

City of Pelham
City Council Work Session
September 20, 2010

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on September 20, 2010 at 6 p.m. 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: Neal Wagner, Shelby County Reporter

Others present: Tom Seale, Janis Parks, Marsha Yates, Maurice Mercer, Eddy Jowers, Butch Byrd, Gary Waters, Jerry Nolen, Roy Carpenter, Mike Morgan, Chief Danny Ray, Robin Wilkinson, Vince Cottone, Ken Camp, Bob Finnerty, Steve Holler, Mosley Johnson, Scott Bottchen and other city employees and members of the public.

The council work session was called to order by Council President Mike Dickens at 6 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Meadows to approve the September 13, 2010 work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powell and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Meadows to approve the September 17, 2010 special work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Karyl Rice and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Budget Discussions

Information Technology (IT) Manager Dell Ann Holly joined the work session by telephone. She was in Salt Lake City, Utah attending the annual police/court software conference. Several council members had previously questioned the computer and related expenses in the proposed FY2011 budgets. Mr. Powell and Mr. Meadows asked several questions regarding the needs of the city with regard to computers and computer replacements, including virtual desktops and connectivity among the various city buildings. Mrs. Holly explained the expenditures were necessary in order to maintain reliability within the computer network. She noted the police

department was already experiencing problems. Mr. Powell asked Mrs. Holly to continue investigating opportunities to reduce the computer expenses over the coming year.

Mr. Dickens provided the council with a worksheet regarding proposed contributions to the public schools in Pelham for the FY2011 budget. The council agreed with Mr. Dickens to fund the contributions in FY2011 based upon teaching units in the amount of \$ 129,417. Mr. Dickens requested the resolution authorizing the funding require each school to provide documentation for each purchase.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Murphy elected to hold his comments until council meeting.

Review of Council Agenda

Resolution 2010-08-16-07 Authorizing the execution of a contract and funding of United Way's "Success by Six Pelham Initiative" program in the FY2011 budget in an amount not to exceed \$ 250,000.00. There were no additional council comments.

Resolution 2010-09-20-01 Appointing various residents of the City of Pelham to the Industrial Development Board and Beautification Board. Dr. Nichols asked the Mayor how board appointments are recommended to the council for approval. Mayor Murphy stated requests are made to him by the residents of Pelham to serve on the various boards. He further stated recommendations from the Mayor, accompanied by a resume, are forwarded to the council for consideration.

Executive Session

Mr. Dickens, quoting the Open Meetings Act, "to discuss the consideration the government body is willing to offer or accept when considering the purchase, sale, exchange, lease or market value of real estate", requested the council enter into executive session. Mrs. Rice moved for the council to recess into executive session. Said motion was seconded by Dr. Nichols and there being no further discussion and by voice vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present. The council recessed into executive session at 6:33 p.m. and announced they would return at approximately 6:45 p.m. Those attending the executive session were: Mayor Don Murphy, Council President Mike Dickens, Councilmembers Teresa Nichols, Bill Meadows, Steve Powell and Karyl Rice. Following the executive session the council reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Old Business

Dr. Nichols requested a work session for the purpose of further discussing the proposed FY2011 budgets. Several council members commented on the difficulty in attending another work session. It was decided to recess the September 20, 2010 work session and reconvene following tonight's council meeting.

Members of the council discussed the possible revisions to Ordinance 247-4 (Retiree Health Insurance) with Human Resources Director Jerry Nolen.

Recess

Mr. Meadows moved to recess the work session and said motion was seconded by Mrs. Rice. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the work session recessed at 7:01 p.m.

Reconvene

The council reconvened at 7:42 p.m. following the regularly scheduled council meeting. Additional discussion occurred among the council members regarding the proposed FY2011 budgets. Per council request, Mayor Murphy provided a list of suggestions for the council's consideration in order to reduce the budget deficit. Those suggestions included but were not limited to:

1. Single Insurance Coverage
2. Remove Salary Cap on Retirement Income
3. Hiring Freeze
4. No Promotions
5. 3% Salary Reductions for all Employees
6. Reduce Weekly Hours
7. Furloughs
8. Eliminate Seasonal Positions
9. Consolidation of Staff Positions
10. Increase Lodging Tax
11. Reduction in Vehicle Fleet
12. Establish a Vehicle Take-Home Policy
13. Eliminate / Reduce Overtime
14. Reduce Commissions to Lesson Instructors
15. Suspend Education Incentive
16. Reduce the Engineer Budget
17. Retirement Buy-Out Options
18. Increase Racquet Club Dues
19. Adjust Pay Periods to 24 per Year
20. Review Fire Department Minimum Staffing Needs

With the exception of the removal of the salary cap on retirement income, Mayor Murphy stated he did not advocate any particular item on the list but was providing the information strictly for consideration and discussion purposes by the council.

Mr. Powell commented on Mayor Murphy's suggestions and stated the council would not have sufficient time to properly evaluate each item prior to approving the budget. Mr. Dickens thanked the Mayor for the suggestions to reduce or eliminate the budget deficits and asked the council to seriously review each item. Mr. Dickens told the council he would be making recommendations with regard to a lodging tax proposal and a vehicle take-home policy in the coming months.

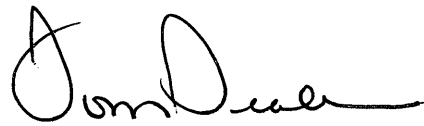
Mayor Murphy and Mr. Powell followed with additional comments.

The council agreed to the following: (1) Fund the public schools in Pelham in the FY2011 budget in the amount of \$ 129,417, (2) Review a possible increase in monthly dues at the Racquet Club, (3) Eliminate the consulting line item in the Engineering Department budget and (4) Add the crossing guards back to the Police Department budget. Crossing guard funding would be budgeted through the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The council requested the affected schools be notified there would be no funding in the 2011-2012 school year for the crossing guards. Funding for the Pelham High School football game replays would be budgeted for the remainder of the 2010 season (5 games) in the FY2011 budget. There will be no funding for the football game replays for the 2011 season. The council requested the football program be notified of the change.

Adjournment

Mr. Powell moved to adjourn the work session and said motion was seconded by Mr. Meadows. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the work session was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Seale, Finance Director/City Clerk

