



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
September 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: September 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
Mayor Gary Waters

Not Present: Councilmember Michael Harris, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Wash 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 September 22, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the September 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2025-09-22-01** for consideration to accept a proposal and enter into an agreement with Skipper Consulting, Inc. for a traffic signal warrant evaluation study located at the intersection of County Road 11 and Grey Oaks Parkway. 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 Leverett 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>Not Present</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. Proclaiming September 2025 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Waters, by proclamation, declared September 2025 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Pelham, Alabama. Accepting the proclamation from Mayor Waters was the Riekeberg Family, representing the Destiny StrongER Organization.

2. Proclaiming September 2025 as Hunger Action Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Waters, by proclamation, declared September 2025 as Hunger Action Month in the City of Pelham, Alabama. Accepting the proclamation from Mayor Waters was Jada Winston.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- Reported Shelby County has completed grading and drainage work for the next phase of the Pelham Greenway Trail project. Paving bids will be opened on October 7, 2025.
- Edgar’s Bakery is currently hiring staff and plans to open its new Pelham location in early November.
- Riverchase Kia is undergoing a \$4 million renovation project. While construction is underway, the dealership is operating from temporary trailers. She noted this represents a significant investment in Pelham.
- Bojangles is scheduled to open on October 22, 2025.
- Highlighted the National Burn Camp, an initiative through Children’s Hospital in which Pelham Fire Department Captain Wes Greene participated. He will soon attend a national conference in Washington, D.C., with all costs covered by the nonprofit organization.
- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the ReAMP project will be released this week with a submission deadline of October 30, 2025.
- Finance Director Jamie Wagner has been selected for *Momentum*, an executive leadership program. She emphasized this as a significant honor, noting the competitive selection process and congratulating Mrs. Wagner on her achievement.
- Assistant City Manager Justin Smith has been appointed to serve as a national board member for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).
- She concluded by noting the distinction for Pelham to be represented at such a high level by both Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Smith.

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 2025-09-22-02** for consideration to appoint citizens to the Pelham Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-09-22-02. Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09-22-02 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 2. **Resolution 2025-09-22-03** for consideration to affirm the appointment of citizens to serve as polling officials during the City of Pelham Municipal Runoff Election on September 23, 2025 was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-09-22-03. Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09-22-03 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 3. **Resolution 2025-09-22-04** for consideration to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Coston General Contractors, Inc. for the Pelham Sports Park Renovations Project was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Leverett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-09-22-04. Councilmember Wash seconded the motion.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante stated the renovations will include a new park entrance, restrooms, concessions stand, and walking paths.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09-22-04 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.

Cathy Cartagena – 100 Stonehaven Way, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding her candidacy for Pelham City Council Place No. 3.

Jada Winston – 1001 Stoneykirk Road, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding Grace Klein Community’s We Not Me event on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

Ron Griggs – 399 Oxford Way, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding his candidacy for Pelham City Council Place No. 4.

Dr. Judy Mannings – 524 Wild Ridge Circle, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding her excitement about the progress being made on the next phase of the Pelham Greenway Trail.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram noted the runoff election is being held tomorrow. He read an excerpt of a statement written by his daughter regarding the importance of voter participation. He encouraged everyone to please come out and vote tomorrow.

Councilmember Leverett thanked Councilmember Coram for reading a portion of his daughter’s statement and said he agreed with her. He added people choose not to run for political office because of the negative public exposure. He said it is important to know the facts before you speak or post to social media. He concluded by reading Matthew 5:16 and encouraged everyone in the community to be a light.

Councilmember Wash noted the runoff election tomorrow. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He said one of the greatest rights we have is our right to vote and let our voices be heard. He encouraged everyone to attend a Pelham High School football game. He said the environment is fun and the team has something special going on this year.

Councilmember Harris was not present.

Council President Mercer stated Councilmember Harris was away with his family tonight. He agreed with Councilmember Wash that the environment at the Pelham High School football games is awesome, he encouraged everyone to attend. He said the homecoming parade was great this year and it was fun to see everyone supporting Pelham. He said Salsa in the Park yesterday evening had a great turnout despite the threat of rain. He thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for their hard work coordinating the event.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The City of Pelham Municipal Runoff Election will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. The polling location for all Pelham residents is the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close promptly at 7:00 p.m.
2. The Pelham City Council will hold its official runoff election canvassing meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.
3. The City of Pelham is accepting applications for the Public Library Board, Places 4 and 5. Applications and resumes are due online by Friday, September 26, 2025 at 12:00 Noon. For more information and to apply, visit www.pelhamalabama.gov.
4. Music at Park 124 will be held on Sunday, September 28, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. featuring a Linda Ronstadt tribute band, Tucson Rain.
5. Shelby County will host a Free Landfill Day on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Landfill does NOT accept hazardous waste, tires, batteries, or liquids of any type.
6. The City of Pelham has partnered with a local company to provide free document shredding and electronic recycling services for residents on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They will set up in front of Pelham City Hall. Please visit the City's website for additional information.
7. The Pelham Police Department will host the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pelham City Park Train Depot parking lot. Police and fire equipment will be on display, along with community organizations, kids' activities, and a free hot dog supper provided by Church of the Highlands Riverchase and First Baptist Church Pelham, with soft drinks generously donated by Colonial Pipeline. The event is free and open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Coram 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 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of September 2025.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council

