



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
September 16, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Date: September 16, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Pelham City Hall – City Council Chambers
Present: President of the Council Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Chad Leverett
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Michael Harris, Jr.
Mayor Gary Waters

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Wash led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Life Scout Cliff Windham, an Eagle Scout candidate.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A consent agenda is presented by the presiding officer at the beginning of a council meeting. Items presented on the consent agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial, are organized apart from the rest of the agenda, and are adopted by general consent and vote by the city council without debate. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one member. Removed items may be considered either immediately after the consent agenda is approved or placed on the agenda at the discretion of the presiding officer and City Council.

1. Approval of the September 16, 2024 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the September 4, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2024-09-16-01** for consideration to accept the most responsive and responsible single bid and enter into an agreement with Mark Johnson Construction, LLC for RAS pump replacements at the Pelham Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project has been budgeted in FY2024.
4. **Resolution 2024-09-16-02** for consideration to request the Board of Directors of the Campus No. 124 Cooperative District to dissolve said District on a date certain pursuant to Section 11-99B-15, Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.
5. **Resolution 2024-09-16-03** for consideration to request the Board of Directors of The Canopy Cooperative District to dissolve said District on a date certain pursuant to Section 11-99B-15, Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.
6. **Resolution 2024-09-16-04** for consideration to approve a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Pelham, Alabama, Morin Process Equipment, Inc., and CED Real Estate, LLC.

7. **Resolution 2024-09-16-05** for consideration to opt-out of recent and future PFAS legal settlements, per the recommendation of the City's legal counsel, Beasley Allen.

Council President Mercer stated the complete text of the agenda, minutes, ordinance(s), and resolutions are available at Pelham City Hall and online at www.pelhamalabama.gov.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented by Council President Mercer. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

Council President Mercer asked the city clerk/treasurer for a roll call vote. The vote to adopt the Consent Agenda was recorded as follows:

Maurice Mercer, Council President	<u>Yes</u>
David Coram, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Chad Leverett, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Rick Wash, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Harris, Jr., Council Member	<u>Yes</u>

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda passed unanimously by roll call vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) – None

MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Mayor Waters reviewed the history of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States of America. He read the Preamble to the Constitution in its entirety and made additional comments.

PROCLAMATION(S) AND RESOLUTION(S) BY THE MAYOR AND OTHERS

Mayor Waters declared September 17-23, 2024 as Constitution Week in the City of Pelham. Neville Peacock was in attendance to accept the proclamation from Mayor Waters. Mrs. Peacock addressed the city council.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments.

- IT, Communications, Finance, and the Building Department are working with the ERP vendor to update the outward-facing modules of our software. This will enable the public to enter the city's system with one login for all communications. Currently, 311, Enterprise Licensing, and Permitting require two separate login accounts. All active accounts will transfer, but users will have to take one additional step to grant permission to link the accounts.
- The Police Department has acquired a new/old motorcycle. You can expect to see Officer Jason Barksdale riding his newly branded motorcycle as he pulls you over to advise you of your speed or other traffic violations. We appreciate the council's willingness to support this additional tool which has been helpful in promoting traffic safety.
- Pelham Racquet Club
 - The 55 & Over Southern League Championship Tennis Tournament was held this past weekend at the Pelham Racquet Club. Each team has competed and won at the local and state level. All teams are playing to see who qualifies for the national tournament.
 - The tournament started with about 700 players. With Hurricane Francine looming, USTA Southern gave teams a window on Wednesday to withdraw without penalty. Primarily to give the tennis players in the coastal communities a chance to stay home, if desired.

- 640 players stayed in the tournament and competed. The tournament continued late each night. When the rain would finally stopped we could get the courts ready for play. Since this was such a large tournament, we used the Pelham Racquet Club, Pelham Tennis Center, and the Hoover Met. Public Works, Street, and Parks & Recreation helped us divide and conquer, and get through the weekend.
- The USTA Southern staff was thrilled and extremely complimentary of the effort made by the city staff.
- We had two divisions that had to finish the end of their matches this morning. Despite the weather, we got to play the entire tournament which was an incredible accomplishment.
- We received a lot of compliments on the city's tennis facilities, restaurants, and the area overall. Congratulations to Chaney Mills and her team at the Pelham Racquet Club.
- The Pizza Hut and Travelodge buildings are being demolished this week.
- Oak Mountain Amphitheatre posted a comment earlier today that Post Malone would be the last concert. This comment started a rash of media calls and set keyboard warriors all a buzz. We reached out to Live Nation, and they corrected the post to say Post Malone is the last concert of the season. Live Nation officials tell us nothing has changed. Their new site in Birmingham is still planning to open next year, but we do not have an estimated completion date.
- We will continue to partner with Live Nation as they bring quality entertainment to our city. When Live Nation announces a date for a change for the venue, the city will do everything to work with them to ensure the property remains vital to the success of Pelham.
- I want to thank the citizens who have taken the time to email, call, and come to City Hall to meet with city staff and ask questions about the FY2025 budget. As you can imagine, local governments receive a lot of negative feedback about many things. While staff is very proud of the work, we accomplish each day, we do not often get to have long, productive conversations with residents. When someone takes the time to read through the material, craft questions, and listen to our answers, and ask more questions, it is incredibly rewarding for us. We work hard, are proud of what we do, and truly enjoy sharing what, why's and how's of our job with our customers.

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

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 2024-09-16-06** for consideration to approve an Eagle Scout Project to construct exercise stations and install benches in Carroll Park previously approved by the Pelham Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, pending review and approval by a structural engineer was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Eagle Scout candidate Cliff Windham, Pelham Troop 404, reviewed his proposed Eagle Scout Project at Carroll Park with the city council.

The city council voiced their support of Mr. Windham's Eagle Scout Project.

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Resolution 2024-09-16-06 and Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion.

There were no additional questions or comments from the city council.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2024-09-16-06 passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the council president declared the same passed and adopted.

2. **Resolution 2024-09-16-07** for consideration to approve the FY2025 Operating and Capital Budgets, and Debt Service Schedule was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Leverett moved to adopt Resolution 2024-09-16-07 and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

Council President Mercer thanked City Manager DiFante and city staff for bringing a balanced budget to the city council for consideration. There were no additional questions or comments from the city council.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2024-09-06-07 passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the council president declared the same passed and adopted.

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 physical address prior to making their comments in a respectful manner.

- Neville Peacock, 2435 Dalton Drive, Pelham, Alabama, asked the city council to be a part of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.
- Madelyn Rasco, 1017 Stoneykirk Road, Pelham, Alabama, founder of The Following Faith Foundation, addressed the city council. Ms. Rasco is the recently crowned Miss Shelby County Teen 2025. She spoke in support of her non-profit organization which educates, advocates, and provides funding for people living with Spina Bifida. Ms. Rasco said the fundraising opportunities include “Crowns for a Cause” Walk and Roll-a-Thon for Spina Bifida. She said the next fundraising event will be on October 5th from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon at Fun-Go-Holler. Councilmember Leverett thanked Ms. Rasco for attending tonight's city council meeting and providing information on The Following Faith Foundation.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram stated we are blessed to live in Pelham and have young people who want to contribute to our community.

Councilmember Leverett stated the 4th annual Dinner Theater, hosted by the B.E.A.T., is this weekend at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. He said a few tickets are still available.

Councilmember Wash introduced his 83-year-old mother, Janice Wash. He said his mom is attending her first Pelham City Council meeting. Councilmember Wash announced his candidacy for the office of mayor of Pelham in 2025 and asked for prayers for his family.

Council President Mercer thanked the citizens of Pelham for reaching out to the city's administration to answer their questions and concerns about the FY2025 budgets. He stated the budget passed tonight is the citizen's budget. He further stated the approved budgets will be available online tomorrow. Council President Mercer said the Birmingham Business Journal has recognized The Canopy for their outstanding contributions to the city.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

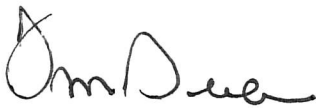
1. Pelham Parks & Recreation will hold a Co-Ed Youth Lacrosse Clinic on Saturday, September 21st from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per player, and the clinic is for children ages 8-13. Registration ends September 18th.
2. Salsa in the Park is Sunday, September 22nd from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The event is free.
3. Pelham Parks & Recreation will hold a Co-Ed Youth Soccer Clinic on Monday, September 30th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per player, and the clinic is for children ages 5-12.
4. Pelham's National Night Out is Tuesday, October 1, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Pelham City Park. Come meet Pelham's first responders and several community organizations. There will be free hot dogs, chips and drinks, while supplies last.

5. Shelby County will host a Free Landfill Day on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Landfill does NOT accept hazardous waste, tires, batteries, or liquids of any type.
6. The City of Pelham has partnered with a local company to provide free document shredding and electronic recycling services for residents on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They will set up in front of Pelham City Hall. Please visit the City's website for additional information.
7. Pelham Parks & Recreation will host a dog day on October 5, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Well behaved dogs that are spayed/neutered and up to date on all vaccines are invited.
8. Youth basketball registration is open now for children in grades 3-6. The last day to register is October 7th.
9. A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Pelham City Hall to consider **Ordinance No. 135-263** an amendment to the zone district boundaries of the City of Pelham changing the present zoning A-1 (Agriculture District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District) for property located at 1600 Shelby County Highway 33, Pelham, Alabama 35124, containing approximately 3.72 acres (+/-) of vacant, mostly wooded property.
10. A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Pelham City Hall to consider **Ordinance No. 135-264** an amendment to the zone district boundaries of the City of Pelham changing the present zoning R-1 (Residential District) to A-1 (Agriculture District) for property located at 694 Shelby County Highway 35, Pelham, Alabama 35124, containing approximately 3.75 acres (+/-) of vacant, mostly wooded property.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Coram moved to adjourn the council meeting and Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of September 2024.



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

