



Pelham

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CITY OF PELHAM WATER DEPARTMENT

Pelham City Hall – Council Conference Room

December 15, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Proper notice of the meeting of the City of Pelham Water Department was given at least 72 hours in advance of such public meeting and the notice remained posted throughout the scheduled meeting.

Members of the Pelham Water Department met on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room at Pelham City Hall. The meeting was open to the public.

Call to Order

The Pelham Water Department meeting was called to order by Councilmember Leverett at 5:00 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following members of the Water Department were present:

Present: Councilmember Chad Leverett
 Councilmember Michelle Power
 Councilmember Christine Townes
 Councilmember Markus Hal Snowden
 Councilmember Michael Harris
 Mayor/Superintendent Rick Wash

Media Present: Shelby County Reporter

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.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Harris moved to approve the October 20, 2025 Water Department Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Snowden. There being no further discussion, Councilmember Leverett announced the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present.

Old Business – None

New Business

1. Request to Address the Water Department – Stacy Dukes

Director of Development Services & Public Works André Bittas explained Ms. Dukes' high utility bill is due to the water leak occurring during the sewer rate averaging months. He said she was notified by phone call of a potential leak. He said according to Ms. Dukes, the leak was from of a leaking toilet which he explained does not qualify for a leak adjustment, per the policy. He said Ms. Dukes was in attendance tonight seeking an adjustment.

Ms. Dukes read a prepared statement. She said the leaking toilet is in a bathroom she seldom visits. She said she paid a plumber to fix the leak but the repair did not hold, and she ended up having to make additional repairs.

Further discussion followed between Mr. Bittas, Ms. Dukes, and the members of the Water Department. Mr. Bittas reviewed the Leak Adjustment Policy.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adjust the water and sewer billing and credit Ms. Dukes' utility account in the amount of \$390.65. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote of those members of the Water Department present and Councilmember Leverett declared the same passed.

2. Request to Address the Water Department – Lawrence Fontenot

Director of Development Services & Public Works André Bittas explained that Mr. Fontenot had high water usage in November 2024 through January 2025 but noted there were no known leaks. He said the water usage was high during the sewer averaging months, resulting in a higher than average monthly utility bill. He said Mr. Fontenot was in attendance tonight seeking an adjustment.

Mr. Fontenot stated his utility bill almost doubled because he used his irrigation system for three months to check for leaks. He said he did not realize he should have done so during the non-sewer averaging months of the year. He said he is seeking an adjustment.

Mr. Bittas said they have no way to confirm if Mr. Fontenot's high water usage was from irrigation like he claims.

Further discussion followed between Mr. Bittas, Mr. Fontenot, and the members of the Water Department.

Councilmember Harris recommended Mr. Fontenot get a second water meter installed which would be used for irrigation only.

It was the consensus of those members of the Water Department not to move forward with Mr. Fontenot's adjustment request. They encouraged him to install a second water meter for his irrigation system.

Adjournment

With no other business before the Pelham Water Department, Councilmember Harris moved to adjourn the Water Department meeting and Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of December 2025.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Chad Leverett, Councilmember

