

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 2021 – 6:38 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Mayor James Eubanks
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Brown
Council Member Bennett Adams
Council Member Fredrick Davis
Council Member Robert Hodges
Council Member Ansel Parrish
Council Member Bobby Robinson

City Manager, Craig Bennett
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
City Attorney, Tommy Coleman
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Main Street/DDA Director-Christian Drake
Chamber Director-Autry Whitfield
Congressman Bishop Representative Paul Fryer
Police Officer, Marquita Sanders
Sheriff, W.E. Bozeman
Police Officer, Jackson Autrey
Deputy Officer, Cameron Bozeman
Helen Cody
Roscoe Jones

****Absent from the meeting Council Member Tad Williamson****

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:38 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

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve the agenda as distributed, seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION OF MEDAL OF COURAGE

On July 6, 2020, Officer Marquita Sanders of the Pelham Police Department and Deputy Cameron Bozeman of the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office responded to a shot fired call on James Street in Pelham. Upon arriving on the scene, they learned there was an armed, home invasion robbery in progress and the resident's girlfriend and children were still inside the house with the offenders. As both officers approached the residence to investigate further, one of the offenders fired three shots at the officers, one of which struck a vehicle near the officers. Both Officer Sanders and Deputy Bozeman exhibited great decision-making and restraint, by not returning fire when unaware if there were innocent bystanders in the surrounding darkness.

The officers then secured the residence, making sure the female and children were safe. The officers displayed extreme courage, even when finding themselves under fire, to protect the lives of the residents as well as the public.

Due to the courageous performance of their duties, Mayor James Eubanks, and Police Chief Nealie McCormick awarded the Pelham Police Department Medal of Courage Under Fire to Officer Marquita Sanders and Deputy Cameron Bozeman.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Hodges made a motion to approve minutes from March 18, 2021 Council Meeting, as presented, seconded by Council Member Parrish. The vote was unanimous.

INTRODUCTION AND ARP BRIEF FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF CONGRESSMAN BISHOP'S OFFICE

Congressman Bishop Office Representative Paul Fryer stated the City of Pelham is projected to receive 1.092 million due to the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds will be distributed over two years with half this year and half next year. The following are guidelines where the ARP funds can be allocated:

- Respond to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers that perform essential work.
- For the provisions of government serves to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency.
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Director Autry Whitfield submitted her report and reviewed with the council.

MITCHELL COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A report was submitted by the Mitchell County Development Authority for the council to review.

PELHAM DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/MAIN STREET

Pelham Downtown Development/Main Street Director Christian Drake submitted his report and reviewed with the council.

LMIG BIDS

Council Member Hodges made a motion to contract with The Scruggs Company to pave and do road repairs on Branch Street between Clark Street and Cotton Avenue, Clark Street between Everett Street and Wilkes Avenue, Glausier Street between Everett Street and Branch Street, and Concord Street between Curry Street and Malaga Street for a project cost of \$138,931.19, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.

LIBRARY RENOVATION

Council Member Adams made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter a contract for the renovations of the library with a financial cap of \$323,000 dollars as of now and if the sale of the Rose's building gets complete then an additional \$30,000 dollars will be added to the library renovation project for an overall financial cap being \$353,000 dollars, seconded by Council Member Hodges. The vote was unanimous.

BACKHOE LEASE

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to enter a new lease with John Deere for two new backhoes, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote in favor of the motion was Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, Council Member Robinson, Council Member Davis, Council Member Adams, and Council Member Hodges. The vote opposed to the motion was Council Member Parrish. Mayor Eubanks stated the majority was in favor of the motion and it will carry.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Reviewed financial reports of March 2021 that were presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Reviewed department reports from March 2021 from the Pelham Police Department, Fire Department, Utility Department, and Code Enforcement.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Subject: City Manager's Report

Week of 12-16 April

Coronavirus

Area	Contracted COVID19		Died		%	
	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report
Global	137,866,311	132,730,691	2,965,707	2,880,726		2.17
U.S.	31,231,869	30,662,171	561,356	552,231		1.81
Georgia	864,895	859,388	17,072	16,886		1.96
Mitchell County	1,513	1,505	73	73		4.85

Area	Total Vaccinations		First Shot		Fully Vaccinated	
	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report	Today	Previous Report
U.S.	298,317,040	171,476,655	125,822,868	109,995,734	78,498,290	64,422,618
Georgia (10.62M)	5,049,608	4,466,497	3,255,217 31%	2,947,162	1,906,645 18%	1,600,558
Mitchell County (22,192)	9,566	5,452	5,385 24%	3,292 14.8%	4,359 20%	2,160 9.7%

- See digital map at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases-casesper100klast7days>
- A new community report can be seen daily at <https://beta.healthdata.gov/National/COVID-19-Community-Profile-Report/gqxm-d9w9>
- City staff a full strength.

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding Requests (Earmarks)

- With the return earmarks, there is a great opportunity to try and get federal funding.
- The county and City of Camilla over a year ago went to 800 Hz radio system. Earmarks is good opportunity to get Pelham the same capability.
- Staff is pulling together an earmark request for Congressman Bishop.
- Request submitted.

American Rescue Plan Act

- Nothing new to report.
- A position of the 1.9T dollar ARPA will be funds for municipalities. The city is projected to receive 1.092M.
- It will be distributed over two years.
- There are 4 distinct usages for the funds.
 - Respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Covid-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
 - Respond to workers performing essential work duties during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible worker of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers that perform essential work.
 - For the provisions of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency (i.e. January 20, 2020) or
 - Make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.
- Funds are at least 120 days from arriving in Pelham.

Charter Amendment

- Session ended on Wednesday; we wait on Governor's signature. Charter should go into effect in July.
- The House passed the charter on February 16th.
- The Senate passed the charter on February 22nd.

Francis Davis Park

- Pending the weather, the park will be complete by April 23rd.
- Dugouts. GA Power will be returning to cement the dugout floors and install benches April 20th. When they return, they will help with other portions of the project upon my request (yellow boarder on fencing, hang and paint bathroom doors, install boarders around swing set).
- Swing set. Ground is dry under the swings, so will hang swings next week. Ground covering still in work.
- Bathrooms. Doors in hand, working to paint them before handing. Georgia Power volunteers will hand on the 14th of April.

- Basketball court. Replacement pole for basketball court arrived this week. When the cement work on the dug outs is done, we'll raise the pole.
- Slide. Once ground covering is in place around swing set, will evaluate if the same ground covering and borders are required around the slide. Otherwise, the slide is in service.

Baggs Street Repair

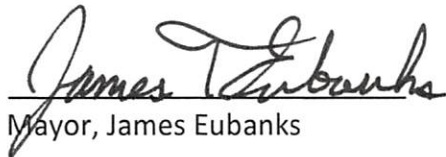
- Demolition complete
- Culverts re-laid.
- Drain boxes in process of being built.

Bond Refinance

- Pelham Bank's offer higher than assessed market.
- Going out for open solicitations
- Expect a called meeting on May 13th to choose an offer.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.**


Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 20th Day of May 2021.


City Clerk, Lisa Austin