



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

SPECIAL WORK SESSION
Pelham City Hall – Council Chambers
August 22, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Proper notice of a special called 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 August 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The special called work session was held at Pelham City Hall in the Council Chambers and was open to the public.

Call to Order

The special work session was called to order by Council President Mercer at 5:01 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following elected officials were present:

Council President Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Chad Leverett
Councilmember Michael Harris, Jr.
Mayor Gary Waters

Media Present: None

Others Present: City department heads and city employees.

New Business

1. The B.E.A.T.

Trey Woodrow, representing the B.E.A.T., detailed the events planned for FY2025. The events include two dinner theaters in FY2025. He discussed grant opportunities and art classes being held at the Library. Mr. Woodrow mentioned partnering with the Shelby County Arts Council for programming. He detailed expenditures from the city's proposed contributions include bronze sculptures and landscaping projects. He said the city's contribution and the dinner theatres are their primary source of revenues.

2. FY2025 Department Budget Review

a. Communications and Branding

Communications Manager Ainsley Allison presented the proposed FY2025 Communications and Branding budget to the city council for review and consideration. Mrs. Allison stated the FY2025 budget request includes a communications specialist dedicated to the city's recreation venues. She highlighted the duties and responsibilities of the additional staff position. She noted specific areas and major changes in the Communications and Branding budget. Mrs. Allison said she would like to dedicate funding for digital and television advertising in FY2025. She mentioned the Placer AI database which would assist the city in its marketing efforts. The city council posed several questions regarding the department's operations.

b. Parks & Recreation

Finance Director Jamie Wagner presented funding options for the various capital projects requested by the Parks & Recreation Department. City Manager Gretchen DiFante detailed upgrades in City Park. Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper presented the proposed FY2025 Parks & Recreation budget to the city council for review and consideration. Parks & Recreation employees Alicia Walters and Grant Sasser were in attendance. He noted his department has divided the budget into six units for better accountability. Mr. Cooper discussed the FY2025 operational budget including programming, senior trips, and special events. He mentioned the conditions of the athletic fields and the need to address those maintenance issues. He explained increases in the budget include splash pad expenses and upgrades to the athletic fields. He noted the new playground was opened at City Park as well as Park 124. Mr. Cooper asked for two additional staff positions in FY2025. The city council asked several questions. There was discussion about the rescheduled Palooza in the fall due to its cancellation last spring because of weather.

c. Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) Director Chuck Crocker, Matt Griffin, and Ijaron Sumbry presented and highlighted the proposed FY2025 IT budget to the city council for review and consideration. He said the goal of the IT Department in FY2025 is to focus on a redesign of the data network connectivity to the city's 15 facilities. Mr. Crocker said they plan to add redundancy to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena network. He mentioned a one-time cost to upgrade the city's telephone network which will save approximately \$200+ per month. He stated the replacement of the police department's in-car laptops will be a major project in FY2025. Mr. Crocker continued with a review of the line items in the IT's FY2025 budget. Discussion continued between the city council and IT.

d. Pelham Racquet Club

Pelham Racquet Club Director Chaney Mills presented the proposed FY2025 Pelham Racquet Club budget to the city council for review and consideration. She thanked the city council for the Racquet Club renovations and software upgrades approved in the FY2024 budget. She said the new software program has really made a difference in the past year, including interaction with the Racquet Club membership. She noted 27% of the Racquet Club membership are Pelham residents. Mrs. Mills reviewed the economic impact of the Pelham Racquet Club in the Pelham area. She reviewed the various tournaments hosted each year. She asked to reclassify two existing positions. She stated salary and benefits continue to be a major part of the Racquet Club's operating budget. Mrs. Mills highlighted the major changes in the FY2025 budget versus FY2024, including fee increases. Discussion continued between the city council and Mrs. Mills. The city council thanked Mrs. Mills and her staff at the Pelham Racquet Club.

3. Review City Council FY2025 Budget Meeting Schedule

Old Business – None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the special work session was made by Councilmember Leverett and seconded by Councilmember Coram. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the special work session was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of August 2024.



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

