

City of Pelham
City Council Work Session
January 4, 2010

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on January 4, 2010. 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, Officer Pat Cheatwood, Fire Chief Danny Ray, Janis Parks, Johnny Busby, Ho Lee, Lt. Pete Folmar, Roy Lambert, other city employees and members of the public.

The council work session was called to order by Council President Mike Dickens at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Steve Powell to approve the December 21, 2009 work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karyl Rice and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Murphy commented on the community's efforts in retiring the mortgage debt of Police Officer Philip M. Davis. A "kickoff" committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010 at City Hall to establish goals and objectives of the fund raising efforts. To date over \$51,000 has been raised toward a goal of \$200,000 to retire the mortgages of the Davis family. The Mayor informed the Council due to employee illnesses the ice rinks at the Civic Complex were closed on Thursday, December 31, 2009. The Mayor brought the Council up to date on the trees being cut on Oak Mountain State Park Road. The Mayor stated the property was not in the Pelham city limits and the owner had the right to remove the timber. He further stated the ownership of Oak Mountain State Park Road had not been established and the right-of-way was in question.

Review of Council Agenda

Mr. Dickens reviewed the council agenda for January 4, 2010 and noted other council business would be addressed in the work session as time permits. He noted other than a presentation by the Beautification Board there was no other business on the agenda. Mr. Dickens informed the

Council an ABC application for Pelham Shell had been received after the agenda had been approved on December 30, 2009. Mrs. Rice then moved to add Resolution 2010-01-04-01 regarding the ABC application of Pelham Shell to the January 4, 2010 council agenda. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present. Mayor Murphy and several council members addressed the owner of Pelham Shell, Mr. Ho Lee, about his business.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Powell presented the council a draft of a proposed ordinance he and city attorney Butch Ellis had prepared regarding employee benefits in a "line of duty" death. Mr. Meadows asked Mr. Powell if he had contacted other cities about this benefit. Mr. Powell said he had not spoken with any other cities. Mr. Meadows questioned the wording in the proposed ordinance with regard to a "violent and traumatic" death. Mr. Powell admitted the proposed ordinance has some shortcomings as written and he had added a paragraph with reference to a "sudden and unexpected death" to a second draft. Mayor Murphy asked how probationary employees would be addressed in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Powell further explained the draft was a starting point and was an effort to assist the families of employees who die in the line of employment with the City of Pelham. Mr. Powell noted the monetary impact this additional benefit would have on the City's general fund budget. Mr. Meadows discussed several scenarios regarding payment of this employee benefit. Former Fire Chief Gary Waters was asked to explain the benefits a firefighter receives in a line of duty death. Mr. Dickens asked how a firefighter "loaned" or on special assignment to another jurisdiction would affect the proposed ordinance. Additional discussion by Mrs. Rice, Mr. Dickens and Dr. Teresa Nichols followed. Mr. Powell asked the members of the Council to please call him with questions and concerns about the proposed ordinance as it moves forward.

Adjournment

Mrs. Rice made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Meadows. The motion passed unanimously by all those present and the work session was adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Seale
Finance Director / City Clerk