

The City of Pelham

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chamber

PRESENT:

Mayor James Eubanks
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Brown
Council Member Jeremy Hatcher
Council Member Ansel Parrish
Council Member Bobby Robinson
Council Member Tad Williamson

City Manager, Craig Bennett
City Clerk, Lisa Austin
City Attorney, Tommy Coleman
Police Chief, Nealie McCormick
Fire Chief, Ivey Godwin
Pelham Journal, Dawn Clark
MCTV, Jerry White

Michael Dale
Bill Powell
Stephen Brown
Catherine Brown
Elwood Thomas
Bailey Dale
Leigh Dale
Cassandra Daniels
Geraldine Wilson

****Absent from the Regular Council Meeting was Council Member Winfred Parker*****

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.

REGULAR SESSION – LED BY MAYOR EUBANKS

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council Member Hatcher made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.

CITIZEN DELEGATION

Stephen Brown of 432 Wilson Street addressed the council with questions and concerns of the ditch on Wilson Street. Also, asked questions about the limb and leave pickup.

City Manager Craig Bennett recognized Boy Scouts of America Michael Dale of troop #144 for his Eagle Scout Service Project which does service to the community. Michael Dale made three boxes one which is at city hall, one will be located at Freedom Park when it is completed, and one will be at the American Legion. The idea behind the box is residents can bring their old flags that are ready to be retired and the troop will pick them up and do an honorable retirement of the US flags.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Member Williamson made a motion to approve minutes from the July 18, 2019 Regular Council Meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.

WATER & SEWER RATES

Bill Powell of Georgia Rural Water Association explained the methodology and the reports which leads to the estimated utility rates. The methodology being introduced is a percentage of use model, which gets captured in the base rates. In the model's percentage of use is captured as an estimate residential use (ERU). Mr. Powell explained a common water conservation rate structure is a tiered rate system for water. Pelham has a flat rate structure. The purpose of the new water and sewer rates is to pursue a contract with the Autry State Prison.

Mayor Eubanks gave a directive to City Manager Craig Bennett to negotiate with the Department of Corrections starting with the water and sewer rate structure provided by Bill Powell of Georgia Rural Water Association.

HURRICANE MICHAEL RECOVERY PROJECTS

Council Member Hatcher made a motion to accept the bid for 50 year architect shingles from J.H. Strickland Construction, LLC for \$34,365.00 and accept the interior bid from Hayes Construction for \$14,400 as long as he willing to move forward with the interior portion of the contract and if not give the City Manager some ability to negotiate with contractors for the interior portion, seconded by Council Member Williamson. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Parrish made a motion to move forward with Georgia Power to fix 10 poles at Eubanks Park that were damaged during Hurricane Michael, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Parrish made a motion to replace pipes with concrete pipes and concrete retaining wall, \$45K-\$52K subject to FEMA covering the 75% match, seconded by Council Member Williamson. The vote was two in favor Council Member Parrish, and Council Member Williamson. All opposed Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Robinson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. Mayor Eubanks stated the motion did not pass.

Council Member Robinson made a motion to replace pipes with concrete pipes and concrete retaining wall, \$45K-\$52K using LMIG funds, seconded by Council Member Williamson. The vote was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Reviewed financial reports from July 2019 as presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bennett reported on the following:

HVACs

- There has been a delay in the installation of the second unit, while ACT gets a new cement pad poured.
- Eddie Harp's crew made the gas tap at Roses this morning. City Utility installed the service line and meter yesterday.

Individual Lift Stations

- The City have 6 properties (5 residential and 1 commercial), where the property is unable to gravity feed into the public sewer system and require a small lift station pump on their private property.
- Over the year the City Manager's office has given these residents various answers on responsibility for the pumps.
- After consulting the City Attorney and reviewing the City ordinance, it clearly states installation and upkeep of these pumps is the private owner's responsibility.
- Going forward I will tell residents of their responsibility. The impetus for this matter coming up is Beale Tire's pump is burned out.

Limb Pickup

- There are households with more than one truck load of yard trimming. Our ordinance states residents need to pay a \$20 fee each additional truck load. The staff is working with Jake Sanders to come up with a means of determining this and addressing it on utility bills.

Police

- Saturday, August 10th: A 9 mm pistol reported stolen from a car at Village Package. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Christopher Johnson who after the theft discharged the weapon in the MLK area.
- Monday, August 12th: A briefing on the gang situation in Georgia was held at the Mitchell County 9-1-1 Center. Attending was law enforcement leaders from Mitchell, Baker and Dougherty County, area School personnel, Judge Rick Waters and the District Attorney's office.

The Briefing was conducted by Ray Ham, a gang expert with the Georgia Juvenile Justice Agency and Jaret Usher, team leader for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. With 71,000 gang members divided into 1600 sets the state has deem the situation as "Crisis" level.

- Wednesday, August 14th: Officers found two men sleeping in the boat at Collingsworth Park. The men were told to leave the park but were arrested a short time later for shoplifting at Dollar General Store. The two men are Ethan Boulting house, 19 and Prestine Watson, 19. Watson was also charged with criminal trespass due to a prior barment notice.
- The Sheriff, The Camilla Police Chief and I met Wednesday at the Sheriff's Office to discuss strategy.
- Pam Lightsey, with the US attorney's office in Macon, Georgia, contacted me Wednesday to coordinate a meeting between Mitchell County Sheriff, Camilla Police Chief. The objective is to discuss how the US attorney's office can help us with the gang violence.

Fire

- Sunday, August 11th: Responded to a death call from heat stroke on MLK.
- Tuesday, August 13th: Responded to a wreck on 19 Tuesday.
- Heat has been a major problem this week.

Public Works

- Water Well backup pump: The replacement part did not solve the problem. Ility is coordinating with Yancey to get a technician.
- Public Works priority this past week has been to improve the entry into Pelham, focusing on US 19 and Curry Street. Sideway and curbs are being addressed along with pruning the crape myrtles on Curry.

Code Enforcement


- Saturday's gathering at Francis Davis Park has been canceled by the organizers.
- The Pelham Historic Commission met on Tuesday and approved the following applications:
 - Application of Mr. John Taylor of 265 Hand Ave to build a covered-patio over concrete bricks along with an outdoor fireplace.
 - Application of Fresh Apostolic Deliverance Ministry of 196 E Railroad Street S to place a storage building behind their Church.

Community Development

- Main Street program held its monthly board meeting. Of highlight:
 - The MS Program will be partnering with the School's Art Club for various art projects downtown, including the next mural.
- A group of Main Street Managers held a collaboration meeting in Forsyth with to discuss projects, challenges and successes in our downtowns.

ADJOURN

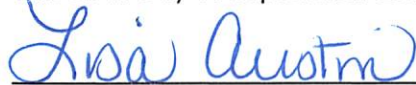
With no further business to come before the Pelham City Council, **Council Member Robinson** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, **seconded by Council Member Williamson**. The vote was unanimous. **Mayor Eubanks** declared the meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.



Mayor, James Eubanks

AUTHENTICATED:

This 19th Day of September 2019.



City Clerk, Lisa Austin

