



City Council Minutes

Pelham City Hall - Council Chambers July 7, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Proper notice of the regular 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.

Call to Order

Council President Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Invocation

Mayor Waters led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Mercer.

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. Councilmember Coram was not 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.

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 Harris 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>Not present</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.

1. Approval of the July 7, 2025 City Council Agenda

2. Approval of the June 16, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. Resolution 2025-07-07-01 for consideration to establish the rank of Master Sergeant in the Pelham Police Department and approve the revised Public Safety Classification Pay Plan
4. Resolution 2025-07-07-02 for consideration to declare certain items (vehicles/equipment/supplies) of the Pelham Police Department as surplus personal property and to authorize the disposal of the same
5. Resolution 2025-07-07-03 for consideration to accept a proposal from Chambliss King Architects for additional architectural and engineering services for the City Park Renovations project. This project was budgeted for FY2025.
6. Resolution 2025-07-07-04 for consideration to reject the sole bid for the Heather Ridge Well Electrical Upgrades project and accept the lowest negotiated price from ICS, Inc. This project was budgeted for FY2025.
7. Resolution 2025-07-07-05 for consideration to accept a proposal from Sain Associates for construction and engineering inspection services related to the U.S. Highway 31 lighting replacement project
8. Resolution 2025-07-07-06 for consideration to approve the final change order for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase III project
9. Resolution 2025-07-07-07 for consideration to accept a proposal from Advanced Landscaping, LLC for landscape services related to the Pelham City Park entrance sign project. This project was budgeted for FY2025.
10. Resolution 2025-07-07-08 for consideration to accept a proposal from Advanced Landscaping, LLC for landscape services near the Pelham Gateway sign located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 31 and Highway 261. This project was budgeted for FY2025.
11. Resolution 2025-07-07-09 for consideration to enter into an easement agreement with Alabama Power Company for electrical services located near the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena
12. Resolution 2025-07-07-10 for consideration of a request by AT&T for a special use permit for modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 5010 Oak Mountain Lane

Public Hearing - None

Mayor's Report/Comments

Mayor Waters made no additional comments.

Proclamation(s) and Resolution(s) by the Mayor and Others - None

Report by the City Manager

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

1. Thanked those who attended Fire on the Water at Oak Mountain State Park on July 3, 2025. She said every year it seems to get better. She thanked the City staff and public safety officials who made it a great, safe event. She said early estimates are around 5,500 people attended the event this year. She also thanked Fire Chief Mike Reid and his team for working with the State Park to make the swimming area safer.

2. Jordy Henson, friend and developer of the City of Pelham, passed away over the weekend after battling ALS. Council President Mercer asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Henson's honor.

1. Pelham Police Officer LaVita Scott regarding the Fairview Heights Police Youth Academy and Kayla Scott, Most Athletic Female of 2025, 50th Session

Police Chief Ed Delmore stated he has been involved with and an advocate for community policing for many years. He said he asked Officer LaVita Scott to observe the Fairview Heights Police Youth Academy in Illinois.

Officer LaVita Scott reviewed her time spent at the Academy and noted her excitement about bringing a program like this to the City of Pelham. She also stated her daughter, Kayla, attended the Academy and won the Most Athletic Female of the 50th Session. She stated the City of Pelham will hold its first Police Youth Academy during the summer of 2026.

Report by the City Attorney

No comments were made by the City Attorney.

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 2025-07-07-11 for consideration to set the time and date of a public hearing for the purposes of accepting property for a sewer easement and lift station in the Eagle Cove subdivision

Councilmember Leverett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07-07-11. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

It was noted for the record a public hearing would be held on August 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall to consider this topic.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07-07-11 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

2. Resolution 2025-07-07-12 for consideration to appoint citizens to serve as Election Officials for the 2025 Pelham Municipal Election

Councilmember Wash made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07-07-12. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

Council President Mercer read the list of names in their entirety of those citizens recommended for appointment as election officials.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07-07-12 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

3. Resolution 2025-07-07-13 for consideration to authorize an agreement with Alabama Power Company for public safety services

Councilmember Leverett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07-07-13. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07-07-13 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

4. Resolution 2025-07-07-14 for consideration to authorize the payment of the final invoice from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) related to the Industrial Park Drive and Bearden Road sidewalk project

Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07-07-14. Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07-07-14 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.

1. Russell Platt, 2233 Richmond Lane, Pelham, AL 35124 - Regarding political campaign behavior on social media.
2. Chris Townes, 2332 Dalton Drive, Pelham, AL 35124 - Announced her candidacy for Pelham City Council Place No. 3.
3. Barry Winn, 2580 Martha Circle, Pelham, AL 35124, Thanked the Mayor and everyone involved with the flag retirement ceremony held on Flag Day at the Pelham City Cemetery.

Council Comments

Councilmember Coram was not present.

Councilmember Leverett thanked Chief Reid, Chief Delmore, and the public safety officials who made Fire on the Water a great success. He noted the water safety improvements in the swimming area of the lake. He stated he is not immune to personal attacks and noted they are not fun. He said his heart goes out to those it is happening to.

Councilmember Wash thanked everyone for being here tonight at the city council meeting. He thanked Officer Scott for her vision and investing in our youth. He commented on the social media campaign challenges and noted how easy it is to point fingers. He said it is okay to disagree but we have to do so in a respectful way.

Councilmember Harris thanked Chief Delmore and Officer Scott for empowering the youth and bringing this program to the City of Pelham. He thanked the Pelham Police and Fire Departments for keeping everyone safe at Fire on the Water.

Council President Mercer thanked Chief Delmore and Officer Scott for leading the future group of Youth Academy members. He noted the success of Fire on the Water and thanked those who had a hand in keeping everyone safe. He also noted the negative comments and posts on social media and said personal attacks in a campaign have no place in this election. He said if you support one candidate, there is no reason to spread hate against the opponent.

Public Announcements

Adjournment

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Harris 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 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of July 2025.



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer

