

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 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

City Manager, Jim Hedges
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
City Attorney, Randall Chew
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Chamber of Commerce, Kent Holtzclaw
Main Street Director Ernest Barfield
Pelham Journal, Carl Stokes
MCTV, Jerry White
Suzanne Anderson
Kyng Hoe Kim

Council Member John Taylor was absent from the meeting

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 Robinson provided the opening prayer.

CITIZENS DELEGATION

COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON PRESIDING

Pelham Main Street Director Ernest Barfield updated the council on the following events: Pelham's Main Streets Great Southwest Georgia Auto Show and Rally was held Friday, March 20th and Saturday, March 21st. The event had over 70 autos & trucks registered and were on display. The event provided a fish fry on Friday evening in Freedom Park and pull pork BBQ Saturday afternoon. The Movie in the park series showed its first movie "UP" a Disney/Pixar production Friday, March 27th at 8:00 p.m. in Freedom Park. The Annual Great Pelham Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday, March 28th from 10:30-12:00 in Freedom Park. Pelham Main Street Director attended the Main Street National Conference March 30th-April 2nd in Atlanta, Georgia. Attendees were inspired and left equipped with valuable new information and tools to assist their communities. Pelham Main Street canceled the Concert & Pic-Nic in the Park that was scheduled for Saturday, April 4th from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in Freedom Park due to conflicting performance scheduled with the Pelham High School Band. The Movie in the Park series will show its second movie "Yogi Bear" Friday, April 24th at 8:00 p.m. in Freedom Park. Another

Movie in the Park “Babe: the gallant pig” is scheduled for Friday, May 15th at 8:00 p.m. in Freedom Park. Pelham Main Street will be returning the popular “Gourmet Box Lunch’ as a fundraiser the first luncheon will be Wednesday, June 3rd. Other projects include inventorying all the properties located in the business district of downtown Pelham as a requirement of Georgia DCA.

Pelham Chamber of Commerce Director Kent Holtzclaw updated the council on the following events: Kevin Brooks from Family Bank has returned to the Chamber Board of Directors as the Treasury due to the stepping down of Laura Beth Tucker who assumed the Mayor position. The Chamber reported they had two new members to join: Rocking Stables on Mt. Olive Road, and Southern Harvest Insurance located on Church Street. An upcoming event the Chamber has planned is the “Wild Duck 500” which is a duck race where you buy a duck for \$5.00. The ducks will race and the winner of that duck receives \$500 dollars. This year it will be in conjunction with Relay for Life and a percentage of proceeds from the duck race will go to the American Cancer Society. The duck race will be held at Relay for Life on May 15th also at that same event will be a silly photo booth and the money raised will also go to the American Cancer Society. Planning events include the Wildlife Auction, Wildlife Festival which will be held the 1st Saturday in October, BBQ cook-off will be added to this year’s Wildlife Festival. The Chamber President Jessica Adams will be hosting an evening of fellowship at her residence on Monday, May 11th with the Chamber Board of Directors. On Saturday, May 16th there will be an Antique Car Ride all over Southwest Georgia and Pelham is a rest stop for them and the Chamber will be supporting that event and will have the Hand Building open for restroom facilities and showcasing the building.

Pelham-Mitchell County Joint Development Authority Report Suzanne Anderson updated the council that the restaurant in the Hand Building “Diggity Dogs” closed as of April 19th and the owner Rhonda Hilliard will be focusing her efforts on her business in Camilla. The good news is someone has expressed interest in taking over the space in the Hand Building were “Diggity Dogs” was located. The Joint Development Authority will begin discussions with the interested party on occupying the space and will also be talking with Rhonda Hilliard about the equipment. The Joint Development Authority will continue with negotiations to get someone in that space in a fairly short period of time. All the local high schools held there proms at the Hand Building in March which not only brought money but also showcased the building to some that had not been there before.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Laura Beth Tucker stated she would like to express her appreciation for the city, our community, and residents in the city for the honor that was paid to Officer John A. Mucci. A special thank you to Council Member James Eubanks, Council Member Robert Hodges, City Manager Jim Hedges, City Clerk Lisa Austin and all of the city employees who attended the service in support of our law enforcement family. Also noted our appreciation as a city to all of

those who left flowers, cards, and mentos at Officer Mucci patrol vehicle while it was parked at City Hall. The City would also like to thank following: Mitchell EMC for having the flag that was erected over Hand Avenue that was displayed in time of the procession, funeral, and after the funeral, thanked the Chamber of Commerce for having the LED sign noting that we were honoring Officer Mucci, Thomasville Police Department Honor Guard for them being there for the folding of the flag, Diggity Dogs Diner providing and treating all the law enforcement family and Johns family to lunch that day following the memorial service, Mitchell 911 for the last call tribute they provided, law enforcement from around South Georgia and beyond that participated in the last ride escort, City of Sylvester and City of Camilla for blocking traffic and letting that family escort all the way into Pelham, American Legion John Gray for the playing of Taps, and to Chief Nealie McCormick for all that he provided to this family in this very difficult time. Other topics included: City Street lights the entire main street areas of lighting are now on. The downtown lights totals up to 238 lights that have been turned back on our main thoroughfares, 62 intersection lights that have been turned back on that's a total of 300 lights that have been turned back on. Mayor Tucker addressed how the city was able to turn these lights back on by reducing spending by implementing a purchase order system, eliminating all non-emergency overtime, and also by receiving a franchise fee from Georgia Power which allowed us to pay off all past due as well as having some reserve to be able to turn the lights back on. Mayor Tucker reported that it is tennis weekend in Mitchell County and Camilla will be hosting the Pro-Amateur Invitational Tennis Tournament which will be held April 24th, 25th, and 26th. This event is held in Camilla but is a Mitchell County event because it raises money for Pelham Food Bank, Pelham and Camilla Boys and Girls Club as well as other non-profit organizations throughout the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Hedges reported the following: Love Street NW and Mitchell Street NW water project are two major storm drains at intersection both of which were badly in need of maintenance. The storm drain box on the west side of the intersection was completely full of dirt and after digging down to the bottom it was discovered that the drain pipe was missing. On the east side of the intersection the storm drain box was also completely full of dirt and will be cleaned and the next and final step is to ensure the drain pipe connects the two storm drains and they are clear. In October 2011 the City of Pelham entered into an agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association to pay off the debt relating to the general liability insurance at that time the outstanding balance was \$131,930.00. The city agreed to make seven payments of \$11,544.51 however the city defaulted on such agreement. In March 2015 the remaining balance of \$26,915.43 was paid off there still is an issue with the Georgia Municipal Association and that relates to default fees of \$11,344.16 and we have been instructed to make no more payments and the default fees may be waived by the Georgia Municipal Association Board of Directors at their June meeting in Savannah. Also in 2011 the City of Pelham entered into an agreement with Georgia Municipal Association to pay off a \$106,155.97 which was relating to Worker's Compensation that the city had thru GMA. In March 2015 Pelham paid \$33,986.00 which was past due the outstanding balance of \$8,489.97 is default fees the fees may be waived by the Georgia Municipal Association Board of Directors at their June meeting in

Savannah. The James Workman Gas Expansion Project which will go out highway 93 work will begin next week providing the weather hold up. In February there was some accounting changes associated with the monthly recording of inmate housing invoices. This adjustment resulted in \$149,129 of additional revenue being recorded. In March Pelham paid Georgia Power for all past due amounts which totaled \$137,778.73 and this amount expense has not been recorded on the financial records. In March \$234,245.00 has been removed from the General Fund and \$84,993.68 from Enterprise Fund and recorded as capital expenditures in SPLOST. City Manager Hedges spoke about Senate Bill 134 (40% Law) it's a law that applies to law enforcement on speeding tickets. In the past you would take 40% of the department's expenditures and your fines below 17 miles an hour could not exceed 40% balance of the department fund. Two major changes taken place the 40% has now been dropped to 35% the 17 miles an hour has increased to 20 miles per hour. Included was a spreadsheet of the March financials and a brief overview.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

No Report

REGULAR SESSION

MAYOR TUCKER PRESIDING

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Council Member Parker made a motion to approve minutes from the following meeting: March 16, 2015 minutes as written, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE

The 2015 Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia Annual Election and the City are to appoint two delegates to serve as the Election Committee Representative. The recommendation is for the City Manager Hedges to be the Election Committee Representative and Charles Lauderdale to be the Alternate. **Council Member Eubanks made a motion** to accept the Election Committee Representative as City Manager Jim Hedges and the Alternate as Charles Lauderdale, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

“BAN THE BOX” RESOLUTION

On February 23, 2015 Gov. Nathan Deal signed an Executive Order that prohibits the use of criminal record as an automatic bar to employment. This prevents the use of an application form that inappropriately excludes and discriminates against qualified job applicants. Approximately 97% of those sentenced to prison will eventually return to society. **Council Member Eubanks made a motion** to accept the “Ban the Box” Resolution to amend the Pelham Employment Application that will remove the question “Have you ever been convicted of a crime” **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

KEEFE COMMISSARY NETWORK RESOLUTION

Keefe Commissary Network is the nation’s leading provider of automated commissary management services and technologies to city, county, and state correctional facilities nationwide. This is a three year contract with the option to renew for an additional two one year terms to provide commissary services to the City of Pelham with a commission of 30%. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** adopt the Resolution to contract with Keefe Commissary Network for commissary services, **seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous.**

CITY OF PELHAM OVERTIME

An analysis of overtime by department comparing the 1st quarter of 2014 to the 1st quarter of 2015. In the 1st quarter of 2014 \$65,000 of overtime the 1st quarter of 2015 \$18,000 that’s a savings of \$46,000. The comparison reflects a 71.8% decrease in overtime expenditures in 2015 compared to the same time period in 2014.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNCIL MEMBER EUBANKS PRESIDING

Code Enforcement:

Business/Peddler’s license (5), Illegal Dumping of garbage (1), Litter or Debris on street or sidewalk (6), Violations of Animal Control Ordinance (3), Building Permit Violations (1), Pelham’s Historic Preservation Commission (2), Miscellaneous (3), and Total Permits Issued (18)

Animal Control:

Animals Impounded (10)

Police/Jail:

Mitchell Co. 911 (738), Cases Opened by Investigation (11), Cases Cleared by Arrest (10), Patrol Mileage (6,258), Housed Inmates other agencies (184), and Inmate Housing Billed (\$115,900).

Fire Department:

Responded to calls (42)

APPROVAL HEALTH INSURANCE

With several quotes from different insurance carries United Health Care only had a \$6.00 increase over current provider Cigna. **Council Member Eubanks made a motion** to accept United Health Care for the City of Pelham Employees Insurance with a premium of \$515.97, **seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.**

APPOINTMENT TO THE MITCHELL COUNTY RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Hodges made a motion to accept the recommendation to appoint Council Member Parker to the Mitchell County Recreation Committee to represent the City of Pelham, and also appoint Council Member Robinson as the alternate, **seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous.**

BEER KING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

In accordance with City Ordinance Section 6-68, a background records check was conducted on Kyung Hoe Kim and all the requirements have been met on placing an ad in the legal organ. The name of the business is Beer King Pelham, LLC located at 200 E. Railroad Street SE. **Council Member Eubanks made a motion** to approve the alcohol license for beer package only, **second by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.** This is a change of ownership of a location that recently sold beer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Robinson made a motion to close regular session and go into executive session at 7:17 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.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Council Member Eubanks made a motion to reconvene regular session at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Tucker stated no votes were taken in executive session.

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 18th Day of May 2015.

City Clerk, Lisa Austin