



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
March 5, 2026 – 5:30 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: March 5, 2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Pelham City Hall – City Council Chambers
Present: President of the Council Chad Leverett
Councilmember Michelle Power
Councilmember Christine Townes
Councilmember Markus Hal Snowden
Councilmember Michael Harris
Mayor Rick Wash

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Leverett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Snowden led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Power.

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 and 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 taken up either immediately after the consent agenda is approved or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the presiding officer and City Council.

1. Approval of the March 5, 2026 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the February 16, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2026-03-05-01** for consideration to accept a proposal from and authorize an agreement with All American Arena Products for the purchase and installation of an indoor dasher board system. This project was budgeted for FY2026.
4. **Resolution 2026-03-05-02** for consideration to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Price Civil Services, Inc. for the Eagle Cove Subdivision Sewer Lift Station Improvements Project. This project was budgeted for FY2026 but will require a budget amendment.
5. **Resolution 2026-03-05-03** for consideration to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid from ICS, Inc. for the Sewer Lift Station P Emergency Generator Addition. This project was budgeted for FY2026.
6. **Resolution 2026-03-05-04** for consideration to repeal Resolution 2008-02-04-03, which established the Related Party Transactions Policy for the City of Pelham

7. **Resolution 2026-03-05-05** for consideration to surplus certain items (A/V and small engine equipment) no longer needed for public or municipal purposes and to authorize the disposal of the same

Council President Leverett 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 add an Executive Session to the end of the March 5, 2026 city council meeting agenda. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members of the city council present and the President of the Council declared the same passed.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented by Council President Leverett. Councilmember Power seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, Council President Leverett asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote. The vote to adopt the Consent Agenda was recorded as follows:

Chad Leverett, Council President	<u>Yes</u>
Michelle Power, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Christine Townes, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Markus Hal Snowden, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Harris, 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 Wash announced Claude Peacock, a long-time member of the Pelham Planning Commission, recently tendered his voluntary resignation. He thanked Mr. Peacock for his years of dedicated service to the City of Pelham. Mayor Wash noted he would be appointing Paul Howell to the vacant position.

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

1. Proclaiming April 2026 as Sexual Abuse Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Wash presented the Proclamation to Mary Katherine Thorn representing SafeHouse of Shelby County.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante encouraged everyone to review the City’s website and newsletter to stay up to date on all the fun events happening this spring in the City. She said you can still register for the Learn to Skate program at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. She said the City’s first event celebrating America 250 will be March 21, 2026 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 2026-03-05-06** for consideration to accept the FY2025 Audited Financial Statements as presented by the City’s independent auditing firm, Truitt Tingle Paramore & Argent, LLC, Certified Public Accountants was introduced by Council President Leverett.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante stated Patrick Bowman, CPA, reviewed the audited financial statements with the city council at the work session on March 2, 2026. Mr. Bowman noted the City of Pelham received an unmodified opinion, which is the best result for an audit. She said the report will be available on the City's website within the coming days.

Councilmember Snowden made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-06. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-06 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 2. **Resolution 2026-03-05-07** for consideration to enter into an agreement for the purchase and installation of a new lighting system for the Main Arena at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena was introduced by Council President Leverett.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante stated the current lighting does not meeting the specifications required by the Southern Professional Hockey League. She said the system has reached the end of its useful life and a complete replacement is recommended.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-07. Councilmember Power seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-07 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 3. **Resolution 2026-03-05-08** for consideration to authorize a lease agreement for the purchase of in-vehicle camera systems for the Pelham Police Department. This expense was budgeted for FY2026.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante stated the City purchased eight Chevrolet Tahoe police vehicles as a part of the annual vehicle rotation. She said five of the vehicles need new camera systems and the remaining three would be outfitted from existing vehicles going out of service. She said this is a five-year lease agreement with \$10,000.00 owed this year.

Councilmember Snowden made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-08. Councilmember Power seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-05-08 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 4. **Ordinance No. 324-07** amending the City of Pelham, Alabama Code of Ordinances regarding sales and use tax collection procedures (**First Reading**)

Ordinance No. 324-07 was introduced and read in its entirety by Council President Leverett as a First Reading. He stated Ordinance 324-07 would likely be considered at a future city council meeting.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 324-07 is available at Pelham City Hall and online at pelhamalabama.gov.

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.

Please note, the public comment period is intended for comments only. It is not a public hearing, nor is it a time for dialogue, debate, or questions to the City Council. Any questions or requests for additional information will be noted and may be addressed by the appropriate City staff or officials at a later time.

- Darrell Tino – 136 Eagle Cove Drive, Pelham, Alabama 35124 – regarding the Eagle Cove Subdivision Sewer Lift Station

- Carl Bellsnyder – 142 Eagle Cove Drive, Pelham, Alabama 35124 – regarding the Eagle Cove Subdivision Sewer Lift Station

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Snowden congratulated the Pelham High School Boys and Girls basketball teams for their successful season and run in the ASHAA playoffs. He said we are all proud of our student athletes. He reminded everyone to set their clocks an hour ahead this weekend for Daylight Savings Time.

Councilmember Harris made no additional comments.

Councilmember Power noted both the Pelham High School Boys and Girls basketball teams deep run in the ASHAA playoffs this year. She thanked SafeHouse of Shelby County for all they do for the City of Pelham and our surrounding community. She stated she was excited to attend the Kites and Bites event this weekend at Pelham City Park.

Councilmember Townes thanked SafeHouse of Shelby County for their work in Pelham. She said when there is trauma to that degree, it is not an easy job. She thanked Ms. Thorn for being strong and being here tonight. She thanked Mayor Wash for recognizing April 2026 as Sexual Abuse Awareness Month.

Council President Leverett spoke to the Eagle Cove Subdivision Sewer Lift Station improvements project. He stated the cost has significantly increased due to manufacturing costs and tariffs. He said the high costs are a burden to everyone in construction. He closed by reading Proverbs 3:5-6.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Pelham City Council is accepting applications and resumes through Friday, March 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. from those Pelham residents who would like to be considered for an appointment to one of the following municipal boards: Pelham Board of Education, Pelham Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals, or the Pelham Zoning Board of Adjustment.
2. Shelby County will host a Free Landfill Day at the Shelby County Landfill located at 401 Landfill Road on Highway 70 between Columbiana and Calera on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All participants must be unloaded and exited from the landfill by 3:30 p.m.
3. Secure Shredding & Recycling and the City of Pelham will host a spring shred and electronic recycling event on Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon. It will take place in front of City Hall, 3162 Pelham Parkway. Additional details about shredding and electronic recycling are available on the City's website, pelhamalabama.gov.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Leverett stated for the record the purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet being litigated, but imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body pursues a proposed course of action and to discuss the consideration the governmental body is willing to offer or accept when considering the purchase, sale, exchange, lease, or market value of real property under Sections 36-25A-7(a)(3)(6), Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.

City Attorney Josh Arnold stated the purpose of tonight's Executive Session is appropriate under Sections 36-25A-7(a)(3)(6), Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.

A motion was made by Councilmember Harris to enter into an Executive Session of the city council for the stated purpose. Said motion was seconded by Councilmember Snowden.

Council President Leverett asked the City Clerk/Treasurer for a roll call vote. The vote to adopt said motion was recorded as follows:

Chad Leverett, Council President	<u>Yes</u>
Michelle Power, Councilmember	<u>Yes</u>
Christine Townes, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Markus Hal Snowden, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>
Michael Harris, Council Member	<u>Yes</u>

Council President Leverett noted the Executive Session would take place in the Council Conference Room and asked the members of the City Council, Mayor Wash, City Manager Gretchen DiFante, Director of Development Services & Public Works Andr  Bittas, City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale, Building Official Levis Peters, and City Attorney Josh Arnold to attend the Executive Session. Council President Leverett stated, per City Manager Gretchen DiFante, he expected the city council to return from the Executive Session in approximately 30 minutes. The city council went into an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Power moved to adjourn the Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Councilmember Harris. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote of those members present, and the Executive Session was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Council President Leverett called the March 5, 2026 city council meeting back to order at 6:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Townes 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 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of March 2026.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Chad Leverett, President of the Council



