City of Pelham

City Council Work Session

April 5, 2010

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on April 5, 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, Eddy Jowers, Roy Lambert, Butch Byrd, Officer Scott Bottchen, Gary Waters, Eddie Cottone, Sgt. Pat Cheatwood, Janis Parks, Mike Morgan, Jenny Gray, Lee Willoughby, Danny Brannon and other city employees and members of the public.

The council work session was called to order by Council President Mike Dickens at 5:37 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Teresa Nichols to approve the March 15, 2010 work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karyl Rice and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

New Business

Jenny Gray, Lee Willoughby and Danny Brannon from the auditing firm of Moses, Phillips, Young, Brannon and Henninger presented the 2009 city financial statements. Upon completion of the audit review, Councilmember Meadows asked the auditors, based upon their findings and in their opinion, what were the strengths, weaknesses and recommendations with regard to the city's financial position. Their comments were:

Strengths: Cash reserves.

Weaknesses: The Pelham Civic Complex, Pelham Racquet Club, Ballantrae Golf Club and the continuing escalation of payroll and employee benefits expenses.

Recommendations: Control costs.

Mr. Dickens thanked the Mayor and department heads for their cooperation and assistance in the preparation of the 2009 audit.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Murphy elected to hold his comments until council meeting.

Review of Council Agenda

Mr. Dickens reviewed the council agenda for April 5, 2010 and noted other council business would be addressed in the work session as time permits.

Resolution 2010-04-05-01 authorizing the Mayor to enter into a professional services agreement with Gallet & Associates, Inc. to provide professional engineering services and consultation performed relative to construction engineering inspection of a sidewalk along Ball Park Road, in the City of Pelham, Alabama, Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Project No. STMAA-TE09 (974) in an amount not to exceed $ 27,557.60. It was noted ALDOT requires engineering firms to be approved prior to the completion of the grant process. Mr. Meadows questioned why the City's Engineering Department could not be on ALDOT's approval list. Mr. Meadows spoke about in-kind services related to the park sidewalk project. Mr. Dickens asked the council to look at staffing in the Engineering Department during the FY2011 budget process.

Resolution 2010-04-05-02 accepting the FY2009 financial statements as presented by the auditing firm of Moses, Phillips, Young, Brannon and Henninger and requesting copies be kept on permanent file in the office of the City of Pelham's Finance Director / City Clerk. Councilmember Steve Powell made a motion that Resolution 2010-04-05-02 be considered as a "first reading" for the April 5, 2010 council agenda. Said motion was seconded by Mrs. Rice and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present. Mr. Powell further commented he would like the opportunity to review the financial statements prior to voting to accept.

Old Business

Resolution 2010-03-01-03 authorizing an extension of an agreement between the City and Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP to promote and maintain community infrastructure and development and to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Pelham, Alabama in the amount of $ 90,000 plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed $ 2,500 and amending the Administration's FY2010 budget in the amount of $ 60,000.

Mr. Dickens gave a brief recap regarding the approval of Resolution 2010-03-01-03 and the Mayor's veto. Mr. Dickens stated since the Resolution was not of a permanent nature it could not be vetoed by the Mayor. Mayor Murphy stated that the opinion he could not veto the Resolution was an "opinion". Mr. Dickens further stated he requested the reconsideration in approving Resolution 2010-03-01-03 and acknowledged receiving a letter from Bradley, Arant, Boult and Cummings, LLP withdrawing their contract proposal. Mr. Meadows requested to "lay the question on the table" regarding the motion to reconsider the Resolution. City Clerk Tom Seale commented the motion to reconsider must be addressed at the next regularly scheduled council meeting following the approval of a resolution and could not be tabled. Dr. Nichols stated the vote was a moot point since Bradley Arant had withdrawn their contract.

Mr. Powell made a motion regarding Ordinance 442 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 be removed from the agenda and consideration. Mr. Powell stated the reason for the motion was that research revealed that accidental death benefits equal to or better than those proposed in Ordinance 442 could be provided by enhancing insurance benefits. He referenced a recent presentation by the Human Resources Department indicating that the increased benefits could be provided for less than $2.00 per employee per month. Mr. Powell also referenced agreement by members to consider the insurance benefit changes in the upcoming budget. Said motion was seconded by Dr. Nichols and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present.

Adjournment

Without any further business before the council work session, Dr. Nichols 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 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF PELHAM CITY SEAL ALABAMA

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Tom Seale, Finance Director/City Clerk