

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. – Zoom Meeting

PRESENT:

Mayor James Eubanks
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Brown
Council Member Bennett Adams
Council Member Fredrick Davis
Council Member Robert Hodges
Council Member Ansel Parrish
Council Member Bobby Robinson
Council Member Tad Williamson

City Manager, Craig Bennett
City Attorney, Tommy Coleman
DDA Director, Christian Drake
Police Chief Nealie McCormick
Fire Chief Ivey Godwin

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Eubanks provided the opening prayer.

REGULAR SESSION – LED BY MAYOR EUBANKS

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council Member Williamson made a motion to approve the agenda with one change, under Citizen Comments of the agenda remove Public Safety-Teresa Robinson due to the citizen not attending, seconded by Council Member Hodges. The roll call vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Hodges made a motion to approve minutes from December 17, 2020, Council Meeting, as distributed, seconded by Council Member Williamson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

CHARTER RESOLUTION

The Charter Resolution is to change the city's charter regarding Council composition and election means. To ensure a one man one vote concept, the Council directed to consider reducing the Council to 6 members and a mayor. The Charter Resolution incorporates that number. The mayoral power will be changed to vote only in a tie or when he is required to

make a quorum. The change in Council composition will take place in 2023. The clause concerning abstaining from vote counting as a negative vote has been deleted from the charter.

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve the Charter Resolution requesting the General Assembly to make certain changes to the Charter of the City of Pelham with regards to the composition of the Council and the conduct of Elections; repealing all resolutions in conflict herewith and for other purposes, **seconded by Council Member Williamson. The roll call vote in favor of the motion was Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, Council Member Adams, Council Member Davis, Council Member Hodges, Council Member Robinson, and Council Member Williamson. The roll call vote opposed to the motion was Council Member Parrish. Mayor Eubanks stated with the majority in favor, and the motion will carry.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Eubanks called for the Public Hearing to be opened at 6:45 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to consider applying for the next Georgia DCA CDBG Grant. The Community Development Block Grant will help with housing in Pelham. The Public Hearing was to allow any comments from the Public and City Council.

No comments were received from the public calling into the meeting about the public hearing.

No comment from the City Council during the public hearing.

Mayor Eubanks stated the Public Hearing is adjourned at Regular Session is reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

HOUSING CDBG ADMINISTRATOR SELECTION

Two bids were received to administer this grant from Carol Consulting and Grant Management, Inc. and Grant Specialist of Georgia, Inc. The Statement of Qualifications were evaluated against six criteria: Knowledge of CDBG guidelines and regulations, Years of experience, Capacity to complete scope of work, Past performance, experience in administration of this type of project, Current workload, and cost.

Carol Consulting and Grant Management, Inc. is no application fee, 7% of the grant, and DCA allowed project development cost.

Grant Specialist of Georgia, Inc. is a \$5,000 application fee, 7% of the grant, and DCA allowed project development cost.

Council Member Adams made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the documents required to get Carol Consulting and Grant Management, Inc. on board as the consultant for the CDBG; that recommendation is based on the fact of experience, and they are waiving the cost of the grant writing, **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The roll call vote was unanimous.**

NOVEMBER 2021 ELECTION ORDINANCE

The Election Ordinance is a standard Ordinance to conduct the city election this upcoming November 2021. The qualifying fees will remain the same as previous elections, City Council will be \$72.00, and School Board will be \$36.00.

Council Member Hodges made a motion to approve the November 2021 Election Ordinance and dispense with the second reading, second by Council Member Williamson. The roll call vote in favor of the motion was Council Member Hodges, Council Member Williamson, Council Member Robinson, Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, Council Member Adams, and Council Member Davis. The roll call vote opposed to the November 2021 Election Ordinance was Council Member Parrish. City Attorney asked Council Member Parrish if he objected to dispensing with the second reading, and he stated he did not object to dispensing with the second reading. Mayor Eubanks stated the motion would carry.

SWGRC APPOINTMENT

The SWGRC (Southwest Georgia Regional Commission) Board allows one city and one non-public representative to the board. The two appointees are W.D. Palmer Camilla Council Member, and Nathaniel Keaton, the non-public representative.

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve W.D. Palmer as the elected official and the non-public citizen as Nathaniel Keaton to the SWGRC Board, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The roll call vote was unanimous.

ASCAP RENEWAL

ASCAP is the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. The license with ASCAP permits us to play in a public forum the music of their members. The annual fee is census-based, so the City of Pelham's fee is \$367.00 per year.

Council Member Hodges made a motion to renew the ASCAP Licensing Agreement, seconded by Council Member Parrish. The roll call vote was unanimous.

GMA UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICE

GMA Unemployment Service will represent the city through the claim process when former employees of the city seek unemployment and submits a claim with the Department of Labor. The service cost is staff census-based and will cost \$94.00 per year.

Council Member Adams made a motion to contract with GMA Unemployment Service, seconded by Council Member Davis. The roll call vote was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Reviewed financial reports of December 2020 that were presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Reviewed department reports from December 2020 from the Pelham Police Department, Fire Department, Utility Department, and Code Enforcement.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Subject: City Manager's Report

Week of 18-22 January

Coronavirus

Area	Contracted COVID 19		Died		%	
	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report
Global	95,612,831	90,759,370	2,066,176	1,963,169	2.16	2.16
U.S.	24,135,690	22,965,957	400,306	383,351	1.66	1.67
Georgia	695,400	660,720	11,411	10,721	1.64	1.62
Mitchell County	1,322	1,280	61	56	4.61	4.38

- See digital map at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#casescasesper100klast7days>
- A new community report can be seen daily at <https://beta.healthdata.gov/National/COVID-19-Community-Profile-Report/gqxm.d9w9>
- Last two weeks with city staff
 - One PW Road Crew employee came to work on 11 Jan symptomatic and was diagnosed at lunch that day with COVID by a Dr.
 - On Tuesday, PW Road Crew put in quarantine
 - Two PW employees on follow-up testing came up with positive
 - Monday, one City Hall employee was diagnosed positive by a Dr.
 - Place City Hall employees on quarantine and/or telework
 - Tuesday, an asymptomatic City Hall employee was diagnosed positive by a Dr.
 - Four employees began vaccination at the Mitchell County Hospital.
 - Remaining City Hall employees in the testing protocol, two are negative so far.

Water and Wastewater Operations

- Experience staff member declined a request to take over the operations due to health reasons.
- Counteroffer to departing employee declined.
- I was interviewing a qualified retiree for potentially coming on as an interim.
- Positions advertised on social media, with the Georgia Rural Water Association, and on a job board at MCLB Albany.

Cutoffs

- With the increase in COVID-19 cases and administrative relief due to quarantines, the Mayor has granted the suspension of cutoffs for January under emergency authority.

Cities United

- GMA's winter conference will be virtual on January 25th from 8:00-3:00.
- Dr. Fauci will be the keynote speaker.
- You can register at <https://gacities.com/Events/Library/Cities-United-Virtual-Summit.aspx>
- The conference does include a \$50.00 fee. I'll allocate a portion of the modified training and education funding towards the legislative budget for those who wish to attend.
- If you need assistance registering, please contact Ms. Lisa.

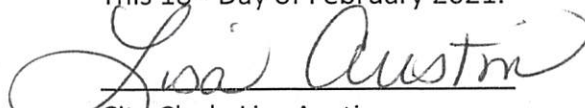
ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Parrish** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown**. **The roll call vote was unanimous**. **Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.**


 Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 18th Day of February 2021.


 City Clerk, Lisa Austin

