

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2024 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Mayor James Eubanks	City Manager, Christian Drake	Venessa Johnson
Mayor Pro Tem, Rhonda Brown	City Clerk, Lisa Austin	Janie Holton
Council Member, Bennett Adams	Attorney, Flin Coleman	Trudie Ward
Council Member, Fredrick Davis	Fire Chief, Shane Stinson	
Council Member, Bobby Robinson	Investigator, Adam Lamb	
Council Member, Cody Shiver	Court Clerk, Helen Cody	
Council Member, Mistry Troutman	Main Street/DDA Director, Cameron Harris	
	Enterprise/Journal Randy Wind	

With a quorum present, Mayor Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Eubanks provided the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve the agenda as distributed, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimously approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2023, Called Meeting January 2, 2023, and Work Session minutes for January 11, 2024, as presented, seconded by Council Member Shiver. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A review of all department reports.

Main Street/DDA Director Cameron Harris came before the council and gave a quarterly report on projects the Main Street and DDA are working towards. Also, gave insight to challenges they face and what measures they are taking in order to meet those challenges.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A review of the financial report.

CITY MANAGER POWERS AND DUTIES

The following ordinance was presented for adoption:

An ordinance adopted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Act of 1945, O.C.G.A. Sec. 36-35-1, amending the charter of the City of Pelham, Georgia to restore powers and duties of the city manager: to provide for the appointment, suspension, and removal of all city employees and department heads; repealing all ordinances and charter provisions in conflict herewith; and for other purposes.

Council Member Adams made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-12-21.3 restoring the power and duties of the city manager, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.

NONELECTED MEMBER OF SWGRC COUNCIL

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission plays a crucial role in regional planning and development. The non-elected representative serves as a vital link between our local government and the regional commission, contributing to collaborative efforts for the overall benefit of our community. The recommendation for the non-elected representative is Alfred Brown.

Council Member Davis made a motion to appoint Alfred Brown as the non-elected member for Mitchell County on the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimously approved.

CITY MANAGER CONTRACT

A proposed contract was presented to renew the city manager's contract. The contract will commence on January 18, 2024, and will be for a period of three years. At the conclusion of the initial three-year period, this contract shall roll over for a subsequent one-year term beginning

January 1 of each contract year unless notice is received by November 1 of the previous year that the contract will be renewed.

Council Member Robinson made a motion to approve the city manager's contract as presented, seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.

LIBERIA STREET CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Preservation Commission will play a vital role in formulating a preservation plan, recommending necessary action, and educating the public on the significance of century preservation. The commission will consist of five members appointed by the Mayor and Council, residents who have demonstrated a special interest in cemetery preservation, serving for four-year terms. The following are the proposed members:

Mayor Pro-Tem, Rhonda Brown
Mr. Charles Brimberry
Mr. Alfred Brown
Dr. Anjel Gibson
Council Member, Fredrick Davis

Council Member Davis made a motion to appoint the proposed members to the Liberia Street Cemetery Board, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimously approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ARPA FUNDS

A request for reallocation of ARPA funds for fire department needs was presented. The proposed reallocation is for the remaining ARPA funds initially earmarked for equipping the new fire truck. The current balance is \$20,136.48 with pending invoices expected to bring the remaining balance to approximately \$15,000. Due to the ongoing needs of the Fire Department the use of the remaining ARPA funds, would be reallocated to address the following crucial requirements:

- Turnout Gear-Initiate the purchase of additional sets of turnout gear to begin the process of cycling out sets before their expiration date, ultimately reducing the financial impact of a bulk replacement.
- Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)-Procure additional PPE to accommodate the expanded personnel, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our firefighters.
- Locker Expansion-Acquire lockers to accommodate the increased number of personnel, facilitating organized storage for bed lines, spare uniforms, and toiletry items.

- Refrigerator Replacement-Replace the existing refrigerator, which was purchased by fighters several years ago, and is currently causing issues with water leakage. This upgrade will contribute to a safer and more hygienic environment.
- Uniforms and Badges-Purchase dress shirts and badges to enhance the professional appearance of our personnel during events, classes, and other public engagements. This initiative aims to foster a sense of pride and positive representation for the City of Pelham.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to approve the reallocation of ARAP funds for other needs in the fire department, **seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.**

ADDING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR CITY ACCOUNTS

The former Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Brown was a signer on all the city checking accounts. With his departure it is crucial that the city maintain accessibility and continuity in managing the city finances. The proposed new signer is the new Mayor Pro-Tem Rhonda Brown.

Council Member Adams made a motion to approve Mayor Pro-Tem Rhonda Brown as the new signature to all city checking accounts, **seconded by Council Member Shiver. The vote was unanimously approved.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to close the Regular Session and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of litigation, **seconded by Council Member Shiver. The vote was unanimously approved. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:10 p.m.**

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to close the executive session and reconvene the regular session, **seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.** Mayor Eubanks declared the regular session reconvened at 7:42 p.m. and stated there were no votes taken during the executive session.

ADJOURN

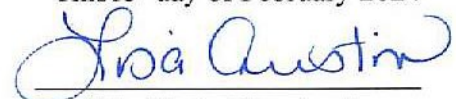
With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, Council Member Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimously approved. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:43 p.m.



Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 15th day of February 2024



City Clerk, Lisa Austin

AFFIDAVIT

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared

James T. Eubanks

who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- (1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
- (2) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Pelham City Council held on the 18th day of January, 2024. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.

- (3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

- (4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of the meeting is/are as checked below.

 A. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the settlement of a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1) and 50-14-3(b)(1)(A). The subject discussed was _____

 B. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property as provided in Georgia Code section

50-14-3(b)(1)(B).

- _____ C. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C).
- _____ D. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(D).
- _____ E. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(E).
- _____ F. Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).
- _____ G. Meeting to interview one or more applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).
- H. Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial action brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was _____
_____.
- _____ I. Staff meeting held for investigation purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-3(a)(1).
- _____ J. Meeting to consider records or portions of records exempt from

public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code because there are no reasonable means to consider the record without disclosing the exempt portions.

This Affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) and is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 18th day of January, 2024.

James T. Eubank
Affiant

Joshua B. Davis

Misty Troutman

Shonda Brown

Robby Robinson

Bernie L. [Signature]

Corey [Signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 18th day of January, 2024

Lisa Austin

Notary Public

My commission expires _____.



