



WORK SESSION
Pelham Senior Center
April 5, 2021 – 5:30 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 throughout the scheduled meeting.

Members of the Pelham City Council met on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The regular work session was held in the Pelham Senior Center and was open to the public.

Call to Order

The work session was called to order by Council President Mercer at 5:30 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following elected officials were present:

Council President Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Larry Palmer
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Mildred Lanier
Mayor Gary Waters

The city clerk/treasurer recorded all members of the city council were in attendance and a quorum was present. Mayor Waters, City Manager Gretchen DiFante and City Attorney Josh Arnold were also in attendance.

Media Present: None

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Coram to approve the March 15, 2021 Regular Council Work Session Minutes and the March 29, 2021 Special Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wash and passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Old Business – None

New Business

1. Discussion – Appointment to Pelham Board of Education, Place No. 3

Council President Mercer distributed the council rankings of the Pelham Board of Education applicants. He asked what the pleasure of the council was in moving forward. Councilmember Coram suggested a second round of interviews. Councilmember Wash agreed. Councilmember Palmer spoke in favor of Mr. Plummer. Councilmember Lanier asked for clarification. Councilmember Coram made a motion to invite candidates Dr. Courtney Haun, Robert A. Plummer and Dr. Donna Ross for a second round of interviews. Said motion was seconded by Councilmember Wash. The motion passed by a majority vote of 4-1 of the city council with Councilmember Palmer dissenting. The second round of interviews will be held on April 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Discussion continued among the members of the city council on the format of the second interviews.

2. Discussion – Date and Times for Interviews for Various Boards & Commissions

Council President Mercer noted there is no deadline to appoint members to the various boards. Councilmember Coram suggested interviewing the candidates for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The city council agreed to conduct the interviews on May 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Council President Mercer asked the city clerk/treasurer to reopen the application process for several of the boards through April 2021.

3. Discussion – Selection of the Voting Delegate and Alternates for the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Business Meeting on May 14, 2021

It was the consensus of the council that Council President Mercer serve as Voting Delegate, Councilmember Coram as 1st Alternate Voting Delegate and Councilmember Lanier as 2nd Alternate Voting Delegate at the Alabama League of Municipalities annual business meeting on May 14, 2021.

4. Discussion – Adding Name to the Memorial Obelisk at City Park

Council President Mercer read into the record a letter from Martina Winston regarding the life of Destiny Arianna Kay Riekeberg, who passed away on September 17, 2020. Ms. Winston's letter is entered into the minutes as follows:

Monday, April 2, 2021

To the Mayor of Pelham and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Riekeberg family, I am writing this memorial remembrance request for consideration to the city of Pelham Mayor, Mr. Gary Waters and Pelham City Council members Council President, Mr. Maurice Mercer, Councilwoman, Ms. Mildred Lanier, Councilman Mr. David Coram, Councilman, Mr. Rick Wash and Councilman, Mr. Larry Palmer.

On September 17, 2020, the Pelham community celebrated Destiny Arianna Kay Riekeberg as she gained her angel wings peacefully and gracefully. Destiny, also known as "Desto" know too many was 9 years old and a 4th grader at Pelham Ridge Elementary School and the daughter of Lacretria and Dustin Riekeberg.

All of God's children are special but Destiny was a different kind of special. To know her was to love her – with great sass, beauty, wit, talent, and intelligence she was one of a kind. I had the pleasure of meeting Destiny the summer of 2017 at the Pelham Youth Cheer Camp hosted by the Pelham High School Cheerleaders. As one of the camp organizers as a member of the Pelham Park & Rec Football and Cheer

Board, I was able to observe Destiny's talents throughout the entire camp. Towards the end of the week, I walked up to her mom and introduced myself and told her that her that Destiny had something special and that I would love to personally help her along her cheer journey. From that moment on my relationship with the family begin. Destiny's passion for the things she loved was unique. She was an independent, determined fighter that would NOT give up and would push herself to greatness in everything that she did. She truly gave 110% in everything she set out to do, including battling cancer – it was a part of her DNA.

When Destiny was diagnosed with a rare form of childhood liver cancer in January of 2020, she instantly won over the lives of not only everyone in the Pelham community but touched lives from all across the world. Destiny battled this journey with such beauty and grace and with such an incredible faith in Jesus Christ. She will be forever remembered by Pelham community, children, men and women from all walks of life as the little warrior princess who was blessed to show us what it really meant to love and have faith and trust in God.

Destiny Arianna Kay Riekeberg will forever be a Pelham hero and this request to honor and celebrate her life, her legacy and her love for all things good will give us all hope to remember that blessings come when we least expect them.

"There's always a blessing to thank God for; the ones you are aware of, and the ones that you are not."

Sincerely,

Martina Winston

Friend of the Riekeberg Family

Destiny's Competition Cheer Coach

Pelham Park & Rec Football & Cheer Board Member

City of Pelham Personnel Board Member

Mayor Waters spoke to several options to honor the memory of Destiny Riekeberg. Members of the city council stated they were in favor of Mayor Waters' options. Council President Mercer asked the city council to consider ways to honor her memory.

5. Discussion – Naming of the Senior Center Activity Room

Councilmember Palmer spoke in favor of honoring Dick Paxton by naming the Senior Center Activity Room in his honor and memory. It was agreed to honor Mr. Paxton when the Senior Center reopens in May 2021.

6. Discussion – Proclamation Honoring Alex Reese, Basketball Player, University of Alabama

Councilmember Wash spoke in favor of honoring Pelham native Alex Reese following his game tying three point basket against UCLA in the 2021 college basketball tournament. Mayor Waters stated Executive Assistant Paula Holly will be drafting a proclamation to honor Mr. Reese which will be introduced at a future city council meeting.

Review of April 5, 2021 Council Agenda

Council President Mercer and City Manager DiFante reviewed the April 5, 2021 city council agenda.

F. Public Hearing – None

G. Mayor's Comments

H. Proclamation(s) by the Mayor

Proclaiming April 2021 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Pelham, Alabama

I. Report of the City Manager

J. Request(s) to Address the Council

Barry Blount, American Legion Post 555, recognizing participants in the 2021 American Legion Commander's Cup

K. Old Business / Resolutions / Ordinances / Orders and Other Business – None

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

1. **Resolution 2021-04-05-01** for consideration to approve a Service Agreement with the American Legion Department of Alabama Youth Baseball Association regarding the 2021 American Legion Baseball U19 Regional Baseball Tournament

There were no questions or comments from the city council.

2. **Resolution 2021-04-05-02** for consideration to authorize a 48 month lease/purchase agreement with Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A. for Ballantrae turf care equipment

Ballantrae General Manager Hal Brown explained the tractor purchase and answered questions from the city council. He stated funds are in the FY2021 budget for the purchase. He further stated the Kubota tractor will eliminate one employee position required in the mowing process at Ballantrae Golf Club.

3. **Resolution 2021-04-05-03** for consideration to approve a request by T-Mobile for modifications of equipment on the existing communications facility located at 198 Parkview Drive

David Andrews, with Center for Municipal Solutions (CMS), the city's telecommunications consultants stated T-Mobile has made application to modify their equipment on the existing tower located at 198 Parkview Drive. He said the existing tower is a 146 foot monopole tower and T-Mobile is currently providing service from this facility at a height of 125 feet. Mr. Andrews stated T-Mobile currently has nine (9) antennas mounted on the tower and thirteen (13) feed lines mounted inside the monopole shaft. He said T-Mobile proposes to remove three (3) existing antennas from the tower and replace them with three (3) new antennas. The thirteen (13) feed lines will remain and they propose to add one (1) additional hybrid feed line inside the monopole shaft. He further stated the antenna count will remain the same and this is not a substantial modification as defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and should not have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the facility. Mr. Andrews said CMS recommends the approval of the Special Use Permit.

4. **Resolution 2021-04-05-04** for consideration to approve a request by Verizon for modifications of equipment on the existing communications facility located at 2000 Bearden Road

David Andrews, with Center for Municipal Solutions (CMS), the city's telecommunications consultants stated Verizon Wireless has made application to modify their equipment on the existing tower located at 2000 Bearden Road. He said the existing tower is a 150 foot self-support tower and Verizon is currently providing service from this facility at a height of 150 feet. Mr. Andrews stated Verizon currently has

twelve (12) antennas mounted on the tower and eight (8) feed lines mounted on the face of the tower. He said Verizon proposes to remove six (6) existing antennas from the tower and replace them with six (6) new antennas. The eight (8) feed lines will remain and they propose to add one (1) additional hybrid feed line to the face of the tower. He further stated the antenna count will remain the same and this is not a substantial modification as defined by the FCC and should not have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the facility. Mr. Andrews said CMS recommends the approval of the Special Use Permit.

5. **Resolution 2021-04-05-05** for consideration to approve the procurement and installation of shade structures at the Pelham Dog Park

Parks & Recreation Director D. Tyrell McGirt spoke in favor of adding sun shades at the Pelham Dog Park. He stated having received numerous requests for the upgrade. The city council asked several questions regarding the durability, life expectancy and warranty of the shades. He said the shade structures are being purchased from a local vendor. Mr. McGirt said he would research the questions and provide the information to the city council. He further stated Vestavia Hills' Wald Park has installed the same type sun shade. City Manager DiFante said the purchase was coming through a state bid.

6. **Resolution 2021-04-05-06** for consideration to approve security improvements at City Park and the Pelham Public Library

Mr. McGirt stated the additional security measures would address issues which have arisen over the past several months. He said the security features will be installed to discourage certain activity in and around the City Park and Library.

7. **Ordinance No. 505** for consideration to declare that certain described real property of the City of Pelham, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes located along Welborn Street and described as Lot 1 in the corporate limits of the City of Pelham
FIRST READING

City Manager DiFante explained the city wishes to declare approximately .43 acres as surplus real property in order to sell said property to the Pelham Commercial Development Authority (CDA). She stated the property has more value to the CDA than the city.

(End of April 5, 2021 Agenda Review)

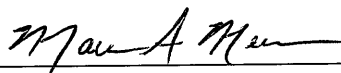
Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the work session was made by Councilmember Coram and seconded by Councilmember Wash. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the work session was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of April 2021.



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

