



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
March 19, 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 19, 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 Council President Leverett.

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.

AGENDA ADDITION

Councilmember Snowden made a motion to add Resolution 2026-03-19-11 to the March 19, 2026 city council meeting agenda. Councilmember Harris 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.

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 19, 2026 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the March 5, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2026-03-19-01** for consideration to enter into a lease agreement between Ballantrae Golf Club and Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation for turf equipment
4. **Resolution 2026-03-19-02** for consideration to accept a proposal from and entering into an agreement with Central Alabama Asphalt & Construction Co., LLC for repair and resurfacing of the walking trail at Coker Park and accepting a proposal from and entering into an agreement with Video Industrial Services, Inc. for pipe and headwall repairs. This project was budgeted for FY2026.

- 5. **Resolution 2026-03-19-03** for consideration to authorize and entering into a Lighting Services Agreement with Alabama Power Company and assuming the street light expenses in the Grey Oaks Subdivision, Sectors 8 and 10
- 6. **Resolution 2026-03-19-04** for consideration to authorize and enter into a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the review, coordination, and approval of the plans for the CR-52 Railroad Crossing Elimination Project. This project was budgeted for FY2026.
- 7. **Resolution 2026-03-19-05** for consideration to authorize and enter into an agreement with AECOM to provide engineering and surveying services for the CR-52 Railroad Crossing Elimination Project. This project was budgeted for FY2026.
- 8. **Resolution 2026-03-19-06** for consideration to authorize and enter into an agreement with Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc. for the City of Pelham's annual Independence Day fireworks celebration, Fire on the Water. This expense was budgeted for FY2026.
- 9. **Resolution 2026-03-19-07** for consideration to appoint voting delegates for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities on April 28, 2026 – May 1, 2026

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 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 invited everyone to come out to the Red, White & Bulls event this Saturday at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. He said this would be the City’s kickoff event for the America 250 celebration.

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

- 1. Proclaiming March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Wash presented the Proclamation to Sarah Katherine Coram and Cal Messer, representing Youth Leadership Shelby County (Group 3), and Carole Lyons representing the Arc of Shelby County.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- Stated Mayor Wash provided an update on the State of the City at the Shelby County Chamber of Commence luncheon yesterday. She said he did a great job and represented the City well.

- Reviewed recent housing market data through the end of February, noting trends in both new and existing home sales. She explained that the market is currently at approximately a six-month equilibrium, and emphasized that housing demand, supply, and overall market conditions play a significant role in shaping the City's housing needs.
- Stated that she attended the Georgia City-County Management Association conference the previous week at the organization's invitation. She highlighted a particularly informative session on artificial intelligence, as well as a presentation by Dr. Kimberly Nelson, a professor in the MPA program at the University of North Carolina, widely regarded as a leading institution in local government studies. Dr. Nelson's work focuses on ethics in local government, and her research indicates that jurisdictions with a council-manager form of government are statistically less likely to experience corruption. The City Manager expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a professional city manager in the City of Pelham.
- Discussed the City's participation in the ETC Institute's citizen survey, noting the most recent survey (2024–2025) has been completed and another survey will be conducted at the end of the year. She reported that Pelham was recognized as a "Leading the Way" Award recipient based on the prior survey, placing the City in the top 10% of participating communities nationwide. The survey measures areas such as overall quality of life, customer service provided by City employees, and the value residents feel they receive for their tax dollars. Pelham received a composite score of 232, compared to the national average of 114.

REPORT BY THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

REQUEST(S) TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL – None

OLD BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 324-07** to repeal Section 5-34.4 of the City of Pelham Code of Ordinances regarding sales and use tax collection procedures (**First Reading was on March 5, 2026**)

Councilmember Harris moved to adopt Ordinance No. 324-07 as presented and Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 324-07 was given vote, and the roll call vote was 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>

Ordinance No. 324-07 passed by unanimous roll call vote of the council and the council president declared the same passed.

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES / ORDERS and OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 2026-03-19-08** for consideration to authorize an FY2026 budget amendment to fund America 250 celebration events in Pelham, Alabama was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Mayor Wash said the City of Pelham has created an America 250 committee through the State of Alabama. He requested a budget amendment from the city council in the amount of \$7,200.00, which will cover the remaining event costs and needed supplies.

Councilmember Power made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-08. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-08 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

- 2. **Resolution 2026-03-19-09** for consideration to set the date and time for a public hearing to consider accepting the privately owned sewer lift stations located in the Holland Lakes Subdivision was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-09. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-09 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

Council President Leverett noted the public hearing would be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall.

- 3. **Resolution 2026-03-19-10** for consideration to set the date and time for a public hearing to consider condemning substantially damaged buildings located along Chandalar Court in Pelham, Alabama was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Councilmember Snowden made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-10. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-10 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

Council President Leverett noted the public hearing would be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall.

- 4. **Resolution 2026-03-19-11** for consideration to enter into an agreement with Kissel Entertainment, LLC and authorize the use of City-owned property for the purposes of hosting a spring fair in Pelham, Alabama was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-11. Councilmember Power seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-19-11 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.

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.

- Shawn Massey – 504 Hillsboro Lane, Helena, AL 35080 – Regarding retiree health insurance premiums for City of Pelham employees.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Harris thanked Shawn Massey for his 27 years of service with the Pelham Fire Department. He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting tonight.

Councilmember Power thanked the Arc of Shelby County for being here tonight and everything they do in our community. She noted having a child who received services through the Arc of Shelby County and she is happy to have them honored tonight for all the good they do.

Councilmember Townes thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

Council President Leverett read Psalms 119:2. He thanked the Arc of Shelby County for being here in Pelham and for all the meaningful services they continue to provide to the community.

Councilmember Snowden thanked the Arc of Shelby County for all the work they do in our community. He noted his excitement about the engineering agreements being approved tonight for the CR-52 railroad crossing elimination project. He said there is a significant amount of planning required with a job of this magnitude. He thanked everyone for being here tonight.

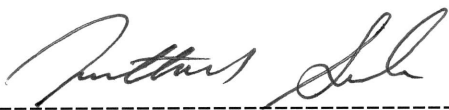
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Kick off Pelham's America 250 celebration at Red, White & Bulls Military Appreciation Night this Saturday, March 21, 2026 at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Salute to Service on the Plaza begins at 4:00 p.m. outside with military vehicles and displays, family friendly activities, and photos with Toro and Miss Alabama. The celebration continues inside with the Birmingham Bulls game at 7:00 p.m. Come early and join us for this special community event.
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. The spring shred and electronic recycling event hosted by Secure Shredding & Recycling and the City of Pelham has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 16, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Harris moved to adjourn the council meeting and Councilmember Power seconded the motion. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of March 2026.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Chad Leverett, President of the Council



