

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

August 18, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Mayor, James Eubanks
Mayor Pro Tem, Alfred Brown
Council Member Bennett Adams
Council Member Rhonda Brown
Council Member Fredrick Davis
Council Member Bobby Robinson
Council Member Cody Shiver

City Manager, Christian Drake
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
Attorney, Tommy Coleman-Zoom
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
GA. South Productions, Kenneth Brown
Enterprise-Journal, Kermit Gilliard

Michael Carter
Racquel Carter
Corey Morgan
Dr. Verna Wiggins

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Eubanks provided the opening prayer.

REGULAR SESSION – LED BY MAYOR EUBANKS

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve the July 21, 2022, Council Minutes and the August 11, 2022, Council Workshop Minutes as distributed, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous.

COOPER STREET NAME CHANGE

Cooper Street is a one-way street located off Church Street in Pelham. The only property located on Cooper Street is Bethel AME Church. Bethel AME is one of the oldest churches in Pelham and it also serves as a location for many community events. Dr. Verna Jackson Wiggins spoke to the council at the work session on August 11, 2022, about changing the name of Cooper Street to Bethel AME Church Drive.

Council Member Robinson made a motion to change the name of Cooper Street to Bethel AME Church Drive, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous.

STITCHES CONTRACT RENEWAL

Stitches is a non-profit organization to serve the citizens of Mitchell County to help prevent over population in felines and canines. This is an annual contract for the terms of August 1, 2022- June 30, 2023. The city will pay \$1270.00 per month to provide animal control services for the city.

Council Member Davis made a motion to approve the annual contract with Stitches for a one-year term beginning August 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, seconded by Council Member Shiver. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY RECRUITMENT BONUS

The city currently has eight vacancies between the Fire and Police Department. There is an immediate action needed to take to help fill those positions. Offering the public safety staff, a \$500 recruitment bonus will encourage our employees to recruit to fill those vacant positions. If all positions were filled due to employee recruiting, the city would pay \$4,000.00 in recruitment bonuses. In order for an employee to qualify for the bonus, the person they recruit must work for the city for 90 days. After the 90 days is up, the employee that referred the new hire will receive a bonus check for \$500.

Council Member Davis made a motion to accept and approve the \$500 bonus check for the public safety staff who recruits public safety employees after 90 days of work by the referred new hire, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.

VISIBILITY ISSUE AT INTERSECTION OF SR 93 HAND AVE W. AT RAILROAD STREET

The Georgia Department of Transportation was contacted to give recommendations for addressing a sight distance issue at the intersections of SR93/Hand Avenue W. at Railroad Street and McLaughlin Street SW in Pelham. The intersection in question was visited Wednesday, August 3, 2022. The removal of four parking spaces at the intersections of Hand Avenue at Railroad Street and McLaughlin Street is to address line-of-sight issues for motorists turning onto Hand Avenue from Railroad Street and McLaughlin Streets.

Council Member Adams made a motion to move forward with removing two parking spaces from the E. side of Railroad Street and Hand Avenue and remove two parking spaces at the

corner of Hand Avenue and McLaughlin, seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous.

YARD DEBRIS CREDIT

In the month of July yard debris services were not provided properly for the residence. After having conversations with Advanced Disposal regarding this issue they have acknowledged that they did not provide the services as outlined in the contract they have with the city, and they decided to give a credit on the cities bill for the month of July. The credit Advanced Disposal gave the city was about 50% of what we are normally charged. Since the City of Pelham serves as a pass through between Advanced Disposal and our residents it would only be right to pass that credit to the citizens.

Council Member Shiver made a motion to give a credit of \$3.50 on resident's utility bill for yard debris on the September billing, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Council reviewed financial reports of July 2022 that were presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Council reviewed department reports from July 2022 from the Pelham Police Department, Fire Department, Utility Department, and Code Enforcement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Brown made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:05.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Council Member Robinson made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Reconvene Regular Session, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Eubanks declared the Regular meeting back in session at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSSION

Council Member Brown made a motion to make Christian Drake the full time City Manager subject to contract review, **seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous.**

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Robinson made a motion** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.**



Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 15th Day of September 2022.



City Clerk, Lisa Austin