

# *The City of Pelham*

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**May 16, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. – Council Chamber**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor James Eubanks  
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Brown  
Council Member Jeremy Hatcher  
Council Member Loys Johnson  
Council Member Winfred Parker  
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  
Investigator, Adam Lamb  
Public Works, Anthony Beebee

Pelham Journal, Taylor High  
Aaron Johnson  
Quinn Johnson  
Liam Johnson  
Tammy Beebee

**\*\*Absent from the Regular Council Meeting was Council Member Ansel Parrish\*\*\***

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 Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment of adding item 9. Resignation seconded by Council Member Robinson. The vote was unanimous.**

#### **CITIZEN DELEGATION**

Nothing to report

#### **COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSER, AUTHORS, AND PUBLISHER (ASCAP)**  
**LICENSE**

“The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is a membership organization of more than 670,000+ songwriters, composers and music publishers. Their mission is to make it easy for businesses like the City to legally play copyrighted music and for our members to be compensated fairly when their copyrighted music is used.” This is a legitimate organization, verified from the City Attorney. Fees are based on population size and for Pelham the annual bill is \$357.00.

**Council Member Johnson made a motion to sign the License Agreement-Local Governmental Entities between City of Pelham and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), seconded by Council Member Williamson. The vote was unanimous.**

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

**Council Member Hatcher made a motion to close the Regular Meeting and Open the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m., seconded by Council Member Parker. The vote was unanimous.**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION**

The future owners of the gas and convenient store at 2067 US Hwy 19 SE, Pelham, to be named Easy Corner #2 has applied for a beer license (package only). The future owner is Sangitaben J. Patel of Moultrie. She has provided all the required documentation and passed all required background investigations to obtain a license. The current store, Aden’s, also sells beer. All documentation is in order this is a change of ownership.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

**Council Member Johnson made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:45 p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.**

**Council Member Robinson made a motion to grant the beer license (package only) to the future owner Sangitaben J. Patel of Moultrie for Easy Corner #2, seconded by Council Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.**

**PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE RECOMMENDATION**

The city’s Personnel Policies and Procedures has a nepotism policy. The policy has been in place since at least 2005. In every department, past and present, they are cases that violate the basic premise of the policy.

The policy states:

“Two members of an immediate family will not be employed under the same supervisor. Nor will two members of an immediate family be employed at the same time by the City, regardless of the administrative department, if such employment will result in an employee supervising directly or indirectly, a member of his immediate family. This policy applies to promotions, demotions, transfers, reinstatements, and new employees. The provisions of this section will not be retroactive, in that no action is to be taken concerning those members of the same family employed at the time of the adoption of this section. Immediate family is defined as wife, husband, mother, father, brother, sister, son, and daughter.”

The City Attorney says there is no statutory requirement for this policy.

The proposed policy to be changed to read:

“Two members of an immediate family will not be employed at the same time by the City, regardless of the administrative department, if such employment will result in an employee supervising directly or indirectly, a member of his immediate family. This policy applies to promotions, demotions, transfers, reinstatements, and new employees. The provisions of this section will not be retroactive, in that no action is to be taken concerning those members of the same family employed at the time of the adoption of this section. Immediate family is defined as wife, husband, mother, father, brother, sister, son, and daughter.”

**Council Member Parker made a motion to amend the Personnel Policy to allow immediately family to be employed at the same time regardless of department but will not allow family members to supervise each other, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. Mayor Eubanks called for the vote four yea votes by Council Member Parker, Council Member Williamson, Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, and Council Member Johnson. Two opposed votes by Council Member Hatcher, and Council Member Robinson. Mayor Eubanks stated the motion will carry.**

### **GMA DISTRICT 10 OFFICERS ELECTION**

GMA presented the following ballot for the GMA District 10 election.

GMA District 10 have the following nominees for the District Officials:

- President Melvin Powell, Councilmember, Sylvester
- First Vice President Dan Ponder, Mayor, Donalsonville
- Second Vice President James Eubanks, Mayor, Pelham
- Third Vice President Judy Powell, Councilmember, Leesburg

**Council Member Hatcher made a motion to accept the GMA District 10 nominees as presented, seconded by Council Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Reviewed financial reports from April 2019 as presented.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Bennett reported on the following:

#### **Depot**

- Pre-Bid Conference was held yesterday to fix the general assembly room and roof. The final proposals are due 30 May and recommended contractor(s) will be presented at the June meeting.

#### **Memorial Day celebration**

- Rotary and Main Street are partnering to bring the City of Pelham a Memorial Day celebration, 1130, Friday 24 May at the Flag Circle in Freedom Park.
- The agenda includes guest speaker Michael Bryant, USMC 1987-2001 and currently a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. As you are aware he is the local field representative for Congressman Bishop's office.
- The event location will coincide with the placement of the Mitchell County memorial crosses in Freedom Park commemorating Mitchell County residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in WW I, WW II, Korea and Vietnam. The crosses are sponsored by the Pelham Rotary Club.
- Following the ceremony Rotary will be hosting lunch. Council members are invited to join them.

#### **Finances**

- On Monday Perry Henry and his associate visited City Hall to assist with some

ledger work and advise on the FY20 development.

- All the corrections identified during the previous audit have been rectified, so the previous fiscal year is in order. During that process a couple of things with this year's ledger was identified and in the process of being corrected.

### **Addressing Violence**


- A community action group headed by Mrs. Teresa Perkins will hold an organizational meeting 5:00 p.m. on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pelham Middle School gym. As you recall, Ms. Teresa is the mother of Steven Freeman, one of the two murder victims in December.
- The agenda for the initial meeting is to explore how her newly formed non-profit organization can develop a mentorship program for teens and young adults to seek alternatives to violence and gangs.

### **RESIGNATION**

Council Member Johnson stated he sold his home and would be moving to Florida therefore he would be resigning effective June 3, 2019. He also stated he enjoyed working with everyone on the council and looked forward to seeing Pelham progress. **Council Member Robinson made a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Johnson effective June 3, 2019, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Brown. The vote was unanimous.**

### **ADJOURN**


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 Johnson. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Eubanks declared the meeting closed at 7:10 p.m.**



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Mayor, James Eubanks

### **AUTHENTICATED:**

This 20th Day of June 2019.



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City Clerk, Lisa Austin

