



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Pelham City Hall Council Conference Room June 2, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Members of the Pelham City Council met on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. The regular work session was held in the Council Conference Room at Pelham City Hall and was open to the public.

Call to Order

The work session was called to order by Council President Mercer at 4:30 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following elected officials were present:

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

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.

Media Present: Shelby County Reporter, ABC 33/40, and CBS 42

Others Present: City department heads, city employees, and members of the public

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Coram to approve the May 19, 2025 Regular Work Session Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris. There being no further discussion, the President of the Council announced the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Old Business – None

New Business

1. Review – Master Plan Proposal from Williams Blackstock Architects

City Manager Gretchen DiFante was joined by Stephen Allen, President of Williams Blackstock Architects and Amy Sturdivant, President and CEO of 58, Inc. She stated the purpose of the master plan process is to create a shared vision of the former Oak Mountain Amphitheater property. She said the team has chosen the charette* format to bring all stakeholders to the table, including the public, and gain a general consensus for the vision of the property.

**A Charrette is a collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a master plan that represents transformative community change.*

Mr. Allen spoke to the charette process and the unique opportunity to work on a project of this significance. He said it is special to be able to craft something on a property that has provided so many memories to the citizens of Pelham and the greater Birmingham area. He said the public would be an integral part and would be invited to provide input and ideas during the information gathering session(s).

Ms. Sturdivant stated she is excited to be a part of this project. She said the charette format will allow for a fast-tracked timeline to get input from residents and from those who have visited the property over the years.

City Manager DiFante stated the public sessions are currently scheduled for the week of July 22, 2025. She noted grant funds from Innovate Alabama as well as funds from the Economic Development budget would be used for the project. Ms. Sturdivant spoke to the Innovate Alabama grant funds and clarified using said funds on the master plan project is an approved expenditure.

The members of the city council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Stephens, Ms. Sturdivant, and the City staff members who worked on the proposal currently under consideration. It was agreed that having input from the community at the beginning of the project is important and the decisions made will last for decades.

2. Presentation – FY2026 Budget

City Manager Gretchen DiFante and Finance Director Jamie Wagner presented the FY2026 budget.

The members of the city council noted the positive impact the new budget format has had on making the City of Pelham more transparent. They specifically thanked Mrs. DiFante and Mrs. Wagner as well as the City staff for their time and effort working on the budget.

It was the consensus of those members of the council present the adoption of the FY2026 would be considered at a future city council meeting.

Councilmember Leverett excused himself from the work session at 6:01 p.m. It was noted for the record a quorum of the city council was still present.

Council President Mercer and City Manager Gretchen DiFante reviewed the June 2, 2025 city council agenda.

E. 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 and 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 taken up either immediately after the consent agenda is approved or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the presiding officer and City Council.

1. Approval of the June 2, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the May 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2025-06-02-01** for consideration to authorize and enter into a Management Agreement (Amendment No. 1) with VenuWorks of Pelham, LLC for an additional five-year term for the operation and management of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

City Manager Gretchen DiFante stated representatives from VenuWorks attended the last work session and noted the positive partnership that has been created over the past four years.

4. **Resolution 2025-06-02-02** for consideration to enter into a five-year agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for body cameras. This project was budgeted for FY2025.

There were no questions or comments from any member of the city council.

5. **Resolution 2025-06-02-03** for consideration to accept grant funds from Cawaco RC&D on behalf of the Pelham Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike Reid stated the Pelham Fire Department applied for a \$15,000.00 grant through Cawaco RC&D for the purchase of a new LUCAS Device, which assists first responders during lifesaving emergencies by performing critical chest compressions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Coram to move Resolution 2025-06-02-03 from the consent agenda and add to the regular agenda under new business. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wash.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and Council President Mercer declared the same passed.

6. **Resolution 2025-06-02-04** for consideration to authorize a recruitment campaign partnership agreement with WBRC on behalf of the Pelham Police Department. This project was budgeted for FY2025.

Communications Manager Ainsley Allison stated previous marketing campaigns for the City have been successful. She said this campaign would be for the recruitment of police officers in four key markets

through television, email, social media, and YouTube. She reviewed statistics from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office and Mountain Brook Police Department who ran similar campaigns last year.

Police Chief Ed Delmore stated the difficulties recruiting police officers is not unique to Pelham, it is a nationwide problem. He said the four markets selected for this initial campaign are Birmingham, AL, Montgomery, AL, Louisville, KY, and St. Louis, MO.

F. Public Hearing(s) – None

G. Mayor's Report/Comments

H. Proclamation(s) and Resolution(s) by the Mayor and Others – None

I. Report by the City Manager

J. Report by the City Attorney

K. Request(s) to Address the Council – None

L. Old Business / Resolutions / Ordinances / Orders and Other Business – None

M. New Business / Resolutions / Ordinances / Orders and Other Business

1. **Resolution 2025-06-02-05** for consideration to accept a proposal from Gray's Tree Service, LLC for debris removal from Cahaba Valley Creek and to authorize amending the FY2025 Development Services & Public Works budget

Director of Development Services & Public Works André Bittas stated debris and fallen trees need to be cleared from a certain portion of Cahaba Valley Creek. He said the City does not own the proper equipment to perform the work.

2. **Resolution 2025-06-02-06** for consideration to accept a proposal from Williams Blackstock Architects for master plan visioning, due diligence, and feasibility study of the former Oak Mountain Amphitheater property

There were no comments or questions from any member of the city council.

(End of the June 2, 2025 Agenda Review)

Executive Session

Council President Mercer stated for the record the purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet being litigated, but imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body pursues a proposed course of action under Section 36-25A-7(a)(3), Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.

City Attorney Josh Arnold stated the purpose of tonight's Executive Session is appropriate under Section 36-25A-7(a)(3), Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.

A motion was made by Councilmember Coram to enter into an Executive Session of the city council for the stated purpose. Said motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris.

Council President Mercer asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote. The vote to adopt said motion was recorded as follows:

Maurice Mercer, Council President	<u>Yes</u>
David Coram, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Chad Leverett, Council Member	<u>Not Present</u>
Rick Wash, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Harris, Jr. Council Member	<u>Yes</u>

Council President Mercer noted the Executive Session would take place in the Council Conference Room and asked the members of the City Council, Mayor Waters, City Manager Gretchen DiFante, Assistant City Manager Justin Smith, Director of Development Services & Public Works André Bittas, City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale, and City Attorney Josh Arnold to attend the Executive Session. Council President Mercer stated, per City Manager Gretchen DiFante, he expected the city council to return from the Executive Session in approximately 30 minutes. The city council went into an Executive Session at 6:21 p.m.

It was noted for the record the Executive Session would be reconvened following tonight's city council meeting.

Council President Mercer called the June 2, 2025 work session back to order at 7:02 p.m.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to recess the June 2, 2025 work session. Councilmember Wash seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present and the work session was recessed at 7:03 p.m.

The Executive Session was called back to order at approximately 8:00 p.m. and the members of the city council, with the exception of Councilmember Leverett, Mayor Waters, and City Attorney Josh Arnold were present.

Councilmember Coram moved to adjourn the Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the Executive Session was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Council President Mercer called the June 2, 2025 city council work session back to order at 9:06 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the work session was made by Councilmember Coram and seconded by Councilmember Harris. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the work session was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of June 2025.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

