

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION

July 11, 2024 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Mayor James Eubanks	Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Brown	Investigator, Adam Lamb
Council Member Bennett Adams	Fire Chief, Shane Stinson
Council Member Fredrick Davis	Economic Development Director, Cameron Harris
Council Member Bobby Robinson	Accounts Payable Clerk, Jasmine Riddle
Council Member Cody Shiver	Enterprise-Journal, Randy Wind
City Manager, Christian Drake	John Lodge
City Manager, Christian Drake	Bruce Williams
	Trudie Ward

Council Member Troutman was present via telephone

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Bruce Williams appeared before the Council to discuss an issue with social media posts posted by a member of the Main Street Promotion Committee.

Mrs. Trudie Ward appeared before the Council to discuss her disapproval of the closed-door policy for the private offices in City Hall.

Mr. John Lodge appeared before the Council to discuss court proceeding rules and statutes regarding tickets and court appearances in reference to a speeding ticket he received from the Pelham Police Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for approval: June 20, 2024, Council Meeting
July 11, 2024, Work Session

This will be an **ACTION ITEM**.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A review of all department reports. City Manager Drake gave his report. He commended the Chamber of Commerce for a great event when they held Slice of Summer. He also discussed the current vacancies in employment, stating there is one police officer position open. City Manager Drake discussed the progress RPI Underground has made on the Clean Water project. The Lead Service Line Inventory, which was a national mandate, has been completed. There were no lead service lines found. The next step for the Lead Service Lines Inventory is to compile the data that the contractor provided and submit the report, which is due October 21, 2024. There will be a gas service expansion project to accommodate a drying facility that will be outside the city limits on US Hwy 19. He also stated CDBG 2021 was on track to be completed December 2024 and the plan was to qualify for CDBG 2025. Town hall meetings for the library are being held. The leak at the Depot has been repaired and upgrades to the restroom have been completed. Necessary repairs have been made to the men's restroom in City Hall. The parking lot in front of the bays at the Fire Department is being repaired. Most of the graves have been filled at the Liberia Street Cemetery. WALB did a story on the cemetery update. An RP has been done for a new auditor. Due to an increase in sewer backups/issues downtown caused by fat, oil, and/or grease, the code enforcement officer is working on inspections of interceptors for the businesses downtown. If a business does not have an interceptor, the city could potentially purchase the interceptor for the business. City Manager Drake is currently working with the Municipal Gas Authority to update the City's gas rates. Waste Management will be implementing a 5.3% rate increase. This will cause the sanitation rates for the City's customers to increase as well. Economic Development Director Cameron Harris presented his quarterly report, highlighting the many events that were held for the community as well as the updates made to several parks. He also gave updates on the vacant properties downtown.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A review of the financial report.

AWARD ENGINEERING RFP

The City of Pelham Put out a request qualifications and proposals for selection of an Engineering Firm to provide post-award services for water and/or sewer infrastructure projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GA OPB) and Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). City Manager Drake reviewed the two submissions received from Watkins & Associates and ESG Engineering.

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council award the RFQ to Watkins and Associates.

This will be an **ACTION ITEM**.

GEFA DRINKING WATER PROJECT

Bids were received and opened for the Deep Well & Safety Improvements project on August 1, 2023. RPI Underground, Inc. was the only bid submitted with a base bid of \$1,352,106. After reviewing the bids received, Watkins & Associates, LLC recommended that the City of Pelham enter into an agreement with RPI Underground, Inc., to construct the project "Deep Well & Safety Improvements" in the amount of \$1,352,106.00 contingent upon the results from the investigation into the improvements required to the Scott Marshall Well. As part of the bid submitted, we listed several contingency items that may or may not be required. In August 2023, the City Council approved the investigative phase of the project, costing \$110,150. This phase involved inspecting the Scott and Marshall wells to determine the scope of necessary repairs. According to the investigative report, the total estimated cost of the project was \$884,263.00.

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve the change order for the GEFA Drinking Water project.

This will be an **ACTION ITEM**.

TRAVEL POLICY

City Manager Drake presented a revised travel policy and discussed it with the Council, noting the changes that were made to the previous version that was presented during the June 13th work session.

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve the travel policy.

This will be an **ACTION ITEM**.

ROAD CLOSURE-MAIN STREET CHALK FESTIVAL

Pelham Main Street will be hosting a Chalk Festival on August 10, 2024, from 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. They are requesting a road closure for the event. The road closure will be on Mathewson Ave from the intersection of East Railroad St to the intersection of West Railroad St. The road closure will be in effect from 10: 00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve the road closure.

This will be an **ACTION ITEM**.

COUNCIL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

City Manager Drake opened discussion regarding how Councilmembers requesting extensive information regarding city business would be handled. The majority of the council agreed that if an investigation of city business is necessary then the council would call for the investigation by vote. If extensive information is requested by an individual Councilmember, they will need to fill out an Open Records request and are subject to the same charges as any other citizen.

ADJOURN

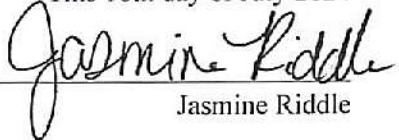
Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 8:22 p.m.



Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 18th day of July 2024



Jasmine Riddle



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