



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
June 2, 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: June 2, 2025
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Pelham City Hall – City Council Chambers
Present: President of the Council Maurice Mercer
Councilmember David Coram
Councilmember Rick Wash
Councilmember Michael Harris, Jr.
Mayor Gary Waters

Not Present: Councilmember Chad Leverett

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Councilmember Wash 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 June 2, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the May 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
1. **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
2. **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.
3. It was noted for the record **Resolution 2025-06-02-03** was removed from the Consent Agenda by unanimous vote of the city council during the June 2, 2025 work session.
4. **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.

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.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented by Council President Mercer. Councilmember Harris 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>Not Present</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

Mayor Waters read a written statement regarding the FY2026 budget preparation and presentation. He expressed his appreciation to the City Manager and City staff members for their hard work preparing the budget early this year.

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

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- According to the rain gauges at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, the rainfall for May 2025 was 11 inches compared to the May average of four inches.
- A digital draft copy of the FY2026 Budget will be made available on the City's website.
- The number of visits to the Pelham Racquet Club, Ballantrae Golf Club, Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, and City Park have outpaced the annual visits to Oak Mountain State Park. The Pelham Senior Center saw an increase from 7,600 annual visits to just under 15,000.
- The first summer program at the Pelham Public Library had over 100 children attend.
- Stated, pending approval by the city council, Williams Blackstock Architects will help lead the process of creating a master plan for the former Oak Mountain Amphitheater Property. She said the public will be a key group and will have the opportunity to provide input and ideas during the week of July 22nd at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

REPORT BY 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 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 was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06-02-05. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

Council President Mercer noted a resident brought to this matter to the attention of City staff regarding the need to clear a portion of Cahaba Valley Creek from storm debris.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06-02-05 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 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 was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06-02-06. Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06-02-06 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 3. **Resolution 2025-06-02-03** for consideration to accept grant funds from Cawaco RC&D on behalf of the Pelham Fire Department was introduced by Council President Mercer.

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.

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Maples and Chief of EMS and Training Roy Simpson provided a demonstration of the LUCAS Device.

Chief Reid introduced Paul Housel, North Alabama Operations Manager at The Cosby Company. Mr. Housel stated he was excited to be at the city council meeting and celebrate Cawaco RC&D and the grant award. He introduced Alabama State House Representative Arnold Mooney, Alabama State House Representative Kenneth Paschal, and Alabama State Senator Dan Roberts who each played a role in helping secure this grant for the Pelham Fire Department. He also introduced Erin Hackenmueller representing Cawaco RC&D.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06-02-03. Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06-02-03 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and 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.

- Bill Blank – 720 Cahaba Manor Court, Pelham, AL 35124 – Announced the American Legion Baseball game will be held on June 7, 2025 at the Helena Sports Complex. He also announced a flag retirement ceremony will be held on June 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pelham City Cemetery.
- Cathy Cartagena – 100 Stonehaven Way, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding the proposed budget and asked for services to be included for those with disabilities and language barriers.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram stated he was fortunate to attend the commissioning ceremony of one of his former Cub Scouts who recently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Councilmember Wash thanked the Pelham Fire and Police Departments for being the best at what they do. He encouraged everyone to stop and shake the hand of a first responder and thank them for their service to our community.

Councilmember Harris thanked Fire Chief Mike Reid and the Pelham Fire Department for all they do. He said they saved his uncle’s life when he went into cardiac arrest.

Council President Mercer thanked the Pelham Fire Department for the training and work they do to save citizens' lives. He said he attended the BAPS Charities Walk/Run at Oak Mountain State Park over the weekend which raised money and awareness for Kids to Love, ALS, and United Cerebral Palsy. He said it was a great event to be at and noted several state and other representatives were in attendance.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Qualifying for the 2025 Pelham Municipal Election begins Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and concludes promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Please contact City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale with questions by calling 205.620.6404.
2. The City of Pelham will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Pelham City Cemetery, home to the City's designated flag retirement pit. Residents are invited to bring worn or tattered American flags for proper and respectful disposal. If unable to attend, flags may be dropped off in advance at The Home Depot on Pelham Parkway, in the flag retirement box at the Pelham Senior Center, or at any Pelham Fire Station, and they will be included in the ceremony.
3. Pelham City Offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in observance of Juneteenth.
4. The City of Pelham will host its annual *Fire on the Water* celebration in partnership with Oak Mountain State Park on Thursday, July 3, 2025. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. with activities, music, food trucks, and more. The fireworks show begins at 9:00 p.m. Gates will close promptly at 7:00 p.m. to allow ample time for everyone to make their way to the beach before the show. Please plan accordingly.
5. Pelham City Offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025 in observance of Independence Day.

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 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of June 2025.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

