

# *The City of Pelham*

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**January 22, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chamber**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Pro-Tem James Eubanks  
Council Member Alfred Brown  
Council Member Jeremy Hatcher  
Council Member Robert Hodges  
Council Member Winfred L. Parker  
Council Member Bobby Robinson  
Council Member John Taylor

City Manager, Jim Hedges  
City Clerk, Lisa Austin  
City Attorney, Randall Chew  
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick  
Assistant Police Chief Rod Williams  
Fire Chief, Ivey Godwin  
Chamber Director, Kent Holtzclaw  
Main Street Director, Ernest Barfield  
Pelham Journal, Carl Stokes  
Loyds Johnson  
Dorothy Schlabach  
Gayle Smith  
Marjorie Harris  
Steve Brown  
Steve Stillwell

With a quorum present, Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Council Member Hodges provided the opening prayer. Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks Declared January 22, 2015 meeting as an “Organization Meeting” as per Charter.

### **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

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

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF NEWLY APPOINTED CITY MANAGER JIM HEDGES**

Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks introduced the newly appointed City Manager Jim Hedges that has only been on the job for 2 weeks but has really jumped in and got a lot of work done. He has some wonderful ideas and everyone is looking forward to working with him. City Manager Hedges stated it is an honor and privilege to be with the city.

## **MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING**

**Council Member Parker made a motion** to approve minutes from the following meeting: Regular Meeting December 15, 2014 as written **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

**Council Member Parker made a motion** to approve minutes from the following meeting: Called Meeting January 5, 2015 as written **seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.**

## **CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION FOR DECEMBER 15, 2014; DECEMBER 22, 2014; JANUARY 5, 2015**

Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks stated the Closed Meetings was for the Council to enter into closed session for discussion of personnel matters as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (6). The meetings were for the negotiating the hiring of the new City Manager Jim Hedges the meetings were held on: December 15, 2014; December 22, 2014; and January 5, 2014 **Council Member Parker made a motion** to adopt the resolution, **seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Council Member Taylor made a motion** to approve the financial report of July-December 2014, as presented by City Manager Hedges, **seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.**

## **APPOINTMENT OF 2015 ADMINISTRATIVE & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**Council Member Taylor made a motion** to appoint the 2015 Administrative Committee Members as: Council Member Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks, Council Member Hatcher and Council Member Taylor and for the 2015 Public Works Committee Members as: Council Member Hodges, Council Member Parker, and Council Member Robinson, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

## **CITIZENS DELEGATION**

**Pelham Main Street Program, Ernest Barfield** updated the council on the following events: Pelham-Carnegie Library continues to receive funds for the renovation of the library and has \$85,000 in donations for immediate repairs along with future improvements, Also Pelham-Carnegie Library has received a check for \$750.00 from our new Walmart Neighborhood Market in a ceremony at the new location on Barrow Avenue, Main Streets Marketing & Promotional Committee is gearing up for the Annual Sponsorship Program for 2015. Director Barfield

announced their Board of Directors and Committee Members for 2015 as follow: Director Ernest Barfield, President Loys Johnson, Secretary Dorothy Schlabach, and Treasurer Jenny Marshall. Upcoming events include “Pelham’s Got Talent 2015” this event will be held on February 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pelham City School Auditorium on Burum Street. “Contestant Applications” will be accepted through Monday, February 2, 2015. Auditions will follow on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Pelham City School Auditorium.

**Pelham Chamber of Commerce, Kent Holtzclaw** updated the council on the following events: January 29, 2015 the Annual Chamber Banquet will be held it is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Banquet. This event will be held in the Hand Building starting at 6:30 p.m. with a meet and greet for the new city manager. This will give people the opportunity to meet the new City Manager Jim Hedges. The new board members for the chamber will be announced at the annual chamber banquet along with the volunteers of the year. Other topics included are: The renewal rate for the members is about 65% which is lower than usual and are continuing to work on getting the renewal up. Other topics included were the chamber still continues to work with the county on some of the improvements for the Hand Building.

### **DECISION TO HIRE CITY MANAGER JIM HEDGES**

City Attorney Chew recommended the City Council to make a motion and vote to hire Jim Hedges as the City Manager during the Regularly Scheduled Meeting. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to hire Jim Hedges as the City Manager of Pelham, **seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS- ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER HATCHER PRESIDING**

Council Member Hatcher directed the Council to the December 2014 reports of the Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, and Mitchell County Animal Control.

### **RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION FOR POSITION OF MAYOR ON MARCH 17, 2015 AND TO ESTABLISH QUALIFYING DATES AS FEBRUARY 9-13, 2015**

**Council Member Hatcher made a motion** to “Call for a Special Election” for position of Mayor on March 17, 2015 and to Establish Qualifying Dates as February 9-13, 2015, **seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous.**

## **RESOLUTION ESTALISHING QUALIFYING FEES**

**Council Member Hatcher made a motion** to Adopt the Resolution for Establishing Qualifying Fees for the 2015 City of Pelham Elections as follows: Mayor, City of Pelham \$108.00, Member, Pelham City Council \$72,00 and Member, Pelham Board of Education \$36.00, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

## **RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICIALS**

**Council Member Hatcher made a motion** to appoint Municipal Election Officials for the City of Pelham as follows: Election Superintendent for the 2015 Elections shall be Lisa Austin and the Absentee Ballot Clerks for the 2015 Elections shall be Angie Sanders and Donna Willis, **seconded by Council Member Taylor. The vote was unanimous.**

## **REQUEST FOR ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR RAKESHKUMAR C. PATEL @ 144 GREEN STREET**

Council Member Hatcher read a letter from Police Chief Nealie McCormick stating there was nothing found in the background check on Rakeshkumar C. Patel to prevent him from being able to obtain an alcohol license. **Council Member Hatcher made a motion** to approve the alcohol license for Rakeshkumar C. Patel for business located at 144 Green Street, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

## **REQUEST FOR ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR EVENT FOR PELHAM ROTARY CLUB @ HAND TRADING COMPANY ON MARCH 7, 2015**

The Pelham Rotary Club Inc. requested a Special Event Alcohol Beverage Permit Application for the event scheduled for one day on March 7, 2015 at the Hand Trading Company Building located at 137 Hand Avenue for a charitable fundraiser. **Council Member Hatcher made motion** to approve the special event for one day to sale alcohol, **seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.**

## **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BORROWING ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE**

Council Member Hatcher read the Resolution Approving Borrowing on a Tax Anticipation Note (Tan). Council Member Hatcher recused from the vote due to Pelham Banking Company being the lead financial institution and that being his employer. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to adopt the resolution, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

### COUNCIL MEMBER HODGES PRESIDING

#### 2015 ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION-FEBRUARY 20, 2015

Council Member Hodges read the 2015 Arbor Day Proclamation proclaiming February 20, 2015 as Arbor Day in the City of Pelham. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to adopt the proclamation, **seconded by Council Member Taylor. The vote was unanimous.**

### CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Hedges stated the LMIG project for street improvements is well underway and the paving will begin on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with weather permitting. The next item is the Proposed Gas Expansion Project and Council Member Taylor recused himself from the discussion and vote due to it being a relative. John Kisela had asked the City of Pelham to supply natural gas to 2005 Tomato Road for the purpose of heating '8" chicken houses. This is 2.16 miles from the City of Pelham which is located on highway 93. The owner has agreed to contribute \$67,000 towards the cost. The cost will be approximately \$79,195 and a contingency of 10% added making that a grand total of \$87,115. The annual potential revenue is \$26,400. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to authorize Mayor Pro-Tem James Eubanks and Attorney Randy Chew to negotiate a MOU and upon completion authorize engineering, permitting, and construction, **seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.** Next is the Inmate Telephone System and Services this is to replace the existing inmate telephone system and services that has expired in May 2013 with Global Tel Link. Global provides all equipment required for an inmate telephone system. Pelham received 44% or approximately \$25,000 annually. Option One is Bealls Communications Group which will provide all equipment including a cell phone detector with 45% of gross receipt to the city with a seven year contract. Option two ICSolutions provides all equipment including cell phone detector and 60% of gross receipts to the city with at three contract. ICSolutions will generate approximately \$9,000 annually and system installation would begin immediately. City Attorney Chew stated he has reviewed the contract and it appears to be in order and after 1 year in the contract you can stop service with a 90 day notice or a financial hardship. **Council Member Hodges made a motion** to authorize Mayor Pro-Tem James Eubanks to sign contract with ICSolutions on behalf of the City of Pelham, **seconded by Council Member Hatcher. The vote was unanimous.** City Manager Hedges also provided the city council with a report outlining some observation and information on matters relating to the City of Pelham that will be attached to the official minutes.

### CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

City Attorney Chew spoke about the Open Records request being received from Southern Center for Human Rights. City Attorney Chew stated the three day response is not that you

have to have everything in three days but you need to respond to them within three days and let them know you are working on getting the information requested.

### **MAYOR REPORTS**

NO REPORT

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Council Member Parker made a motion to close regular session and go into executive session at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks stated the purpose of the executive session is to discuss personnel and legal matters.**

### **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**

**Council Member Taylor made a motion to reconvene regular session at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks stated no votes were taken in executive session.**

### **ACTIONS BASED ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks stated there was not action taken during executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Pro-Tem Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.**

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Mayor Pro-Tem, James Eubanks

**AUTHENTICATED:**  
This 19th Day of February 2015.

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City Clerk, Lisa Austin