

CITY OF PELHAM – WORK SESSION
Pelham City Hall – Conference Room
April 2, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Proper notice of the regularly scheduled Pelham City Council Work Session was given in advance of such public meeting and the notice remained posted throughout the scheduled meeting.

Members of the Pelham City Council met April 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The regular work session was held in the Council Conference Room in Pelham City Hall and was open to the public.

Call to Order

The work session was called to order by Council President Hayes at 6:04 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following elected officials were present:

Council President Rick Hayes
Councilmember Ron Scott
Councilmember Beth McMillan
Councilmember Maurice Mercer
Councilmember Mildred Lanier
Mayor Gary Waters

Media Present: Brianna Harris, Shelby County Reporter

Others Present: City Manager, city department heads, city employees and members of the public

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Lanier to approve the March 19, 2018 Regular Council Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMillan and passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present.

Mayor Waters' Comments – No Comments

City Manager's Comments

City Manager DiFante reminded the city council about asking who would like to serve on the city's Comprehensive Planning Committee. Council President Hayes, Councilmember Lanier, Councilmember McMillan and Councilmember Scott all expressed their willingness to serve. Councilmember Scott said he has interest and time to serve on the committee. He further stated he has been on seven or eight committees of this type and was the first to ask to serve. Councilmember McMillan and Councilmember Lanier stated they were also interested. Councilmember Lanier deferred to Councilmember Scott and Councilmember McMillan since she serves on the Planning Committee. Councilmember Lanier stated the Planning Commission would have input into the Comprehensive Plan.

Review of Council Agenda

Council President Hayes reviewed the April 2, 2018 city council agenda.

F. Public Hearing - None

H. Proclamations

1. Donate Life Month, represented by Sandy and Steven Sides
2. Child Abuse Prevention, represented by Cindy Greer with Owen's House
3. Parental Alienation Prevention Week, represented by Kenneth Pascal
4. Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge accepting the March 5, 2018 Mayoral Proclamation honoring their 150th Anniversary

J. Requests to Address the Council

1. Nicole Saia, candidate for Circuit Court Judge of Shelby County
2. Phillip Bahakel, candidate for Circuit Court Judge of Shelby County
3. Chief Larry Palmer, Detective Jason Vandiver and Ainsley Allison recognizing the Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge for a recent \$4,000 donation to the Police Department's drone program
4. Pelham Library Guild, presentation to the City of Pelham

K. Old Business / Resolutions / Ordinances / Orders and Other Business

1. **Ordinance No. 135-218** for consideration to amend the Code Of Ordinances, City Of Pelham, Alabama, Article XXVI Corridor Overlay District to Appendix A Zoning, Section 2 by adding certain rights-of-way along various streets and roads. The First Reading was on March 19, 2018.

Council President Hayes asked if city council had any thoughts, questions or concerns following the previous discussions regarding Ordinance No. 135-218. He further stated it may be necessary for some "clean-up" language regarding Ordinance No. 135-218 in the near future.

L. New Business / Resolutions / Ordinances / Orders and Other Business

1. **Resolution 2018-04-02-01** for consideration to accept the lowest responsible bid from Emergency Lighting by Haynes for emergency lighting and equipment for nine (9) new police vehicles

Chief Palmer stated bids were submitted by three vendors. He further stated Emergency Lighting by Haynes is a quality vendor whom the city has used in the past. Chief Palmer said the low bid came in just under the amount budgeted and he recommends approval.

2. **Resolution 2018-04-02-02** for consideration to approve a three-year contract with Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc. for the annual “Fire on the Water” fireworks show at Oak Mountain State Park

Mayor Waters stated China is in the process of establishing a similar OSHA safety program. He said fireworks pricing is expected to increase in the future. He further stated this resolution locks in our pricing for three years. Councilmember Mercer asked if better advertising for “Fire on the Water” would benefit the city. Mayor Waters said the city will have a meeting prior to the event with the state park officials. Discussion followed on the admission price to enter the state park to view the fireworks show. The consensus was \$10 per car load would be a fair price to enter Oak Mountain State Park.

Councilmember Scott said the city wants to be a good partner to Oak Mountain State Park. He suggested additional advertising to get people in the park early. Councilmember McMillan asked if the state park wants to participate the next three years. Mayor Waters said yes. Council President Hayes stated we should try to get more advertising for the city related to the event. Councilmember McMillan asked if the state park could use some of the fireworks gate receipts for capital improvements in the park. It was agreed the city would inquire about the use of the funds.

3. **Resolution 2018-04-02-03** for consideration to amend the City of Pelham Classification Pay Plan

City Manager DiFante stated she sent an e-mail to the council last Friday. She detailed the positions, job descriptions and pay scales. She suggested moving Public Works Director Eddy Jowers to the position of Manager of Water and Sewer. She further stated the other approved positions would be posted on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Council President Hayes said this recommendation comes to the city council for a confirmation of the actions of the Personnel Board. Councilmember Mercer asked if there are any other positions affected by these changes. City Manager DiFante said there will be layoffs effective May 1st related to positions that were no longer necessary. She said these personnel changes are budget neutral with 80% coming from retirements, not layoffs. Councilmember Mercer asked about a 60 day layoff notification. City Manager DiFante said the Civil Service Act only requires a 15 day notice. She said it was her intention to give a 30 day notice. Councilmember Lanier asked about the number of layoffs. City Manager DiFante said there would be a minimal number of employees impacted.

4. **Ordinance No. 488** for consideration to grant a non-exclusive right-of-way use to MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services, a fiber optic service provider. **FIRST READING**

Sean Jackson, representing Verizon, was present. He stated their primary objective is to provide support for Verizon from their cell towers back to their hub. Also, Verizon’s goal is to offer businesses along the construction route the opportunity to use fiber optics. Mr. Jackson said businesses will have the opportunity to use another vendor. He also stated Verizon will be paying franchise fees to the City of Pelham. Council President Hayes asked if Verizon would make fiber optics access available to city facilities. Mr. Jackson said that would be a possibility and confirmed that this was fairly common and had been requested by other cities. He stated he was not familiar with the locations of the city facilities but that Verizon would not run fiber optics outside the approved construction project just to serve city facilities. Council President Hayes said that was certainly understandable, but thought it was important that this issue be addressed. Mr. Jackson asked that this

agenda item be tabled so that this item could be addressed. City Manager DiFante said the city engineer is looking into an ordinance requiring city notification prior to any utility digging.

(End of April 2, 2018 Agenda Review)

Old Business

1. Discuss draft ordinance amendment related to City parks rules

City Manager DiFante said she had requested the draft ordinance be pulled from the agenda because the city attorney was out of town. She said it is important for Mr. Ellis to review the proposed ordinance prior to presenting to the city council. She stated Police Chief Larry Palmer and Park and Recreation Director Billy Crandall had done a great job drafting the ordinance. Council President Hayes said it was the intent of the ordinance to establish a set of park rules which would be reviewed on an annual basis.

2. Determine process and schedule for evaluation of Pelham Board of Education applications

Council President Hayes said the city council needs to consider interviews for candidates for Place 5 on the Pelham Board of Education and reminded everyone that state law calls for this appointment to be made during the month of April. He provided a list of previous interview questions for the city council to consider. Council President Hayes suggested dates and times for the interviews. Those dates were, Tuesday, April 10th or Wednesday, April 11th, at 5:00 p.m. It was agreed that the candidates would be contacted in an effort to get all three of the interviews scheduled for one of these evenings.

3. Review and evaluate potential financing alternatives

Council President Hayes distributed the October 31, 2012 and February 28, 2018 Cash Reports for comparison purposes and discussed the reduction in city debt from approximately \$46M in 2012 to approximately \$20M by the end of 2018. He addressed the additional funds available because of the significant reduction in city debt and mentioned that the Huntley Parkway sales tax rebate is ending in the second calendar quarter of 2018. He also discussed the city's parcels of property, which could be sold in the coming years and one significant payment that will be due the city in a few years. He stated the 2018 tax law changes have impacted the anticipated rates that are now in the 3.00% to 4.00% range depending on the term of the potential debt. Since the city's reserves are still strong and the city does not have a currently-defined capital need for the potential funds, Council President Hayes recommended against a new debt issue at this time and asked the council for their thoughts on this. City Manager DiFante said she agreed with the assessment. She further stated it was, in her opinion, wise to wait to get our comprehensive plan in place and develop a capital projects plan and that the bond market strongly suggests having a capital improvement plan in place prior to any additional borrowing requests. Council President Hayes said he feels that the city needs to rebuild cash reserves at this point, but without incurring any additional debt until there is a specific need or needs. Councilmember Lanier agreed the city should wait. Councilmember McMillan said with several capital projects in the construction or planning phase it is difficult to determine the exact financial needs of the city at this time.

New Business

Councilmember Scott mentioned a resident's difficulty with Advanced Disposal's recycling pick-up. City Manager DiFante said she has a scheduled meeting with Advanced Disposal in the coming week. She stated Paula Holly is working on an app where residents can report residential trash issues. She further stated she would report the results of her meeting with Advanced Disposal at the next city council work session.

Councilmember Scott asked about the city's newsletter, which is now featured monthly in the Pelham Reporter and the number of papers distributed.

Council President Hayes passed out a photograph of the suggested location of the historical marker in front of City Hall. He explained the proposed location of the historical marker and the reason for its placement. Those reasons included (1) This is an Alabama historical marker and we are suggesting aligning it with the Alabama flag pole; (2) Both sides of the marker can be read from the sidewalks (3) The current marker location is in the parking lot and in the right-of-way of Highway 31; (4) The proposed location offers better visibility, is a safer place to read and places the marker on city property. All agreed the recommended placement of the historical marker was a good location.

Councilmember Mercer passed out information related to an option for bringing a mass transit system to Pelham. He asked that the organization behind the initiative be allowed to meet with the city council in the coming months.

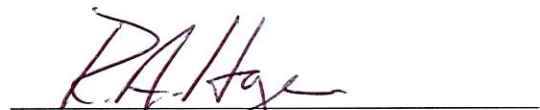
Chaney Mills announced the 15th annual Women's Pro Tennis Tournament is April 8-15, 2018 at the Pelham Racquet Club.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the work session was made by Councilmember Scott and seconded by Councilmember Mercer. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the work session was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of April 2018,


Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rick Hayes, Council President

