

THE CITY OF
PELHAM, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MEETING
Pelham Senior Center
August 16, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Date: August 16, 2021
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Pelham Senior Center
Present: Council President Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Larry Palmer
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Mildred Lanier
Mayor Gary Waters

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Councilmember Coram led tonight's invocation. Councilmember Palmer asked those in attendance to observe a Moment of Silence in honor and in the memory of Pelham Police Officer Juan Gomez. Officer Gomez passed away on August 14, 2021 due to complications from COVID-19. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Palmer.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The city clerk/treasurer recorded all elected officials were in attendance and a quorum was present. City Manager Gretchen DiFante and City Attorney Josh Arnold were also in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

A consent agenda is presented by the Council President at the beginning of a council meeting. Items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial, 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 the August 16, 2021 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the August 2, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of non-budgeted expenses from restricted fund account(s): None

Hearing no objections, Council President Mercer declared the consent agenda approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Waters spoke to the recent passing and the memory of Pelham Police Officer Juan Gomez.

PROCLAMATION(S) BY THE MAYOR – None

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

1. Chief Pat Cheatwood, Pelham Police Department
 - Officer Scott Duffey

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager DiFante made the following report to the city council:

- Provided “Kudos” and comments to the city council from the citizens of Pelham regarding city employees.
- Updated the city council concerning the ongoing negotiations for residential garbage service.
- Stated facilities being built and renovated and services provided in Pelham are being engineered to exact specifications. No corners will be cut.
- Noted Governor Kay Ivey’s August 13, 2021 Emergency Declaration regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases. She stated a mask mandate in city owned facilities was discussed with Mayor Waters, Fire Chief Mike Reid prior to implementation.

1. New Employee Introductions

a. Chief Mike Reid, Pelham Fire Department

- Firefighter James “EJ” Jackson
- Firefighter Jairius Mitcheam
- Firefighter Will Parker

b. D. Tyrell McGirt, Director of Pelham Parks & Recreation

- Kelsey Williams, Recreation Coordinator – Seniors
- Charlie Sanders, Recreation Coordinator – Athletics

c. Chief Pat Cheatwood, Pelham Police Department

- Officer Kevin Davis
- Officer Brent Ellis
- Officer Matthew Evans
- Officer Thomas Harold
- Officer Drew Pritchett
- Officer Richard Turner

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Councilmember Coram moved to recess the city council meeting in order to hold a public hearing for which proper notice had been given. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wash and approved unanimously by voice vote of those members present. The council meeting recessed at 7:47 p.m.

1. To consider Ordinance No. 135-241, an amendment to the zone district boundaries of the City of Pelham, changing the present zoning PUD PR-1 (Planned Unit Development) to PUD PR-2 (Planned Unit Development) for property located along Huntley Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124

Applicant: Grants Mill, LLC, 2106 Devereux Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Owner: Cole Investment Realty, LLC, c/o Eugene K. Cole, 1100 East Park Drive, Suite 400, Birmingham, Alabama 35235

Council President Mercer announced the public hearing was in session regarding the rezoning request as noted in Ordinance No. 135-241. He further stated the city council would now hear comments both for and against the consideration to amend the zone district boundaries of the City of Pelham.

Speaking in favor of the Rezoning:

- Price Hightower, owner of Tower Homes, 2106 Devereux Circle, Birmingham, Alabama, 35243, and Wade Lowery, EDG Engineering, spoke in favor of the rezoning. Mr. Hightower stated his intention is to construct 37 free standing townhomes along Huntley Parkway in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 price range.
- Ron Scott, 1332 Caliston Way, Pelham, Alabama 35124, spoke in favor of the rezoning. He stated adding roof tops enhances the economic impact of our city to current and potentially new businesses.

Speaking against the Rezoning:

- None

Council President Mercer called the August 16, 2021 City Council Meeting back to order at 7:57 p.m.

REQUEST(S) TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL – None

OLD BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 2021-08-16-01** for consideration to approve the city branding recommendations as submitted by BIG Marketing and Communications, Inc. was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-01 and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lanier thanked Communications Manager Ainsley Allison for her efforts and hard work in bringing the rebranding to the city council for consideration. Council President Mercer thanked Mrs. Allison and the citizens who participated in the rebranding survey.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-01 passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the council president declared the same passed and adopted.

2. **Resolution 2021-08-16-02** for consideration to adopt the City of Pelham Transportation Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Wash moved to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-02 and Councilmember Coram seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-02 passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the council president declared the same passed and adopted.

3. **Resolution 2021-08-16-03** for consideration to accept the lowest responsible bid from A.T. Mechanical for replacement of HVAC equipment at the Pelham Police & Court Building and to repeal Resolution 2021-08-02-05 in its entirety was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-03 and Councilmember Lanier seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-08-16-03 passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the council president declared the same passed and adopted.

4. **Ordinance No. 135-241** an amendment to the zone district boundaries of the City of Pelham changing the present zoning PUD PR-1 (Planned Unit Development) to PUD PR-2 (Planned Unit Development) for property located along Huntley Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124.

Applicant: Grants Mill, LLC, 2106 Devereux Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Owner: Cole Investment Realty, LLC, c/o Eugene K. Cole, 1100 East Park Drive, Suite 400, Birmingham, Alabama 35235

Ordinance No. 135-241 was introduced and read in its entirety by Council President Mercer as a First Reading.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 135-241 is available at Pelham City Hall and online at www.pelhamalabama.gov.

Council President Mercer announced this ordinance will likely be considered by the city council at a future city council meeting.

5. **Ordinance No. 509** for consideration to vacate a utility easement located at the intersection of Shelby County Highway 11 and Grey Oaks Parkway.

Ordinance No. 509 was introduced and read in its entirety by Council President Mercer as a First Reading.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 509 is available at Pelham City Hall and online at www.pelhamalabama.gov.

Council President Mercer announced this ordinance will likely be considered by the city council at a future city council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Individuals wishing to address the City Council may after being recognized approach the podium and state their name and address prior to making their comments in a respectful manner.

- Jonathan Hoffman, 237 Strathaven Lane, Pelham, Alabama 35124 spoke to the necessity in removing Pelham Board of Education Superintendent Scott Coefield from his position because of the recent mask mandate implemented by the Pelham Board of Education.
- Paige Hudson, 159 Birkdale Lane, Pelham, Alabama 35124, spoke to the need to have a special called Pelham Board of Education meeting to discuss the recently imposed mask mandate in the Pelham school system.
- James Stack, 2014 Runaway Drive, Helena, Alabama 35080, spoke to the mask mandate imposed by the City of Pelham and the Pelham Board of Education.
- Paul Combs, 19 Foxhound Trail, Pelham, Alabama 35124, spoke to the mask mandate imposed by the Pelham Board of Education.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram thanked those citizens in attendance tonight who spoke about issues on their minds. He stated he would speak to the Pelham Board of Education regarding comments heard tonight regarding the mask mandate.

Councilmember Palmer thanked those citizens who came out tonight to speak about issues of concern. He said it is good to have citizens present at council meetings.

Councilmember Wash thanked those residents who came out tonight to speak about issues on their minds. He encouraged citizens to attend city council meetings.

Councilmember Lanier echoed those comments of Councilmember Coram, Councilmember Palmer and Councilmember Wash regarding citizen attendance at council meetings and bringing matters of interest to the attention of the elected officials. She encouraged those in attendance to reach out and express their concerns about the mask mandate to the Pelham Board of Education. She recognized the Pelham City Schools Foundation regarding their recent activities. She thanked City Manager DiFante for the updates and noted the recent Community Associations Institute (CAI) and Homeowners Association (HOA) workshop.

Council President Mercer echoed those comments of Councilmember Coram, Councilmember Palmer, Councilmember Wash and Councilmember Lanier. He noted the attendance of the city council last week at the Public Information Meeting regarding the widening of Highway 261.

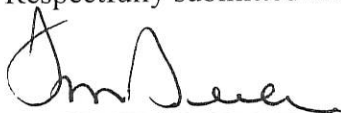
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Pelham City Offices will be closed Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day.

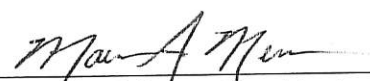
ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the council, Councilmember Coram moved to adjourn the council meeting and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of August 2021,



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

