

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chamber

PRESENT:

Mayor Laura Beth Tucker
Council Member Alfred Brown
Council Member James Eubanks
Council Member Jeremy Hatcher
Council Member Robert Hodges
Council Member Winfred L. Parker
Council Member Bobby Robinson
Council Member John Taylor

City Manager, Jim Hedges
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
City Attorney, Randall Chew
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Fire Chief Ivey Godwin
Main Street Director Ernest Barfield
Pelham Journal, Carl Stokes
Dennis Whitston
MCTV, Representative
Loyds Johnson
Dorothy Schlabach

With a quorum present, Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Council Member Hodges provided the opening prayer.

CITIZENS DELEGATION

COUNCIL MEMBER HODGES PRESIDING

Pelham Main Street Director Ernest Barfield updated the council on the following events: Pelham Main Street along with the City of Pelham celebrated this year's Annual Georgia Arbor Day on Friday, February 20th, 2015 by planting a tree in the city parking median next to the City Hall in Pelham. The Pear Tree was donated by the Pelham Garden Center and planted by city workers. Pelham's Got Talent 2015 was held on Friday, February 27th, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Pelham City School Auditorium on Burum Street. Main Street will be sponsoring The Great Southwest Auto Show and Cruise-In to be held Friday, March 20th and Saturday, March 21st. A Movie in the Park will be held Friday, March 27th at 7:00 pm in Freedom Park this will be the first of a series of shows the first movie will be "UP". The Annual Great Pelham Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th, from 10:00-12:00 noon in Freedom Park. Other events scheduled for April include Concert & Pic-Nic in the Park to be held Saturday, April 4th, from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm in Freedom Park, The second Movie in the Park will show on April 17th, at 7:00 pm in Freedom Park the movie will be "Yogi Bear". Gayle Smith Pelham Main Streets

Treasurer/Vice President is also Pelham Main Streets Social Media volunteer. Check out Pelham Main Street Facebook page.

Pelham Chamber of Commerce, provided by Council Member Hodges on March update: Chamber is at 80% membership renewal for 2015 and is currently seeking the other 20%, The Wild Duck 500 will be held May 15th at Relay for Life with a percentage of the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Other upcoming events include: the Tennis Tournament, Summer Play, Wildlife 5K Run, Wildlife Auction, Wildlife Festival, and the Christmas Parade.

Pelham-Mitchell County Joint Development Authority Report, Mayor Tucker reported the following: Four (4) proms have been booked for the months of March and April, continuing work on flooring for the Pelham Room and also continuing to work on aggressively seeking addition tenants.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Hedges reported the following: Hedges reported as the City of Pelham is no longer in debt to Georgia Power and the street lights will be turned back on. Hedges reported he shared the news of the lights being turned back on with the community via the City of Pelham Facebook page which he manages. That one comment of the street lights being turned back on reached over 10,200 Facebook followers, received 252 “likes”, 41 comments, and 77 Facebook followers have shared the announcement. This being a very positive reaction from the community! The lights will be turned back on in Phase I, II, and III starting with major corridors. After all the phases have been completed the Pelham Police will identify any remaining interior neighborhood dark spots where lights need to be turned on. Individuals which have made arrangements with Georgia Power for lighting, it will be their decision as to whether these personal street lights will remain on at their expense with no guarantees that the city will take over the financial responsibility for those individual lights. At the last council meeting the council agreed to declare certain equipment of the police departments as surplus to be sold as of today the police department has a net balance of \$34,503.14 in that account. The moral at the police department could not be better due to officers receiving new vest, and last week they all received brand new Tasers. The Gas Expansion Project which was approved by the council in January all of the necessary materials and equipment have been received to lay the 2.16 miles of pipe. However due to permits not being received and ground work not being ready the April 1st deadline will not be met. The revenues for housing prison inmates are being recorded on the financial records when funds are received. The correct procedure would be to record income when incurred thus matching income and expense on a timely basis. The lift station at Highway 19 and Harmony Road is one of the largest lift stations in Pelham’s waste water system and one of three pumps has failed. Repair or replacement could be expensive and until the pump has been removed and evaluated the actual cost to the city will remain unknown. “Pothole Warriors” have used about 19 tons of asphalt and averaging about 35 potholes a week. On the financials for February the general fund, enterprise fund, and jail fund

all were very positive. The general fund had received \$159,000 from Georgia Power for franchise fee, and all of the inmate housing and boarding were book in the jail fund with \$46,555 past due. The enterprise fund had an excess in water and sewer sales due to estimated bills in February which will be corrected for the month of March. The detention center expenses are down. Also included in the packet was House Bill 170 Transportation Funding Act of 2015. Taxation revision is to increase revenues to fund transportation needs and pasted the House Transportation Committee on March 2, 2015. The LOST tax rate increased from 1% to 1.25 % which will not affect the City of Pelham but will affect the Pelham Board of Education. The SPLOST tax rate will remain at 1%.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

No Report

MAYOR REPORTS

Mayor Tucker reported that she would like to extend the city's appreciation to Marcella Deriso (local Georgia Power representative) in her efforts in the way that she has worked with the city in the process of helping identifying the streets and working with the city manager in getting the lights turned back on. Also noted was the financial information that year to date a positive overall balance with all funds combined (general, enterprise, and detention center fund) of \$715,147 and for the month of February \$431,823.

REGULAR SESSION

MAYOR TUCKER PRESIDING

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council Member Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as written, **seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.**

MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve minutes from the following meeting: February 19, 2015 CDBG Public Hearing minutes as written, **seconded by Council Member Hatcher. The vote was unanimous.**

Council Member Parker made a motion to approve minutes from the following meeting: February 19, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes as written, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There are two vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Laura Beth Tucker has resigned as a result of assuming the position of Mayor, and Charles Rooks has resigned inasmuch as he no longer resides in Pelham. Mayor Tucker has put forward Ray McKemie for consideration and Councilman Hodges has put forth Dee Drake for consideration. **Council Member Parker made a motion** to accept the two nominations of Ray McKemie, and Dee Drake, **seconded by Council Member Eubanks. The vote was unanimous.**

EXTENSION OF ADVANCED DISPOSAL CONTRACT

The City of Pelham currently has a solid waste disposal contract with Advanced Disposal which was originally Veolia ES Solid Waste Southeast Inc. and the contract was entered into June 2011. A one year extension was entered into by the city with Advanced Disposal in June 2014 at that time is when the name was changed from Veolia Solid Waste to Advanced Disposal. The current contract is up for renewal in June 2015 and Advanced Disposal has recommended a three year extension at the same terms/rates and conditions plus they will provide semi-annually open tops (large roll-off containers) at no cost to the city for bulk waste. The Amendment to the City of Pelham Municipal Solid Waste Contract between the City of Pelham and Advanced Disposal Services will amend agreement to extend the term of the agreement for three years starting July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Council Member Hodges read Resolution for the Extension of Contract for Solid Waste Disposal. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to adopt the resolution, **seconded by Council Member Eubanks. The vote was unanimous.**

GMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mayor Tucker stated the GMA item is to approve the Mayor and Council's participation for the GMA Annual Conference and Convention that will be held in Savannah on June 26-30. Anyone who is interested in attending will need to get prior authorization and approval for their attendance. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to approve the Mayor and Council's participation in the Annual GMA Conference, **seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCIL MEMBER EUBANKS PRESIDING

Code Enforcement:

Business/Peddler's license (1), Illegal Dumping of garbage (2), Litter or Debris on street or sidewalk (9), Violations of Animal Control Ordinance (2), Sign Ordinance (2), Grass/weeds Ordinance Violations (2), Miscellaneous (7), and Total Permits Issued (20)

Animal Control:

Animals Impounded (9)

Police/Jail:

Mitchell Co. 911 (615), Cases Opened by Investigation (08), Cases Cleared by Arrest (10), Patrol Mileage (6,157), Housed Inmates other agencies (153), and Inmate Housing Billed (\$93,015).

Fire Department:

Responded to calls (37)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Hodges made a motion to close regular session and go into executive session at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Tucker stated the purpose of the executive session is to discuss legal matters/real estate.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Council Member Parker made a motion to reconvene regular session at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Tucker stated no votes were taken in executive session.

ACTIONS BASED ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Eubanks made a motion to move forward with the 179 Mathewson property to be turned over to the Pelham-Mitchell County Development Authority for development purposes, seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Eubanks made a motion to declare the property know as the Old Water Treatment Plant off of Harmony Road as surplus for the city needs at this time and make it available for auction, seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Hodges made a motion on the Resolution for the Contract Termination with Stellar Solutions, seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Eubanks** made a **motion to adjourn** the meeting, **seconded by Council Member Robinson**. **The vote was unanimous. Mayor Tucker declared the meeting closed at 8:03 p.m.**

Mayor, Laura Beth Tucker

AUTHENTICATED:
This 20th Day of April 2015.

City Clerk, Lisa Austin