

# *The City of Pelham*

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 19, 2025 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor James Eubanks	City Manager, Christian Drake
Council Member Bennett Adams	Asst. Police Chief, Rod Williams
Council Member Bobby Robinson	Holly Phillips, Desoto Trails Library Director
Council Member Cody Shiver	Enterprise-Journal, Dawn Clark
Council Member Mistry Troutman	Kursten Harrel, Desoto Regional Services Coordinator
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick	

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for approval: May 15, 2025 Council Meeting  
May 22, 2025 Called Meeting  
June 12, 2025 Work Session

**Councilmember Bennet Adams** made a motion to approve the minutes from the **May 15, 2025 Council Meeting** and the **May 22, 2025 Called Meeting** as presented, and to approve the **June 12, 2025, Work Session Minutes** with an amendment correcting the representative present from the *Mitchell County Enterprise Journal* from **Dawn Clark** to **Randy Wind**. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Bobby Robinson** and passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

City Manager Drake provided an update on the GEFA Drinking Water Project, informing the Council that the project is nearing completion. The only remaining task is the installation of a generator at the Cotton Avenue Well. He noted the timing is ideal, as this addition will ensure the city has more than one well equipped with backup power just in time for hurricane season. Councilmember Adams asked about the type of generator to be installed and expressed a preference for a natural gas generator, if possible.

Drake also updated the Council on the progress of the water main replacement project taking place between Cannon Street and East Railroad Street North. He stated that connections are currently being tied into the new waterlines along Cannon Street, and that the contractor is close to beginning work on East Railroad Street, pending the finalization of necessary permits from the Railroad Authority. City Manager Drake recognized Water, Gas, and Sewer Supervisor Lamar Adams and Public Works Supervisor Devey Spence for their quick response in repairing a sewer main break that occurred early Saturday morning. Councilmember Robinson inquired about the long-awaited fire hydrant replacement on Baggs Avenue. Drake reported that a locate has recently been completed at the site, which is usually an indication that work will begin soon.

Drake also reminded the Council of the CHANGE program taking place at the Donnice Cochran Center. The program operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., providing meals, educational enrichment, and recreational activities for local youth ranging from elementary to high school age. He encouraged the Council to visit the program and show their support. Additionally, Drake invited the Council to attend the upcoming Juneteenth celebration at Francis Davis Park on Saturday.

During this portion of the meeting, Ms. Holly Phillips, the new Director of the Desoto Trail Regional Library System, introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Phillips shared that she is a Pelham native and expressed her excitement about the opportunity to work closely with the city to continue advancing the mission and visibility of the Pelham Carnegie Library.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

City Manager Drake informed the Council that the financial report included in this week's packet is a **Statement of Revenues and Expenditures** for the period of **June 1 through June 13**. The report provides prior-year spending for the same period, year-to-date (YTD) expenditures, the adopted budget, and the percentage of the adopted budget spent to date for all City of Pelham accounts. Drake noted that this type of report will be included in every council packet going forward and that the City will continue to provide more detailed quarterly financial updates to the Council as well.

### **JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION**

City Manager Drake presented a proclamation recognizing June 19<sup>th</sup> as Juneteenth Day for the City of Pelham.

Councilmember Mistry Troutman made a motion to adopt the Juneteenth Proclamation recognizing June 19<sup>th</sup> as Juneteenth Day in the City of Pelham. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bobby Robinson and passed unanimously.

## **ELECTION ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Bennett Adams made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-06-19-01, setting the official procedures and terms for the City of Pelham's General Election on November 4, 2025, and to dispense with the second reading of the ordinance. The motion also included authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Mitchell County for the administration of the election. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cody Shiver.

During discussion, Councilmember Bobby Robinson expressed concern about the proposal for Mitchell County to run the election, noting that early voting would be relocated to the Elections Office in Camilla rather than remaining at Pelham City Hall, where it has historically been held. While other Councilmembers acknowledged this concern, they also recognized the potential cost savings and efficiencies in partnering with the county. Councilmember Adams suggested the City explore providing transportation for residents without access to Camilla to ensure access to early voting.

As the discussion became repetitive, Mayor Eubanks called for a vote on the motion. The vote was as follows:

In favor: Councilmembers Adams, Troutman, Shiver, and Mayor Eubanks

Opposed: Councilmember Robinson

While the motion to adopt the ordinance and approve the IGA passed by majority, Robert's Rules of Order requires unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading of an ordinance. As the vote was not unanimous, the Council must conduct a second reading of the ordinance at the next regular meeting before it can be formally adopted.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

City Manager Drake presented two candidates to serve on the City's Planning Commission:

Ben Wingard of 202 Green Street, Pelham, Georgia

Marian S. McCormick of 349 Barrow Avenue, Pelham, Georgia

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve both of the candidates.

Councilmember Cody Shiver Made a motion to appoint Ben Wingard and Marian McCormick to the City of Pelham's Planning Commission, seconded by Councilmember Troutman. The vote passed unanimously.

## **ALCOHOL LICENSE-114 GREEN ST**

The business name for the business located at 114 Green St has changed, resulting in a new alcohol license being required. Based on the recommendation from the police chief, City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve the Alcohol License for SONIL 1966 LLC. for Beer Package and Wine Package only license at 114 Green St.

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to approve the alcohol license a 114 Green St. for beer package and wine package only license, seconded by Councilmember Troutman. The vote passed unanimously.

### **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

City Manager Drake presented a list of equipment to surplus in order to list for sale on GovDeals.com:

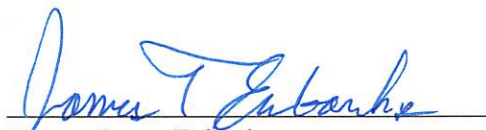
Fork lift serial # D1293 (Inoperable)  
Welder trailer unknown serial # (Inoperable)  
1990 Ford F-800 VIN# 1FDXK84A6LVA33582 (Inoperable)  
Fork Lift Serial # 1057-541 (Inoperable)\  
Floodlight Trailer unknown serial # (Inoperable)  
Upright Yamaha piano serial # T174611 (Needs repairs)

City Manager Drake is recommending the Council approve the surplus of the items and equipment listed.

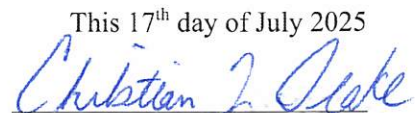
Councilmember Troutman made a motion to declare the equipment presented in the packet as surplus, seconded by Councilmember Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Robinson made a motion the meeting adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Shiver. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting closed at 7:13 p.m.

  
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Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christian Drake

