



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
October 6, 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: October 6, 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. Pastor Jerry McClain 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 October 6, 2025 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the September 22, 2025 and September 30, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2025-10-06-01** for consideration to authorize the use of wall space in Pelham City Park to the Pelham B.E.A.T.
4. **Resolution 2025-10-06-02** for consideration to authorize a budget amendment and fund balance transfer for the purchase of protective and training equipment for the Pelham Police Department
5. **Resolution 2025-10-06-03** for consideration to accept grant funds on behalf of the City of Pelham Department of Parks & Recreation from the State of Alabama Tourism Department
6. **Resolution 2025-10-06-04** for consideration to accept the proposal and authorize a scope of work change related to the design of the Sports Complex Renovations Project
7. **Resolution 2025-10-06-05** for consideration to accept the proposal from and authorize a contract agreement with Gorrie Reagan for the replacement and installation of new timeclocks

- 8. **Resolution 2025-10-06-06** for consideration to release the bond money and accept the public street (McAlpin Circle) and rights-of-way within the Ballantrae Subdivision
- 9. **Resolution 2025-10-06-07** for consideration to approve a new full-time employee position and job description at Ballantrae Golf Club
- 10. **Resolution 2025-10-06-08** for consideration to approve a revised job description and pay range within the Communications Department

Council President Mercer recognized Alabama State House Representative Kenneth Paschal for his contribution to the City of Pelham in securing a \$2,600.00 grant from the State of Alabama Tourism Department.

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>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)

- 1. Regarding the comprehensive amendment to the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance

Councilmember Coram moved to recess the city council meeting to hold a public hearing for which proper notice had been given. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris and approved unanimously by a voice vote of those members present. The council meeting recessed at 7:05 p.m.

Council President Mercer announced the public hearing was in session for the purpose to consider a comprehensive amendment to the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance.

Assistant City Manager Justin Smith provided an overview of the proposed amendment.

Council President Mercer stated the city council would now hear comments both for and against amending the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance.

- There were no members of the public in attendance speaking in favor of the proposed business license amendment.
- There were no members of the public in attendance speaking against the proposed business license amendment.

There being no further discussion, Council President Mercer stated the public hearing to consider the comprehensive amendment to the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance had concluded.

Council President Mercer called the October 6, 2025 city council meeting back to order at 7:07 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMENTS – None

PROCLAMATION(S) AND RESOLUTION(S) BY THE MAYOR AND OTHERS

- 1. Proclaiming October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Waters proclaimed October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama. Accepting the Proclamation from Mayor Waters was Mary Katherine Thorn representing SafeHouse of Shelby County.

- 2. Proclaiming October 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Waters proclaimed October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama. Accepting the Proclamation from Mayor Waters were members of the Pelham Fire Department.

- 3. Proclaiming October 2025 as Fire Prevention Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Waters proclaimed October 2025 as Fire Prevention Month in Pelham, Alabama. Accepting the Proclamation from Mayor Waters were members of the Pelham Fire Department.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- Thanked Pastor Jerry McClain for his powerful invocation tonight and for being a strong prayer warrior.
- Noted the exceptional financial report released today by Ballantrae Golf Club:

Sept. 2025 = 5,409 rounds of golf	Total Revenue = \$324,513.85
Sept. 2024 = 3,594 rounds of golf	Total Revenue = \$275,815.67
FY2024 = 44,257 rounds of golf	Total Revenue = \$3,311,386.98
FY2025 = 48,038 rounds of golf	Total Revenue = \$3,641,274.10

Member Total = 225 (24 people on the waiting list to join as a member)

She thanked Ballantrae Golf Club General Manager Hal Brown and his staff for all their hard work and dedication.

- 1. Citizen Recognition by the Pelham Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Maples recognized Leslie Hernandez, a staff member at Texas Roadhouse in Pelham, Alabama. He noted she administered lifesaving CPR in the parking lot of Texas Roadhouse when she noticed a patron in distress. He said she, along with Pelham Fire Department personnel, were able to resuscitate the patron. He said the immediate intervention by Ms. Hernandez was likely the reason for a life to be saved.

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 2025-10-06-09** for consideration to authorize a budget amendment and fund balance transfer for the purchase of a used Zamboni for the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena was introduced by Council President Mercer.

Councilmember Coram made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10-06-09. Councilmember Leverett seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-10-06-09 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

2. **Ordinance No. 526** adopting the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance and repealing previously adopted legislation in conflict herewith (**First Reading**)

Ordinance No. 526 was introduced and read in summary by Council President Mercer as a First Reading.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 526 is available at Pelham City Hall and online at pelhamalabama.gov.

Council President Mercer announced this Ordinance will likely be considered by the city council at a future city council meeting.

3. **Ordinance No. 527** granting a non-exclusive right-of-way use agreement to Uniti Fiber GulfCo, LLC for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a fiber-based communications system within certain public rights-of-way within the City of Pelham, Alabama (**First Reading**)

Ordinance No. 527 was introduced and read in summary by Council President Mercer as a First Reading.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 527 is available at Pelham City Hall and online at pelhamalabama.gov.

Councilmember Coram moved that all rules which would prevent the immediate consideration of Ordinance No. 527 be suspended and immediate consideration given. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris and passed unanimously by roll call vote. The vote on said motion to suspend the rule was 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>

Councilmember Coram moved to adopt Ordinance No. 527 as presented and Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

Council President Mercer stated the utility company is changing names and no new assets are expected to be installed underground. He said the company is against a tight financing deadline and requested the Pelham City Council consider suspending the meeting rules for immediate consideration.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 527 was given vote, and the roll call vote was 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>

Ordinance No. 527 passed by unanimous vote of the council and the council president declared the same passed.

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.

- Markus Snowden, 100 Hidden Creek Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124 – Regarding his recent election to the Pelham City Council.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coram read the following statement and asked for it to be included in the meeting minutes as follows:

"I know we have one more meeting until the newly elected council takes office, and I know the next meeting will be full of final comments. So I wanted to go ahead and share some final comments with you all this evening.

Serving as your elected representative over the last 5 years has been the absolute honor of my life. I have met many citizens in our city that I probably would not have met otherwise, and have learned an enormous amount about the history of our wonderful city. I have enjoyed listening and being your point of contact for concerns you may have and things that you would like to see improved in our city. We have accomplished a historical amount of business on behalf of the citizens of Pelham that will have its mark on this city for decades to come. We have all given of our time and energy to better our community not just for today, but so that future generations will be proud of this city we call home.

It is not easy serving in this role. Anyone that runs for office on the local level should be admired for what you have to endure to get to this point. Even in a small town like Pelham, it involves having yours and your family's life dissected and put on display. It means being willing to endure attacks both personally and professionally, privately and in the open. It means having your good name and character smeared with no substantiation. It means having to closely guard your family to ensure they are protected from those that you may disagree with in your own community and sometimes in your own social circles. Someone asked me one day, "Is all of what you have to endure as an elected official and candidate worth it in the end?". My answer was a resounding "Yes". It is worth it, because I made an oath to the citizens of Pelham that I would serve and represent every citizens, even if they oppose me. It is worth every moment, because this has been an absolute labor of love for me. Another citizen asked me, "David, how have you responded in the face of adversity in recent days"? I responded by quoting the words of the singer song-writer, Phil Wickham, "If you curse me, I will bless you. If you hurt me, I will forgive you and if you hate me, then I will love you, I choose the Jesus Way". I hope you all will reflect on these words when you face adversity in the future.

I want to congratulate all of those newly elected and re-elected council members that will be talking office next month. I will be praying for you over the next four years that God will protect you and your families as you continue the work that needs to be done on behalf of the citizens. My words of encouragement for you are that when adversity comes your way, and it will, that you remember what it took to get to this spot. That you also remember the oath you took to protect and represent all citizens of our community. Lastly, remember to remain transparent and accessible to all citizens. Above all it is important to realize that no one is in a position of authority that God has not ordained to be there for that moment in time. So this is your race to run now, your baton to pick up and take forward into the future. Please know that I will be pulling for you all from the sidelines.

I want to thank all of the staff members and leaders that I have worked with over the last 5 years that have helped us accomplish the goals of the citizens. I want to specifically thank those staff members and leaders who took the extra time to reach out to those citizens who reached out to me about concerns, and went above and beyond to make sure their concerns were resolved. We have some excellent leaders in this city and it makes me proud to call Pelham my home.

So what next for me. I truly believe that when God closes a door, He opens another one. This became evident this past weekend. As many of you know, I have been working with my families 501(c)(3) organization in Uganda ever since 2011. Our main focus is helping bring victims of sex and human-trafficking in Uganda out of the scenarios that they have been thrust into, and bring them to the Hope Center where they receive counseling, housing, clothing, food, educational and vocational training all from a biblical aspect. This past weekend we held our annual fundraising Gala for Hope's Cry where we raised \$653,000 to continue and support this ministry in 2026. At this event, our keynote speaker was, John Cotton Richmond, the Ambassador to India under the first Trump administration. He is now the Chief Impact Officer at Atlas Free, another organization that focuses on resolving sex and human-trafficking. It was through a conversation with him that he has invited me to join the lobbying efforts of his organization. I will be working alongside his organization in Washington, to lobby our state and federal leaders to provide additional funding to help government at the local, state, federal and global levels to help educate, rescue, repatriation, and reintegrate the 50 million plus people that are sex and human trafficked around the world. As I was telling my wife last night, I have served as a voice of the people in Pelham for the last 5 years, and

now I hope to be a voice to the millions of voiceless victims around the world in the halls of our state houses and congress.

Lastly, I want to thank my fellow council members past and present for being willing to listen and debate our differences, but to ultimately produce results on behalf of those who elected us. To our outgoing council president, thank you for your leadership and calming spirit over the last five years, and always looking to bring this body together to accomplish the business of the people. To those that will be continuing to serve on the council and to our new Mayor, May God bless you and keep you, May the Lord make His face shine upon and be gracious unto you, and may the Lord turn his face to you and give you peace.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting!!"

Councilmember Leverett commended Leslie Hernandez on her bravery and stepping in to do the right thing when she saw a person in need. He read Galatians 6:9 and encouraged everyone to not give up and always do what is right.

Councilmember Wash congratulated Leslie Hernandez on her recognition by the Pelham Fire Department tonight. He thanked Ballantrae General Manager Hal Brown for doing an incredible job at the golf club. He thanked Pastor Jerry McClain for his attendance tonight and noted the special invitation from Council President Mercer to the Pelham pastor's luncheon.

Councilmember Harris said Leslie Hernandez is a true hero. He reminded everyone to come out to a Pelham High School football game, the team is having a great season and needs the community's support.

Council President Mercer thanked Leslie Hernandez for her leadership and heroism. He thanked Pastor Jerry McClain for attending tonight's meeting and for Councilmember Wash for coming to the pastor's luncheon. Council President Mercer read the following statement and asked for it to be included in the meeting minutes as follows:

"Thank you to pastor Jerry for being here. We started this term together by you swearing me in and you being here tonight means the world. Thank you.

To Mr. Mosely watching from home, I thank you for getting me involved with Beautification board.

I count it pure joy.

A boy from Midfield, at the age of 23, purchased a home in the great city of Pelham a city that would one day allow him to serve in many capacities and be elected, and 2x re-elected, to its council.

I still remember being told back in 2008 that a Black man would never be elected to this council. Yet, not only was I elected, but in time others followed: Dr. Mildred Lanier Reed, my successor in place 4 Markus Snowden, and the first Latina, Chris Townes. What a testament to how far we have come. It reminds me of Dr Kings thoughts of how he hoped that his kids would be judge by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

Many don't know my election was later cited as an example in Supreme Court Case Shelby County v. Holder evidence that the people of Pelham and Shelby County, when given the choice, would select the most qualified candidate, regardless of race. I'm humbled by realizing my name made it before the United States Supreme Court.

Since the first day I took office, my heart has been to be a voice for the people. None of that work would have been possible without the dedicated staff who serve this city and its citizens every day. To each of you thank you. Your commitment makes Pelham what it is.

To my fellow council members, thank you for trusting me to serve as your president. My goal has always been to lead with integrity, to work in partnership with you, the mayor, and our city manager, and to leave Pelham better than we found it.

To the next council

Remember

"You should speak to people in a way that if they died the next day, you'd be content with the last thing you said."

Remember

Dr. King said "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward" I encourage you to move our city forward united.

Remember

True progress like a productive relationship is built on respect. Respect is earned when both parties take the time to understand before trying to be understood and then work together to find common ground this must be the essence of our civility pledge. I encourage you to renew it and work together to uphold it. This is the win win of the 7 habits of a highly effective person that our pelham students learn about daily.

As I reflect on these 13 years, I am proud to have worked with 10 councilors, mayor and city manager to accomplish the following : a new library, the first recreation center, the splash pad, the updated Civil Service Act, the AAA bond rating, balanced budgets year after year, the expansion of our walking trails, the FRA grant, AmWaste partnership, music in the park series , relocation of fire station 3 and countless other improvements and city services that have strengthened the city we all love.

Thank you to my colleagues; Thank you, Pelham; And most of all, thank God.

My only regret is that my mother was not here to see this journey, but I am blessed that Amanda and our girls were."

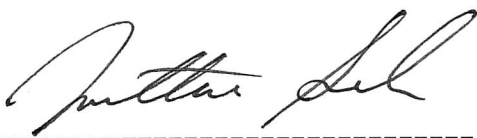
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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.
2. Music in the Park will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025 and Sunday, October 19, 2025 beginning at 4:30 p.m. and concluding at 6:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends to Pelham City Park and enjoy a fall afternoon together.
3. Fall-O-Ween will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Pelham City Park. Enjoy the best of this fall festival with all the treats and no "tricks". Bungee jump, bounce houses, trick or treating, trackless train, games, face painting, balloon artist, Knockerball, craft area, costume parade and more.

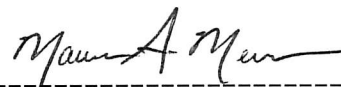
ADJOURNMENT

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of October 2025.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Maurice Mercer, President of the Council



