



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
March 30, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.**

Special Called Meeting

Proper notice of the special called 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 30, 2026
Time: 5:00 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 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Townes led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Harris.

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 30, 2026 City Council Agenda

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 – None

PROCLAMATION(S) AND RESOLUTION(S) BY THE MAYOR AND OTHERS – None

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER – None

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. Discussion – Senate Bill 304, currently under consideration in the Alabama State Legislature, which would regulate how municipalities levy business licenses on certain trade industries

City Manager Gretchen DiFante introduced discussion regarding Senate Bill 305 and House Bill 566, sponsored by Senator Greg Albritton and Representative Paul Lee, respectively. A brief overview of the legislation and its current movement through committee and the Senate was provided.

Concerns were raised regarding how the bill has been presented during legislative discussions, including references to a “10% double taxation,” which City staff indicated is inaccurate. It was noted there is confusion surrounding the inclusion of certain contractor classifications within the bill. The City is seeking additional clarity and to delay the bill’s progress to allow more time for municipalities to evaluate potential impacts. Concerns from other municipalities were also acknowledged.

Finance Director Jamie Wagner provided additional analysis, explaining she identified concerns upon reviewing the legislation. She walked the city council through the City’s business license structure and explained how the bill could impact revenue collection. Ms. Wagner noted the legislation has moved rapidly in recent days and emphasized it does not involve the creation of a new tax, but rather could affect the City’s ability to enforce existing ordinances.

She further explained that the City’s business licenses are calculated based on gross receipts and businesses are responsible for reporting total gross receipts. Using a jobsite example, she demonstrated how the current system functions and how the proposed legislation could disrupt that process. It was noted the bill appears to focus on business headquarters versus jobsite activity, which does not align with how municipalities currently collect license revenue.

Ms. Wagner also highlighted the bill could result in an estimated annual revenue loss between \$500,000.00 and \$750,000.00, potentially impacting the City’s ability to provide services at its current levels. Additionally, concerns were raised about the inclusion of multiple contractor and subcontractor classifications, along with a separate industrial materials provider classification, which staff indicated lacks consistency in application.

City Manager DiFante read a statement from the Alabama League of Municipalities expressing opposition to the bill. She also pointed out the bill proposes an effective date of October 2nd, which does not align with the municipal business license calendar year, further suggesting municipalities were not consulted during the drafting process.

City Manager DiFante recommended several potential actions, including:

- Contacting committee members prior to the upcoming hearing on March 31, 2026;
- Reaching out to local legislative representatives;
- Having the Mayor and/or a designated representative attend the hearing; and
- Adopting a formal resolution opposing the legislation.

Council President Leverett asked if the Council was in agreement with pursuing these actions. Council members expressed concern regarding the bill and its potential financial impact on the City. There was unanimous consensus to move forward with opposing the legislation in its current form.

Council President Leverett asked City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale to read Resolution 2026-03-30-01 in its entirety.

Councilmember Townes made a motion to add Resolution 2026-03-30-01 to the March 30, 2026 special called 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 present and the President of the Council declared the same passed.

Councilmember Snowden made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-30-01, which opposes Senate Bill 304. Councilmember Townes seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03-30-01 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.

There were no comments from any member of the public.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council President Leverett stated the Pelham Strong Walk and 5K, on April 18, 2026, will feature a midnight run to commemorate the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. He read the theme Bible verse for the event, 1 Corinthians 9:24. He thanked the City staff who work diligently to compile the information presented tonight.

Councilmember Snowden said Sav-A-Life Shelby, Inc. is holding a walk-a-thon starting today, March 30, 2026. He wished everyone a Happy Easter Sunday.

Councilmember Harris made no additional comments.

Councilmember Power echoed the comments from Council President Leverett about the Pelham Strong Walk and 5K event. She said the students at Pelham Oaks Elementary and Pelham Ridge Elementary are making lanterns to line the path of the midnight run. She said she hoped everyone had a great spring break and is looking forward to Easter Sunday.

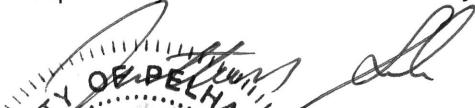
Councilmember Townes thanked everyone for coming out to the special called meeting tonight. She said the issues presented tonight are impactful to a city. She said growing costs are concerning and the businesses in Pelham are important. She said there has to be middle ground on this issue and not have it sprung on cities without due notice.

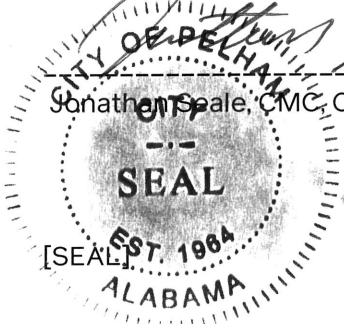
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the city council, Councilmember Power moved to adjourn the special called 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 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of March 2026.


Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer




Chad Leverett, President of the Council



Pelham

A path apart.

SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WAIVER OF NOTICE

We, the undersigned members of the City Council of the City of Pelham, Alabama, hereby waive notice of a Special Called Council Meeting of the Pelham City Council for the purpose of discussing Senate Bill 304, currently under consideration in the Alabama State Legislature, which would regulate how municipalities levy business licenses on certain trade industries and/or other council business and do consent that said City Council Meeting for said purpose be held in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall in the City of Pelham, Alabama at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day of March 2026.

Chad Leverett, President of the Council

Councilmember Michelle Power

Councilmember Christine Townes

Councilmember Markus Hal Snowden

Councilmember Michael Harris