CITY OF PELHAM

Council Work Session

Pelham City Hall – Council Conference Room
May 16, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on May 16, 2011 at 6 p.m. The work session was held in the Council 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 Bill Meadows
Councilmember Teresa Nichols
Councilmember Steve Powell
Councilmember Karyl Rice

Media Present: Neal Wagner, Shelby County Reporter

Others present: City department heads, city employees and members of the public.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Teresa Nichols to approve the May 9, 2011 work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Meadows and by voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Murphy elected to hold his comments until council meeting.

Review of Council Agenda

Mr. Dickens reviewed the council agenda for May 16, 2011.

E. Consent Agenda

(A consent agenda is presented by the Council President at the beginning of a council meeting. Items presented on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial and are organized apart from the rest of the agenda and are adopted by general consent without debate. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one member. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda is approved or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Council President and City Council.)

1. Approval of May 16, 2011 City Council Agenda.

2. Approval of the May 9, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes.

3. Approval of the following non-budgeted expenses from restricted fund accounts:

   a. Federal Forfeiture Account – Current Balance $ 79,966.66

      1. Purchase a 2011 Polaris Ranger 800 Crew vehicle in the amount of $ 13,132.53 and trailer in the amount of $1,867.47 for various uses by the Pelham Police Department.

         Mr. Meadows asked if the city has any other vehicle(s) like the Polaris Ranger and was told the fire department has one. Mr. Meadows asked if the existing one could be used by both the fire and police departments. The answer was no because the fire and police are assigned to different details.

F. Public Hearing - NONE

G. Mayor's Comments – held to be shared in the regular council meeting

H. Proclamations - NONE

I. Requests to Address the Council

State Senator Cam Ward with a Proclamation renaming a portion of Interstate 65 in honor of Pelham Police Officer Philip Mahan Davis.

J. Old Business

1. Resolution 2011-04-04-04 approving the Vehicle Policy Requirements and Reporting Guidelines.

   Mr. Meadows moved to replace Resolution 2011-04-04-04 currently under consideration with a revised Resolution 2011-04-04-04 which he distributed to the mayor and council. Dr. Nichols seconded the motion to replace the resolution.

   Under discussion, Mr. Powell asked that the resolution be tabled until the next council meeting to allow the council time to review the latest revision before voting. Mr. Meadows stated he did not want to table it. Mr. Powell pointed out an error in the next to last paragraph of the resolution, stating reporting mileage on the Quarterly Vehicle Commuting Report did not meet IRS regulations, and the wording was changed to read "report mileage per IRS proper documentation".

   Dr. Nichols stated she approved the revision. Mrs. Rice asked for a comparison of the original to the revised one, and Mr. Meadows read and commented on the revision. Mr. Powell felt the new resolution doesn't take into consideration specific needs of our city, and pointed out on-call employees need immediate access to vehicles with specialized equipment such as communication radios in order to respond to needs and be an asset to the citizens of Pelham.

Mayor Murphy stated the council is getting too close to running the mayor's office in regard to these vehicles and that we have employees living outside the city with on-call duty who need a vehicle. Dr. Nichols responded it is her understanding the task of establishing a vehicle policy is the responsibility of the city council. She further suggested on-call employees could use their personal vehicle to respond and get reimbursed.

Mr. Meadows shared statistics comparing Pelham to other cities regarding our number of police officers to number of residents ratio and pointed out Pelham has more police per 1,000 residents than other cities he studied.

President Dickens stated the purpose of Resolution 2011-04-04-04 was (1) to comply with IRS; and (2) to manage city vehicles in a prudent manner.

A vote to replace the original resolution with the revised version passed on a split vote 3-2. Voting for the revision: Mr. Meadows, Dr. Nichols and President Dickens; voting against the revision: Mr. Powell and Mrs. Rice.

K. New Business

1. Resolution 2011-05-09-02 for consideration of an ABC 050-Retail Beer license, (Off Premises Only) and 070-Retail Table Wine license (Off Premises Only) for applicant Dolgencorp, LLC, doing business as Dollar General Store 814, located at 3048 Pelham Parkway, Pelham, Alabama 35124.

2. Resolution 2011-05-16-01 for consideration to adopt a hiring freeze effective immediately for all City of Pelham departments for any position which is now or hereafter becomes vacant.

   Mr. Powell voiced he was against Resolution 2011-05-16-01 because it doesn't address current vacancies in some departments and because it contradicts a previously passed resolution where the council approved city organizational charts and positions for this fiscal year. Where an employee has resigned or retired, an approved position exists, and a hiring freeze would place added work on existing employees who have already been asked to make sacrifices as well as affect their ability to provide services to the residents. In the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, city employees received high marks for customer service and their ability to meet the citizens' needs. Mrs. Rice said she was against this resolution for the same reasons stated by Mr. Powell.

   Mr. Meadows and Dr. Nichols supported Resolution 2011-05-16-01. Mr. Meadows stated it would help ensure current employees have a job and not face layoffs down the road, and Dr. Nichols said it would support current employees by ensuring benefits and salaries remain solvent.

   Mayor Murphy opposed the resolution stating it sends a negative message that the city is in financial trouble which is not true.

3. Resolution 2011-05-16-02 for consideration of the acceptance and implementation of certain recommendations of the Mercer Compensation Program Study (June 2010) with regard to a new universal pay scale to become effective October 1, 2011.

   President Dickens went over Resolution 2011-05-16-02 and said it would be presented as a first reading tonight. Mr. Meadows and Dr. Nichols raised questions regarding new hires before October 1, 2011 be hired at the entry level on the new salary plan even though the plan would not take effect until October 1, 2011. Due to time constraints and because this was only a first reading, President Dickens moved on in order to clear the agenda.

4. Resolution 2011-05-16-03 informing the Department of Environmental Management of the actions taken by the Pelham City Council with regard to the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Program.

5. Resolution 2011-05-16-04 for consideration to approve the request of Advanced Waste Disposal to assign the garbage collection agreement between Advanced Waste Disposal and the City of Pelham to Republic Services per Section XVI of said agreement.

   Mr. Eric Kolb, representing Republic Services, explained his company has bought out Advanced Disposal and Republic Services will honor all sections of our current agreement with Advanced Disposal. Customers will have the same service, rates, and containers and will call the same customer service telephone number for garbage service.

L. Council and Public Comments

M. Public Announcements

   1. Rescheduling of the July 4, 2011 council meeting (4th of July Holiday) to July 11, 2011.

<u>Old Business</u> – AS TIME PERMITS

<u>New Business</u> – AS TIME PERMITS

<u>Announcements</u>

1. Rescheduling of the July 4, 2011 council meeting (4th of July Holiday) to July 11, 2011.

<u>Adjournment</u>

Mr. Meadows moved to adjourn the work session and said motion was seconded by Mr. Powell. The motion passed unanimously by those present and the work session was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Yates

Marsha Yates, Assistant City Clerk