



WORK SESSION
Pelham Police & Court Building
January 6, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Proper notice of the regularly scheduled work session of the Pelham City Council was given in advance of such public meeting and the notice remained posted through the scheduled meeting.

Members of the Pelham City Council met January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The regular work session was held in the Pelham Police & Court Building 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: None

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott to approve the December 16, 2019 Regular Council Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mercer and passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Review of Council Agenda

Council President Hayes reviewed the January 6, 2020 city council agenda.

F. Public Hearing - None

H. Proclamations by the Mayor

1. Declaring January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month

J. Requests to Address the Council

1. Alan Miller, candidate for District Court Judge of Shelby County, Alabama
2. Attorney Brad McGiboney, representing Heebie Jeebies, LLC, regarding the denial of its application by the City of Pelham for an ABC 010-Lounge Retail Liquor License

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

1. **Ordinance No. 156-08** for consideration to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of Pelham, Alabama, by adding rules and regulations to Chapter 10, Article III, as Division 4.5 Low Pressure Sanitary Sewer Systems.

Council President Hayes reminded the city council Ordinance No. 156-08 was introduced as a first reading on December 16, 2019.

There were no additional comments or questions.

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

1. **Resolution 2020-01-06-01** for consideration to accept the lowest responsible bid for the relocation of certain water and sewer lines related to the replacement of the Shelby County Highway 52W Bridge

City Engineer Chris Cousins stated this is a water and sewer lines relocation project related to the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) Shelby County Highway 52W Bridge Replacement Project. He stated the lowest responsible bid was submitted by Apel Machine & Supply Co., Inc. in the amount of \$590,001.11. Mr. Cousins said he recommends approval of the bid by the city council which is contingent on ALDOT's final approval and the city validating the sub-contractor's proper licensing prior to beginning construction. He further stated that this is a reimbursable contract and the total cost to the city is \$6,240.00, which is a part of the FY2020 budget.

2. **Resolution 2020-01-06-02** for consideration to authorize a no-obligation, pre-application for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the purpose of providing low-interest financing for improvements to the City of Pelham's water and sanitary sewer infrastructure

Mr. Cousins stated the SRF pre-application is an effort by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to gauge interest in the program in 2020. He stated the water meter replacement project and the completion of the sanitary sewer repairs are a part of the pre-application. Mr. Cousins said the Ballantrae backup water supply line was removed from the pre-application pending further investigation and review by the city council. Councilmember McMillan asked to be provided information on the return on investment (ROI) for the meter replacement project. Council President Hayes stated the pre-application is due by March 1 with the formal application due in May.

3. **Resolution 2020-01-06-03** for consideration to reject all bids for a closed circuit television (CCTV) security camera system upgrade for the Pelham Police & Court Building

Police Chief Pat Cheatwood stated the bids were \$25,000 to \$90,000 over budget. He further stated the Police Department will reassess their needs and bring a recommendation back to the city council. He said he was unsure why the bids were so much higher than expected. Councilmember Scott asked if there were any concerns with the current system. Chief Cheatwood said there were no concerns at the present time. He further stated the current CCTV is analog and they were moving toward a high definition (HD) digital format.

4. **Resolution 2020-01-06-04** for consideration to approve the appointment of a Building & Zoning Official for the City of Pelham

City Manager DiFante introduced Angie Brown to the city council and reviewed her education and work experience. She stated the interview team had heard about Ms. Brown's ability to work with customers and explain changes. Ms. Brown thanked the city council for the opportunity to work with the City of Pelham. She said she is excited to begin work.

5. **Resolution 2020-01-06-05** for consideration to authorize the mayor to enter into a consulting agreement with Cobbs, Allen & Hall, Inc. with respect to the City's employee benefit programs

City Manager DiFante stated Director Human Resources Tracy Hill had previously provided information on this proposal to the city council. She said Cobbs, Allen & Hall will provide employee training and work as the city's benefits broker. She further stated we are looking forward to working with Cobbs, Allen & Hall.

6. **Resolution 2020-01-06-06** for consideration to approve an agreement for plumbing improvements at the City of Pelham Garage

City Engineer Chris Cousins stated the plumbing improvements are a part of the city's efforts in converting the old City Garage to a maintenance facility for the Facilities and Street Departments. He said a majority of the work is being performed by city staff. Mr. Cousins stated the city does not have a plumber on staff thus the need for hiring a licensed plumbing contractor.

7. **Resolution 2020-01-06-07** for consideration to enter into a collaboration with Clemson University Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management to develop a master plan for the City of Pelham Parks and Recreation

There were no comments or questions at this time since the presentation on this was scheduled for later in the work session.

8. **Resolution 2020-01-06-08** for consideration to approve a request by Verizon Wireless for modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 500 Houston Drive, Pelham, Alabama

David Aymett with the Center for Municipal Solutions (CMS), the city's telecommunications consultant, stated Verizon Wireless has made application to modify their equipment at the existing tower located at 500 Houston Drive. Verizon Wireless currently has twelve (12) antennas mounted on the tower. Mr. Aymett stated they are proposing to remove all of the existing antennas and replace them with new models. The total antenna count will not change. He said there will not be any adverse impact to the aesthetics of the facility. He said Verizon Wireless has complied with the city's Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance. Mr. Aymett further stated the upgrade to the existing tower is due to a change in technology. He said CMS has reviewed the application and recommends approval.

9. **Resolution 2020-01-06-09** for consideration to exercise an option renewal for 2020 with Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc. for the city's annual "Fire on the Water" fireworks show on Friday, July 3, 2020 at Oak Mountain State Park

Council President Hayes stated Resolution 2020-01-06-09 is to finalize pricing for the 2020 "Fire on the Water" fireworks show. Mayor Waters stated he had no concerns with approving Resolution 2020-01-06-09 as submitted.

(End of January 6, 2020 Agenda Review)

New Business

1. Introduce Building & Zoning Official Angie Brown – Andre Bittas

See discussion comments above regarding Resolution 2020-01-06-04.

2. Review Park and Recreation Master Plan Agreement – Clemson University Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management – D. McGirt

Mr. McGirt stated the city is excited about moving forward with this project. He said this process will give citizens, stakeholders, the school board and others the opportunity to provide input regarding the city's Parks & Recreation Master Plan. He introduced the Clemson University team of Dr. Bob Brookover and Dr. Brandon Harris. Dr. Brookover and Dr. Harris stated they were looking forward to the process, moving forward and growing the park and recreation opportunities in Pelham. Dr. Brookover complimented the city on the many amenities the citizens of Pelham already enjoy and said while completing these projects all over the country, he has never seen a city of Pelham's size that has anything like the current amazing Pelham facilities. They stated the needs assessment would be online for 4-6 weeks and they hoped to get 1,000 completed surveys. Dr. Brookover said the team will return in March to conduct focus groups, a town hall meeting and gather additional data. He said they will leave an initial assessment for review by the city council. Dr. Brookover said final approval by the city council will put in place a five year strategic plan. They stated the city council would receive their recommendations and report on or about March 10. They noted there is flexibility in the schedule.

Old Business

1. Update on Greenways/Trails – Andre Bittas and Keith Strickland, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood

Director of Development Services & Public Works Andre Bittas stated the greenways/trails projects fits well into what is happening in the city with regard to recreation opportunities. He thanked GIS Director Josh Osborne for his input. Keith Strickland with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood (GMC) said Phase 1 is under construction and on schedule. He said the first layer of asphalt is down and electrical work is ongoing. Mr. Strickland stated he anticipates Phase 1 to be completed in April 2020. He said he recommends Phase 1 be completed before officially opening the trail to the public. Mr. Strickland said the design for Phase 3 and Phase 4 is underway following a public involvement meeting (PIM) which was held several months ago. He said GMC is working toward finalizing the design which will transition into the acquisition of right of way after the environmental assessment is completed. He anticipated entering the right of way acquisition phase in early 2021 with the next phase of trail construction to begin in late 2021. Council President Hayes asked Mr. Strickland to provide the maps and comments from the PIM along with the primary trail alignments for the additional phases to the city council. Councilmember

McMillan discussed her concerns with the trail running along portions of U.S. Highway 31. Mr. Strickland mentioned he shared some of these same safety concerns expressed by members of the city council. Council President Hayes also mentioned his concerns about the trail design being changed to potentially run adjacent to Highway 31 along part of the previous Valley Elementary School property versus along Bishop Creek and the lake that has been envisioned for this area and noted some of the issues related to the design of the trails system.

2. Discuss Elected Officials Compensation and Voting Location

Council President Hayes asked the city council for their thoughts with regard to the elected official's compensation and voting locations. Councilmember Scott said he had seen nothing in the spreadsheet which would change his decision to not raise the salaries of the city council or mayor. He said due to changes in demographics he asked the city council to consider additional voting locations. He stated residents living east of I-65 have expressed their concerns about getting to the polls. He mentioned several reasons for having a second voting location in Pelham. He suggested the Senior Center as a consideration. He stated a second polling location could possibly increase voter participation in city elections. Mayor Waters stated establishing a second location should not be difficult. He volunteered to talk to Reggie Holloway with Shelby County about the possibility of establishing a second location. Councilmember Lanier stated the need to make voting accessible for all county, state and federal elections. Councilmember Mercer agreed with the thoughts of the other councilmembers. Council President Hayes suggested making voting as reasonable and easy as possible in order to increase or voter turnout. Councilmember Lanier asked for additional information on which cities included in the compensation survey have city managers. She asked about the mayor's compensation serving as the superintendent of the water department. Mayor Waters stated it was his opinion the salary was set to further increase the mayor's overall compensation. He stated his duties have been drastically reduced since the hiring of the city manager. He said his work load has been cut in half. He stated the city attorney had misgivings about the mayor not serving as the superintendent of the water department. Councilmember Mercer stated the need to consider and review compensation for elected officials. Councilmember McMillan said she was content with leaving the compensation as is. Councilmember Lanier stated the need to right-size the compensation and look at other cities as to what they are doing. She said it is important to be good stewards of the city's finances. Council President Hayes stated that he thinks all of the city council members are basically on the same page related to this and that when the elected official compensation analysis was completed in 2016 that cities with city managers were specifically considered in an effort to make sure that the compensation was appropriate and fair for everyone. He further stated we are probably in the right area with regard to compensation. He agreed with Mayor Waters and Councilmember Lanier with regard to the water department's superintendent position. He spoke to the need to address a change related to the superintendent compensation separately since it was approved in a standalone ordinance. Councilmember Scott asked if the mayor and city council compensation could be addressed in two separate ordinances. He stated his desire to move forward with the elected official's compensation, which was the consensus of the city council.

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 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of January 2020,



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Rick Hayes, Council President

