



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
January 22, 2025 – 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: January 22, 2025
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 7:11 p.m. Councilmember Leverett led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Coram.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

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.

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 January 22, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the January 6, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2025-01-22-01** for consideration to declare certain personal property (bleachers) of the City of Pelham's Parks & Recreation Department, which are no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, as surplus, and donate to the Pelham Board of Education.
4. **Resolution 2025-01-22-03** for consideration to approve the job description and pay scale for a new position in the Pelham Fire Department (Chief of EMS and Training Division).

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 - None

PROCLAMATION(S) AND RESOLUTION(S) BY THE MAYOR AND OTHERS - None

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER - None

REPORT BY THE CITY ATTORNEY - None

REQUEST(S) TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

1. Dr. Chuck Ledbetter, Superintendent, Pelham City Schools, addressed the city council. He discussed and provided an update on the activities of the school system, including long-range goals. At the request of the city council, Dr. Ledbetter discussed class size, bus transportation, and the school system's plans for growth over the next few years. He also addressed additional subdivisions and the impact on Pelham City Schools.
2. Sam Woodall addressed the city council regarding his Eagle Scout Project to clean the tombstones of veterans at the Pelham City Cemetery. He discussed the detailed plans, cost estimates, volunteers assisting, and the timeline to complete the project. The city council spoke in support of the project.

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

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 2025-01-22-02** for consideration to enter into a Broker Listing Agreement extension with Mark Dinan, Broker, for the sole and exclusive right to sell, trade, convey, or exchange city owned properties located at Oak Mountain Trail (Shelby County Highways 52E and 35) was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Wash made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01-22-02 as presented by Council President Mercer. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01-22-02 passed by voice vote of 4-1 of those members present with Councilmember Coram dissenting. The President of the Council 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.

- Jasmine Gagner, 532 Creekview Drive, Pelham, Alabama 35124, addressed the city council and commented on the remarks by Dr. Ledbetter. She expressed her concern regarding overcrowding in our schools. She asked the city council to remember the city's is "A Path Apart" and hopes we do not destroy our environment.
- Leon Johnston, 1738 Morgan Park Drive, asked the city council to endorse Sam Woodall's Eagle project and support it financially. He further asked the city council to fix and repair the cemetery.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram thanked Dr. Ledbetter and his staff for tonight's presentation. He congratulated his daughter's 7th grade girls' basketball team at Pelham Park Middle School for their 14-2 record this season.

Councilmember Leverett commented on Carrie Underwood's singing of "America The Beautiful" at President Trump's inauguration on Monday. He invited everyone to attend his church's annual a cappella singing this Friday at 7:00 p.m. at the Riverchase Church of Christ.

Councilmember Wash thanked Dr. Ledbetter, Superintendent of Pelham City Schools, Kim Kiel, Assistant Superintendent, Pelham Board of Education Member Shannon White, and the Pelham Board of Education staff for tonight's presentation. He said we have worked very hard over the past several years to bridge cooperation between the city and school system. He noted his many family members in the education profession. He said teaching is a calling, and they do not hear enough about how they touch student's lives.

Council President Mercer echoed the comments of his fellow councilmembers regarding the presentation by Dr. Ledbetter and staff. He said our partnership is great and planning is important. He noted being married to an educator, as well as his mother being an educator. He said he has a special place in his heart for teachers.

Mayor Waters commented on retiring City Clerk/Treasurer Tom Seale's last council meeting. He stated Tom is a man of integrity, a hard worker and honest. He stated having enjoyed working with Tom for these many years. He personally thanked Tom for all the hard work he had put in. He noted Tom has worked for three Pelham mayors during his career with the City of Pelham. Mayor Waters thanked Tom for all he has done for the city.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. The Pelham City Council is accepting applications and resumes through Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. from those Pelham residents who would like to be considered for an appointment to one of the following municipal boards: Pelham Board of Education, Pelham Storm Water Board, Pelham Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeal, Pelham Commercial Development Authority, or the Pelham Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The application is on the city's website at www.pelhamalabama.gov. The city clerk/treasurer will acknowledge receipt of the application and resume by email.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Coram moved to adjourn the council meeting and Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of January 2025.



Tom Seale, MMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

