

CITY OF PELHAM WATER DEPARTMENT

Pelham City Hall – Council Chambers

August 21, 2023

MINUTES

Proper notice of the meeting of the Pelham City Water Department was given at least 72 hours in advance of such public meeting and the notice remained posted throughout the scheduled meeting.

Members of the Pelham Water Department met on August 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Pelham City Hall. The meeting was open to the public.

Call to Order

The Pelham Water Department meeting was called to order by Council President Mercer at 5:00 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following members of the Water Department were present:

Present: Councilmember Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Chad Leverett
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Mildred Lanier-Reed
Mayor/Superintendent Mayor Gary Waters

Media Present: None

The city clerk/treasurer recorded the attendance of the elected officials and announced a quorum was present. City Manager Gretchen DiFante and City Attorney Josh Arnold were present.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Coram moved to approve the July 10, 2023 Water Department Minutes and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Old Business – None

New Business

1. Request to Address the Water Department – Kevin Klein

Kevin Klein, 1817 Hamilton Road, Pelham, Alabama 35124, addressed the Pelham Water Department regarding his residential utility bill. He noted the leak did not meet the metrics which would have

triggered a call from the Pelham Water Department. Mr. Klein said the leak was repaired but the sewer averaging will affect his billing for the next 12 months. Director of Development Services & Public Works Andre` Bittas and Chris Cousins provided background information on Mr. Klein's water leak and subsequent sewer fees. Mr. Bittas explained Mr. Klein's excessive water use did not rise to the 150% threshold for high use notification. He further stated Mr. Klein is not requesting a water leak adjustment but a recalculation of the sewer averaging as a result on the water leak. Mr. Bittas explained Mr. Klein did not meet the qualifications for an adjustment on his sewer billing. Discussion continued with Mr. Klein regarding when the leaks were discovered and repaired. Mr. Bittas explained the calculations used to determine the sewer rates. Mr. Bittas answered several questions from the Water Department about the bill procedures and notification procedures. The Water Department asked Mr. Bittas and Mr. Cousins to calculate the water usage from historical data. Mr. Bittas said he would provide the information to the city clerk/treasurer for distribution to the Water Department.

Mr. Bittas said they would review Mr. Klein's water usage and report back to the Water Department, which shall be a part of these minutes. He said removing the two highest months would not have much effect on his sewer rate.

2. Request to Address the Water Department – Barry Winn

Barry Winn, 2580 Martha Circle, Pelham, Alabama 35124, addressed the Pelham Water Department regarding his residential utility bill. Director of Development Services & Public Works Andre` Bittas provided background information on Mr. Winn's sprinkler system water leak and subsequent increase in sewer fees. Mr. Bittas explained the Water Department's process in following the approved refund policy. The customer was notified of high-water use on March 17, 2023 and April 20, 2023 via the city's automated system. He further stated Mr. Winn is not requesting a water leak adjustment but a recalculation of the sewer averaging as a result on the water leak. Discussion continued with Mr. Winn regarding when the leaks were discovered and repaired. Mr. Bittas explained the calculations used to determine the sewer rates.

Councilmember Wash made a motion the Water Department make the adjustments by removing the two highest months of water usage and recalculate the sewer rate. Councilmember Coram seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Adjournment

With no other business before the Pelham Water Department, Councilmember Wash moved to adjourn the Water Department meeting and Councilmember Coram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of August 2023.



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

[SEAL]