

# *The City of Pelham*

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers**

Mayor, James Eubanks  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Rhonda Brown  
Council Member, Bennett Adams  
Council Member, Fredrick Davis  
Council Member, Bobby Robinson  
Council Member, Mistry Troutman  
Council Member, Cody Shiver

City Manager, Christian Drake  
City Clerk, Lisa Austin  
City Attorney, Tommy Coleman  
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick  
Asst. Police Chief, Rod Williams  
Investigator, Adam Lamb  
Enterprise/Journal, Randy Wind

Devery Spence  
Kenneth Brown  
Trantavess Troutman  
Turner Jenkins  
Dontavious Gibson  
Vanessa Johnson  
Betty Brown  
Oscar Maples Jr.  
Eugene Lewis  
Bruce Williams  
Ben Wingard  
Doris Swann  
Teresa Robinson  
Subrenna Chester  
Nikoiya Epps  
Curtis Brown  
Devontae' Hut

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Vanessa Johnson came before the council to discuss her bill at 233 Cannon Street. Ms. Johnson disagrees with her final bill and is requesting her deposit be returned.

Ben Wingard came before the council and volunteered his help to the city wherever he may needed. Also, committed her would be available to serve on any boards available.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2025, and Work Session April 10, 2025, as presented, seconded by Council Member Shiver. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Department Reports were presented for the council's review.

Police Chief Nealie McCormick, Assistance Police Chief Rod Williams, and Investigator Adam Lamb briefed the council on the recent activity that has been taken place in District 1. They have had two recent shootings in the area of Mize Street Housing Authority Complex. That discussed they are patrolling the area more to keep the residents safe. They shooter has been arrested and barred from the City of Pelham.

## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT-ROAD ADOPTION BY COTTON BLOOM LODGE**

Cotton Bloom Lodge has formally expressed interest in adopting Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to help maintain a cleaner and more inviting corridor through regular litter pickup and community pride initiatives.

This partnership aligns with the City of Pelham's goals of enhancing the appearance of our public spaces while encouraging civic engagement. Through this initiative the Lodge will commit to periodic cleanups of the designated area. The city will provide support where appropriate such as safety guidance or assistance with the disposal of collected waste.

Resolution Number 2025-04-17-02, will authorize The Cotton Bloom Lodge to adopt Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard for the purpose of litter control and community beautification.

Turner Jenkins came before the council and requested name on the Resolution be changed to Cotton Bloom Masonic Lodge #135.

**Council Member Davis made a motion** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-17-02 with the change of the name to Cotton Bloom Masonic Lodge #135, **seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## **ROAD CLOSURE-PELHAM MAIN STREET CAR SHOW**

Pelham Main Street is requesting W. Railroad Street and the city-owned parking lot to be blocked off for their Car Show and Cornhole Tournament which will be held on May 3, 2025. The requested times for the road closure are 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Main Street Director and the Pelham Police Department will secure the event area with caution tape and cones.

**Council Member Robinson made a motion** to approve the Road Closure for the Pelham Main Street Car Show and Cornhole Tournament on May 3, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## **ALCOHOL REQUEST-316 MLK JR. BLVD. UNIT-A**

Bruce Williams has submitted a request for an alcohol license for beer package only. He is the responsible part for Bruce Food Mart LLC, located at 316 MLK Jr. Blvd. Unit-A. The city code enforcement officer has verified that the location complies with all distance requirements from schools and churches as outlined in our ordinances. A background check revealed no disqualifying records for Mr. Williams. The application has been reviewed by the city police chief, who recommends approval.

**Council Member Robinson made a motion** to approve the Alcohol License for Bruce Williams for Bruce Food Mart LLC, located at 316 MLK Jr. Blvd. Unit-A, **seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## **CITY OF ETHICS**

The City of Pelham is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct in the operation of its local government. As part of the dedication to transparency, accountability, and public trust, we participate in the City of Ethics program, a prestigious initiative that recognizes municipalities committed to ethical governance.

Resolution 2025-4-17-01 is to recertify the City of Pelham's participation in the Georgia Municipal Association City of Ethics Program. This recertification is required every four years. The recertification process ensures that our city continues to meet the standards expected of ethical governance. The resolution is an essential step in meeting the criteria for recertification by reaffirming our commitment to these five ethical principals:

- Serve, Others, Not Ourselves
- Use Resources with Efficiency and Economy
- Treat All People Fairly
- Use the Power of Your Position for the Well-being of Your Constituents.
- Create an Environment of Honesty, Openness, and Integrity

**Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion** to adopt Resolution 2025-4-14-01 to recertify the City of Pelham participation in the Georgia Municipal Association City of Ethics Program, **seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## **UPDATE PERSONNEL POLICY**

The proposed updates to the Personnel Handbook primarily align written policies with current practices while incorporating new provisions for improved employee management and compliance. The updates include:

- Observed Holiday Update

- Holiday Work Compensation Update
- Annual Leave Update
- Sexual Harassment Policy Update
- Whistleblower Protection
- Current Leave Structure

These updates do not change existing city operations, except for the clarification on holiday pay, and annual leave use/ accrual. The handbook revisions ensure that city policies remain clear, transparent, and legally compliant

**Council Member Adams made a motion to approve the Personnel Handbook as presented, seconded by Council Member Davis . The vote was unanimously approved.**


### **ADJOURN**

**Council Member Robinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Troutman. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:30 P.M.**

  
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Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025

  
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City Clerk, Lisa Austin

