City of Pelham
City Council Work Session
February 1, 2010

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on February 1, 2010. The work session was held in the conference room of Pelham City Hall and was open to the public.

The following elected officials were present:

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

Media Present: None

Others present: Tom Seale, Gary Waters, Eddy Jowers, Officer Pat Cheatwood, Johnny Busby, Mike Morgan, Roy Lambert, Janis Parks, Butch Byrd, other city employees and members of the public.

The council work session was called to order by Council President Mike Dickens at 6:04 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Teresa Nichols to approve the January 18, 2010 work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bill Meadows and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Old Business

None

Review of Council Agenda

Mr. Dickens reviewed the council agenda for February 1, 2010 and noted other council business would be addressed in the work session as time permits.

Resolution 2010-02-01-01 authorizing the Mayor to sign a service agreement with the Exceptional Foundation of Alabama.

No Comments

Resolution 2010-02-01-02 authorizing the Mayor to sign a service agreement with The Salvation Army.

Councilmember Teresa Nichols questioned the state of incorporation (Georgia) contained in the service agreement.

Resolution 2010-02-01-03 ABC application for JCD, Inc., trade name Chicago Pizza Company, 3221 Highway 52E, Pelham, Alabama.

No comments.

Resolution 2010-02-01-04 ABC application for Swinford LLC, trade name Johnny Ray's, 309 Huntley Parkway, Pelham, Alabama.

Councilmember Steve Powell commented a prior ABC application was withdrawn on the request of the applicant. Mr. Powell stated he had personally spoken to the ABC agent-in-charge and everything was in order to proceed with the application. Mr. Powell thanked Police Chief Tommy Thomas, Holly Coffman and Tom Seale for expediting the application to the Council for consideration.

Ordinance 441 providing or allowing additional benefits to the beneficiary or estate of certain employees who are killed while on duty and acting in the line and scope of such employee's employment. (1st Reading)

Discussion among the council concerned the financial benefits to the estate or beneficiaries in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Powell stated the scope of the proposal had expanded from the original concept. Further discussion involved the tax liabilities to the estate and/or beneficiaries and accounting liabilities to the city. Mr. Powell said the dollar amount in the proposed ordinance was still a "fluid" number. Dr. Nichols asked Mr. Powell if contact had been made with the State of Alabama's Division of Risk Management. Mr. Powell stated he had called but the Risk Management Division had not returned his call. Councilmember Bill Meadows said he had not talked to the Risk Management Division but offered to call on behalf of the city.

Dr. Nichols made a motion to remove Ordinance 441 from the February 1, 2010 agenda to a later date and the motion was seconded by Mr. Meadows. Mr. Powell stated he presented the proposed ordinance to the council for consideration two weeks ago and further delaying a council decision on the proposed ordinance was not in the spirit to what was agreed to on January 18, 2010. Dr. Nichols said she felt uninformed to make a decision tonight. Mr. Meadows said he wants the city to be competitive and fair to the employees. He asked the council if there were any alternatives to meet the objective of providing additional insurance benefits to the employees and minimizing the financial impact to the city. Mr. Meadows further stated he did not have all the answers but wanted Pelham to be a city people wanted to work for. Mr. Powell stated again the $75,000 was a starting point and he was open to suggestions from the council in order to get the matter behind us. Dr. Nichols commented she did not have all the facts and also voiced concerns regarding potential liabilities to both the individual and city. Mr.

Dickens concurred with Mr. Powell that the $75,000 figure was a starting point and asked the members to discuss their concerns with Mr. Powell. Mr. Powell stated he wanted to get this matter behind us. Mr. Dickens agreed based upon the wishes of the council and further stated he would vote in support of the motion to remove Ordinance 441 from the agenda. Councilmember Karyl Rice noted this would be the first reading of the ordinance and changes could be made a later date. Mr. Dickens called for a voice vote to table Ordinance 441 which passed 3-2, with Mrs. Rice and Mr. Powell voting no.

Mr. Meadows spoke to the council about the Park and Recreation Grant applied for on February 1, 2010. He stated the grant would assist the city in providing picnic tables, garbage cans, grills and misting fans at several parks around the city and would also assist in renovations to the tennis courts at the Tennis Center.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Murphy elected to hold his comments to the regular council meeting.

New Business

Rick Hayes, President of Ingenuity, Inc. spoke to the council regarding a proposed utility evaluation survey of the city's power and telecommunications accounts. Mr. Hayes said he had worked a number of years for the city without a formal contract to provide these services. Dr. Nichols asked why a contract was needed now. Mr. Hayes stated a contract was needed in order to properly evaluate the power and telecommunications expenses of the city. The purpose of the survey is to identify savings within each account and pass those recommendations for savings along to the city. As its fee, Ingenuity would collect 35% of those savings realized over a period of three years. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Hayes to look into the cost of parking lot lighting at the Verizon Amphitheater and the computer links (Metro E) between the various city facilities. Mr. Meadows mentioned the possibility of obtaining grants to retrofit the city's buildings. Dr. Nichols commented the city needs to work smarter and save money. Mr. Dickens instructed the city clerk to place a resolution on the February 15th agenda authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Ingenuity, Inc.

Janis Parks, Human Resources' Benefits Coordinator, presented the council with a proposed revision and update to Administrative Policy 5 regarding e-mail procedures. The Human Resources Department was instructed to complete the revision and place on a future council agenda.

Dr. Nichols asked the council to place Goodwin, Mills and Cawood on the February 15, 2010 work session agenda for presentation of findings on their comprehensive streetscape project for the City of Pelham. Mr. Dickens instructed the city clerk to add Goodwin, Mills and Cawood to the work session agenda. The work session will begin at 5:30pm.

Adjournment

Dr. Nichols made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Powell. The motion passed unanimously by all those present and the work session was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Seale
Finance Director / City Clerk