trail

Mr. Powell questioned Public Works Director Eddy Jowers regarding the repairs to Stonehaven Trail.

ORDINANCE 156-3 Proposed Residential and Commercial Sewer Rate Increase

Mr. Dickens explained the three proposals for council consideration were identical except for the rate increase phase-in period of two years, three years or four years. Mr. Powell informed the council he had asked the city clerk to prepare the three year phase-in period option following the November 23, 2009 council work session as a compromise. Mr. Dickens polled the council and it was decided the two year sewer rate phase-in ordinance would be considered for passage by the council.

Mr. Dickens informed the Council, with Mayor Murphy's approval, he had asked Dr. Nichols to be the council's liaison with the Human Resources Department. He asked that all Human Resources issues be coordinated through Dr. Nichols and that she report to the council on a monthly basis.

Mr. Dickens spoke on the benefits extended to a family member by an employer. He called upon Benefits Coordinator Janis Parks to explain the benefits Officer Philip Davis' family would be receiving following his death. Mr. Dickens asked Ms. Parks to find out what additional benefits can be provided to Officer Davis' family by the City of Pelham above what current benefits will pay. He cautioned Ms. Parks to make sure any additional benefits the City would be able to provide would not interfere with current benefits. Mr. Meadows suggested getting with Ms. Parks and develop procedures in support of the employees and to make changes as needed.

Dr. Nichols informed the council that the Mayor had met with residents of Royal Chase on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 regarding their sewer lift station. Mayor Murphy told the residents of his commitment to resolve the issue and will continue exploring all options.

Mr. Meadows made a motion to adjourned, which was seconded by Dr. Nichols. The motion passed unanimously by all those present and the work session was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Seale', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Seale

Finance Director / City Clerk