



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

---

**Pelham City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
April 21, 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:** April 21, 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 7:00 p.m. Mayor Waters led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Harris.

## 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 April 21, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the April 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2025-04-21-01** for consideration to approve the 2025 contract with Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc. for the City's annual "Fire on the Water" fireworks show on Thursday, July 3, 2025 at Oak Mountain State Park. This expense was budgeted in FY2025.
4. **Resolution 2025-04-21-02** for consideration to authorize the purchase of software from CivicPlus to improve the City's internal workflows and provide more accessible digital services for residents
5. **Resolution 2025-04-21-03** for consideration to accept a Network Designation Grant award from Innovate Alabama
6. **Resolution 2025-04-21-04** for consideration to accept a proposal from Pinnacle Custom Signs to install one (1) Gateway sign on Shelby County Highway 11 near the entrance of Wild Timber. This project was budgeted in FY2025.

7. **Resolution 2025-04-21-05** for consideration to approve a summary change order from Eagle Pro, LLC for HVAC improvements at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Project No. 6223008. This project was budgeted in FY2025.
8. **Resolution 2025-04-21-06** for consideration to approve a summary change order from Total Mechanical Services, Inc. to amend the original contract amount for services related to the Turbo Chiller replacement project at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Project No. 6223006. This project was budgeted in FY2025.

Council President Mercer stated the complete text of the agenda, minutes, ordinances, and resolutions are available at Pelham City Hall and online at [www.pelhamalabama.gov](http://www.pelhamalabama.gov).

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

There being no further discussion, 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> |

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

1. Mayor Waters retroactively proclaimed April 18, 2025 as Two Lights for Tomorrow Day in Pelham, Alabama, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere’s ride through Boston, Massachusetts.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- CSX will be making railroad crossing improvements this weekend and a detour will be made through Highway 52 and Highway 261 in Pelham.
- Reviewed a report highlighting the achievements of the City’s zoning and enforcement team which has made a positive impact for the City.
- Noted over 1,700 people attended this year’s Paws in the Park event.
- Noted over 250 attended the Friday night dinner at Ballantrae Golf Club where 400 pounds of crawfish were enjoyed.
- The new fencing at the Tennis Center is almost completed, the new pavilions by the playground and splash pad are underway, and the new NHL street hockey rink project has broken ground.
- Former City Clerk/Treasurer Tom Seale recently found out he is going to be a grandfather.

REPORT BY THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

REQUEST(S) TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL – None

OLD BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 135-267** for consideration to repeal and replace the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Pelham, Alabama. (**First Reading was on April 7, 2025**)

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Ordinance No. 135-267 as presented and Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Council President Mercer asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 135-267.

The roll call vote 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> |

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 135-267 passed unanimously by roll call vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 2. **Ordinance No. 288-16** for consideration to amend and repeal certain sections of Chapter 5 of the Pelham, Alabama Code of Ordinances pertaining to business licenses. **(First Reading was on April 7, 2025)**

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Ordinance No. 288-16 as presented and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

Councilmember Wash thanked everyone involved who worked on the updates to the zoning ordinance and business license ordinance. Council President Mercer echoed Councilmember Wash’s comment on behalf of the city council.

There being no further discussion, Council President Mercer asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 288-16.

The roll call vote 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> |

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 288-16 passed unanimously by roll call vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 3. **Ordinance No. 522** for consideration to alter, rearrange, and extend the corporate limits of the City of Pelham by annexing certain real property owned by Stephen Allen Thompson and Mary Jeanette Thompson, Parcel Nos. 14 4 18 4 001 099.001 and 14 4 18 4 001 005.003, containing approximately 1.12 acres, located at 1063 Shelby County Highway 72, Pelham, Alabama 35124. **(First Reading was on April 7, 2025)**

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Ordinance No. 522 as presented and Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Council President Mercer asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 522.

The roll call vote 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> |

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 522 passed unanimously by roll call vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 4. **Ordinance No. 523** for consideration to alter, rearrange, and extend the corporate limits of the City of Pelham by annexing certain real property owned by Benjamin Thompson and Katie Thompson, Parcel No. 14 4 18 4 001 005.009, containing approximately 1.510 acres, located at 1060 Shelby County Highway 72, Pelham, Alabama 35124. **(First Reading was on April 7, 2025)**

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Ordinance No. 523 as presented and Councilmember Wash seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Council President Mercer asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 523.

The roll call vote 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> |

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 523 passed unanimously by roll call vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

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

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.*

- Russell Platt – 2233 Richmond Lane, Pelham, AL 35124 – regarding the Pelham Board of Education appointment.
- Misty Gillispie – 108 Indiancreek Drive, Pelham, AL 35124 – regarding the Pelham Board of Education appointment.
- Aaron Wilkes – 102 Stone Road, Pelham, AL 35124 – regarding the Pelham Board of Education appointment.
- Seth Self – 713 Crosscreek Trail, Pelham, AL 35124 – regarding the Pelham Board of Education appointment.
- City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale stated he received a phone call from Pelham resident Terry Hockaday who had recent business with the Pelham Zoning Board of Adjustment. He stated Mr. Hockaday was extremely complimentary of the board members and the City staff members who assisted him.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram commented on the Pelham Board of Education appointment.

Councilmember Leverett commented on the Pelham Board of Education appointment.

Councilmember Wash commented on the Pelham Board of Education appointment.

Councilmember Harris thanked Executive Director Seth Greenberg and the staff at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena for all their hard work this hockey season.

Council President Mercer commented on the Pelham Board of Education appointment.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Walk for Christ, 5K, and Home Run Derby will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Home Run Derby will feature a showdown between the Pelham Police Department and Pelham Fire Department.
- 2. The Pelham Palooza will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Pelham City Park.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city 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 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of April 2025.

  
-----  
Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
-----  
Maurice Mercer, President of the Council



