



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Pelham City Hall
City Council Chambers
April 9, 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: April 9, 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 Townes led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Snowden.

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(S)

Councilmember Townes made a motion to add Resolution 2026-04-09-09 and Resolution 2026-04-09-10 to the April 9, 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 April 9, 2026 City Council Agenda
2. Approval of the March 19, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and the March 30, 2026 Special Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Resolution 2026-04-09-01** for consideration to declare certain item(s) (vehicle) owned by the City of Pelham as surplus personal property and to authorize the disposal of the same
4. **Resolution 2026-04-09-02** for consideration to authorize an agreement to participate as the title sponsor in the WBRC 2026 Summer Staycation advertising campaign. This expense was budgeted for FY2026.

5. **Resolution 2026-04-09-03** for consideration to repeal and replace Resolution 2025-12-15-01 which authorized non-exclusive parking in the City of Pelham Entertainment District
6. **Resolution 2026-04-09-04** for consideration to authorize a grant funding agreement with the Shelby County Commission to benefit the Pelham Senior Center

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 Snowden made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented by Council President Leverett. Councilmember Townes 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

1. Proclaiming April 2026 as National Donate Life Month in Pelham, Alabama

Mayor Wash presented the Proclamation to Betsy Brown representing Legacy of Hope.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Gretchen DiFante made the following comments:

- City Manager Gretchen DiFante provided an update on Senate Bill 304, noting it has now passed both the House and Senate despite strong opposition from this City and other municipalities. She expressed appreciation to Finance Director Jamie Wagner and Tax Accountant Phil Brashier for identifying the issue early and bringing it to City leadership. She commended Assistant City Manager Justin Smith, City Clerk/Treasurer Jonathan Seale, Acting Communications Manager Gina Womack, and City Attorney Josh Arnold for their efforts. She also thanked Mayor Wash and Mrs. Wagner for traveling to Montgomery to speak in opposition to the bill.

Ms. DiFante emphasized that municipalities have limited tools to generate and control revenue, and maintaining local control over those sources is essential to balancing the City's budget each year. She noted the City has historically had no cap on abatements, maintains some of the lowest water rates in the county, and had been behind in adjusting business license rates until recent updates were made. She expressed concern the State's action represents an intrusion into an area traditionally governed at the local level.

She concluded by thanking the city council for being proactive, for supporting City staff, and for standing united in opposition to the bill over the past several weeks.

1. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)

City Manager Gretchen DiFante noted the importance of the accreditation process the Pelham Police Department is currently going through and applauded Chief Ed Delmore for his leadership in bringing CALEA to the City of Pelham.

Chief Delmore noted the accreditation process can be long and arduous. He stated many police agencies across the country have good processes and procedures but few of them can prove to an outside, objective agency, how they adhere to those processes and procedures. He introduced Pelham Police Officer Elizabeth Lamar who is serving as the point person for the Police Department throughout the accreditation process. Chief Delmore introduced Vince Dauro with CALEA who addressed the city council.

Mr. Dauro stated CALEA accreditation represents a nationally and internationally recognized benchmark for professionalism in law enforcement, emphasizing accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. The process requires agencies to adopt clear, constitutionally sound policies and to regularly evaluate and update their operations based on current best practices. This not only strengthens internal management through better training, equipment standards, and decision-making but also enhances public trust by fostering openness and community engagement. Importantly, accreditation helps reduce liability by ensuring agencies can demonstrate that their actions are consistent, well-documented, and justified. With fewer than 5% of agencies nationwide achieving accreditation, those that do stand out as leaders in public safety, delivering higher-quality service while committing to long-term organizational growth and excellence.

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 2026-04-09-05** for consideration to enter into a professional services agreement with Sumter Local Government Consulting for employment search services was introduced by Council President Leverett.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante reported the Communications Director position was posted in October and received over 60 qualified applicants; however, the City did not identify a candidate with the desired combination of skills and experience. She has since met with Sumter Local Government Consulting, a firm with more than 25 years of experience in local government recruitment. The firm will conduct a regional search across the southeastern United States and provides a one-year guarantee to repeat the recruitment process, if necessary, if the selected candidate leaves for any reason within the first year of employment. The cost of the service is \$21,000.00 plus travel expenses, which can be covered within the existing salary budget and is considered budget neutral.

Councilmember Townes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-05. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-05 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

2. **Resolution 2026-04-09-06** for consideration of an ABC License Application 011 – Lounge Retail Liquor – Class II (Package) and 990 – Tobacco Only for applicant DEV GOAPL 1 INC., operating under the trade name Liquor Spot located at 2969 Pelham Parkway Suite A, Pelham, Alabama 35124 was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Kim Oswalt, representing applicant Dhaval Patel addressed the city council.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-06. Councilmember Townes seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-06 passed by a majority voice vote of those members present, with Council President Leverett dissenting, and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

3. **Resolution 2026-04-09-07** for consideration of an ABC License Application 020 – Restaurant Retail Liquor – for applicant PWW Pelham LLC, operating under the trade name Hooters of Pelham located at 400 Cahaba Valley Road, Pelham, Alabama 35124 was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Austin Green, General Manager of the Pelham Hooters, addressed the city council on behalf of the applicant.

Councilmember Townes made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-07. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-07 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

4. **Resolution 2026-04-09-08** for consideration of an ABC License Application 010 – Lounge Retail Liquor – Class I – for applicant The Old Hog LLC, operating under the trade name The Old Place located at 112 Bowling Lane, Pelham, Alabama 35124 was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Owner and applicant Ian Johnson addressed the city council.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-08. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-08 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

5. **Resolution 2026-04-09-09** for consideration to authorize a professional services agreement with Duke Ventures, LLC for technical consulting services including the review, revision, and implementation of certain procedures for the Pelham Police Department was introduced by Council President Leverett.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante noted this agreement is continuing to build on the accreditation process by looking at all areas of the Pelham Police Department and seeing what needs there might be, if any.

Councilmember Townes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-09. Councilmember Snowden seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-09 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

6. **Resolution 2026-04-09-10** for consideration to set a public hearing to consider the revocation of a business license for property located at 1902 Highway 31 South currently operated as Siegel Select Birmingham II was introduced by Council President Leverett.

Councilmember Harris made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-10. Councilmember Power seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04-09-10 passed by a unanimous voice vote of those members present and the President of the Council declared the same passed and adopted.

7. **Ordinance No. 529** to declare an empty panel space on City-owned signage located at the corner of U.S. Highway 31 and Amphitheater Road as surplus real property (**First Reading**)

Ordinance No. 529 was introduced and read in its entirety by Council President Leverett as a First Reading. He stated Ordinance No. 529 would likely be considered at a future city council meeting.

He stated a complete text of Ordinance No. 529 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.

There were no requests to make a public comment.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Power thanked everyone for being at the council meeting tonight. She thanked Legacy of Hope for being here and for their mission during National Donate Life Month. She said she has a family member who was the recipient of an organ donation and they are extremely thankful. She was proud to represent the City of Pelham as Congressman Gary Palmer visited the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena this week to give an update on current political activities in Washington, D.C.

Councilmember Townes thanked everyone for being in attendance at the city council meeting. She encouraged everyone to attend the America 250 celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Pelham City Park.

Council President Leverett also encouraged everyone to attend the celebration on April 18, 2026. He said thank you to Legacy of Hope for their mission. He closed by reading Proverbs 14:29.

Councilmember Snowden thanked everyone for coming out this evening to the council meeting. He said the Birmingham Bulls are in a playoff game tonight and the Alabama Fair and Fiesta also begins tonight, both at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. He spoke to the passage of Senate Bill 304 and the negative impact it will likely have on the City. He read a portion of Matthew 6:34 and encouraged everyone not to be anxious and live in the present to be able to live life to the fullest.

Councilmember Harris thanked the ABC License applicants for choosing to locate their businesses in Pelham. He said it is great to see the investments being made in the City of Pelham. He wished the Birmingham Bulls good luck in their playoff game tonight.

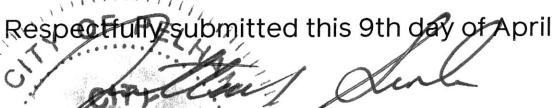
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The City of Pelham's America 250 celebration continues Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Pelham City Park. The day begins at 8:00 a.m. with a community 5K, followed by bounce houses, face painting, and family-friendly activities, along with a Home Run Derby featuring Pelham Fire and Police. That evening, the Midnight Run of Paul Revere begins at 10:30 p.m., with a glow station, coffee station, and music to energize the crowd.
2. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall to consider the condemnation of substantially damaged buildings located along Chandalar Court in Pelham, Alabama.
3. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pelham City Hall to consider whether the City of Pelham will assume ownership and maintenance of privately owned sewer lift stations located in the Holland Lakes Subdivision, with costs to be paid by special assessment of property owners in said Subdivision.
4. 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 Snowden 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 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of April 2026.



Jonathan Seale, CMC, City Clerk/Treasurer



Chad Leverett, President of the Council

[SEAL]

