



**ALEXANDER
CITY**
ALABAMA

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

281 James D. Nabors Drive
Council Chambers of Municipal Complex
Monday, May 15, 2023 --- Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER THE PRE-COUNCIL MEETING: Council President Colvin called the Pre-Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Roll was called, and all members were recorded as being present.

Individuals present included: Romy Stamps, Finance Director; Piper Barnett, Records Clerk; Fire Chief Reese McAlister; Drew Meacham, Public Works Director; Lynn Miller, Wastewater Superintendent; Miles Hamlett, Purchasing Agent; Kathy Railey, Human Resources Director; Police Captain Tuck; Police Captain McKinney; Officer Jai Young; Herbert Harrell, Youth Sports Coordinator; Stephanie J. Southerland, City Clerk. Others present included: Dr. Beverly Price, Ben Saffold, Jacob Meacham, Benjamin Russell Coach Strength, Ashley Brown, Teresa Moten, Alesia Boddie, and the media was represented by The Outlook.

Drew Meacham gave an update about agenda item 1, and commended Sasha Stewart for her efforts in obtaining this grant.

Lynn Miller stated that agenda item 2 will set a reasonable sewer rate for an upcoming industry. This only involves industry, not residential customers. He further clarified that agenda item 4 is the annual report that ADEM requires for submission.

Drew Meacham stated that agenda item 5 is for HVAC maintenance services at the Municipal Complex.

Fire Chief McAlister explained that agenda item 6 would require that any Fire/EMT training that the city funds would require another hiring agency to reimburse the city if they're hired before completing their obligation to the city.

Mayor Baird explained that agenda item 7 would be for lighting improvements throughout the city and would save the city approximately \$600 per month.

Miles Hamlett reported that agenda item 8 is necessary due to the bid amount being more than double the amount that has been budgeted. He further explained that agenda item 9 allows the sale of a piece of equipment that would be a financial benefit to the city.

CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: Council President Colvin called the Council Meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Roll was called and all members were recorded as being present.

OPENING PRAYER: Council President Colvin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Held in Work Session

Councilor Chris Brown recognized the Cooper Recreational Center track team and their state medal winners: A'mena Walker and Javien Thomas. Congratulations to the team and coaches for their representation of our city. The coaches thanked Police Officer Jai Young for volunteering to assist with the team and also thanked the parents and grandparents for ensuring the participants are at practice and meets. He further thanked the track participants for how they represent Alexander City not only on the track field, but in life.

Council President Colvin recognized the Benjamin Russell High School track team and Coach Strength for earning two (2) State titles this year. Coach Strength expressed his delight in recognizing young athletes in a positive manner. The team represented the city well and plans to improve in the upcoming year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular City Council meeting May 1, 2023. Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the minutes and Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were approved (6-0).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Councilor Tapley made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilor Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the agenda was adopted (6-0).

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Council President Colvin: The Revenue Department has mailed delinquent business license notices and have started receiving contact from businesses to bring their accounts current.

Councilor Eric Brown: The Fire Department still has blue street address signs available if you are interested. The Police Department had 158 reported incidents, and 199 citations issued. May 14 – 20 is National Police Week, with May 15 designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Please remember the men and women of law enforcement who lost their lives in the line of duty. Michel Bryan received the "2022 Civilian Employee of the Year" award from the Alexander City Police Department. Alane Troglen received the "2022 Dispatcher of the Year" award. Lifesaving medals, commendations, ribbons and promotions were announced at the annual police department awards ceremony last week.

Councilor Keel: The Gas Department sent 2 employees to Locator Certification Seminar in Birmingham, AL. We are continuing work on Annual System Survey; Critical Areas have been completed. The Light Department has been working on storm clean up and repairs from the afternoon storm last Tuesday. We also installed our 1st 9 AMI meters and should begin installing more in the next few months. The utilities department has an opening for a meter reader.

Councilor Chris Brown: The golf course is nearly \$40,000 ahead of this time last year. The greens are looking nice and the irrigation that was damaged by lightning recently, has been repaired. AWOS for the airport is operational. Lake Martin leadership has made improvements at Cooper Rec Center. RecDesk is operational for park rentals, registrations and events. An e-mail address is required and there is availability at the Sportplex for computer use to utilize this program. The gym will be closed at some point this summer in order to replace the floors. Baseball and softball regular seasons have ended and All Stars will be playing soon. The city will host a large state tournament this summer.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy: Storms last Tuesday resulted in fourteen (14) trees falling on city rights of way. He commended the street and light departments for working late into the night to clear the debris and restoring power.

Councilor Tapley: The Library will be closed May 27 – 29 for Memorial Day. It will also be closed May 25 – 29 due to the parking lot being resurfaced. The drive-up book return will also not be available during this period.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

REPORT ON STATUS OF CITY FINANCES: Romy Stamps, Finance Director, presented the statement as attached.

PROCLAMATION: None

BEN SAFFOLD, Jefferson Street: Mr. Saffold stated that he has children that attend Jim Pearson and Stephens schools. There is no left turn coming out of Jim Pearson School. He stated that he was told by two (2) people to turn around in people's driveways. He said residents have reported break-ins and gravel being thrown on their cars as a result. He was told by Police Captains that officer safety is priority. He stated that the mayor told him he needed 300 signatures in order to speak to the council. He further stated that he had placed signs at the school regarding this issue and his signs had been removed.

Alexander City Police Captain Tuck addressed Mr. Saffold's comments. Left turn traffic would stop traffic in both directions. Allowing right turn only keeps traffic flowing and reduces the risk to officers on traffic control. The priority concern is safety to officers and safe travels for all. Traffic control is provided as a courtesy. The city engineer has looked at the traffic flow here and is in agreement that the current flow is the best scenario. He stated that the signs were against city ordinance, and illegal where they were posted.

Councilor Keel stated that the traffic there is an issue, and has received complaints about the intersection of Sanders Road and old Highway 280.

Council President Colvin stated that there is no signature requirement to address the City Council. Protocol to be placed on the agenda is to contact the City Clerk or sign in prior to the meeting in order to speak during public comments at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Saffold further stated that being told to turn around in people's driveway is a safety issue as well. He offered no solution, but understands that for 27 years, until recent construction, traffic was allowed to turn left. Another complaint was being caught by a train, resulting in his daughter being late to school.

Council President Colvin reported that traffic fifteen years ago was considerably worse, with much less students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. **RESOLUTION:** To Authorize the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Alabama Department of Environmental Management for Advanced Grant Funding of \$26,040.00 for a Protainer Recycling Trailer **RESOLUTION BOOK 23-64**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS: TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL 6
NAYS: NONE 0
ABSTAINED: NONE 0
ABSENT: NONE 0

- 2. **ORDINANCE** to Amend Alexander City Code § 90-66 – Sewer Rates **ORDINANCE BOOK 23-18**

By point of order, the council rules must be suspended if immediate action is to be considered. Councilor Tapley made a motion to suspend the rules and Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the rules were suspended (6-0). Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. Councilor President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. Councilor Tapley thanked Lynn for preparing this and Councilor Chris Brown reiterated the fact that this only addresses industrial business, not residential service. There being no further discussion the ordinance was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS: TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL 6
NAYS: NONE 0
ABSTAINED: NONE 0
ABSENT: NONE 0

3. RESOLUTION to Appoint Drew Meacham to the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority Election Committee RESOLUTION BOOK 23-65

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

4. RESOLUTION to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the 2023 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Report for the Sugar Creek Waste Water and Coley Creek Treatment Facilities RESOLUTION BOOK 23-66

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

5. RESOLUTION to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Engineered Cooling Services of Millbrook, Alabama for the Service and Inspection of TRANE/Mitsubishi HVAC Units Located at the Municipal Complex RESOLUTION BOOK 23-67

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

6. RESOLUTION to Amend Resolution 03-07, Adopted on October 7,2002, Amended on April 17, 2017 RESOLUTION BOOK 23-68

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. Councilor Tapley thanked Chief McAlister for presenting this. There being no further discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	5
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	KEEL	1
ABSENT:	NONE	0

7. RESOLUTION to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Alabama Power Company for Light Emitting Diode (LED) Lighting Services RESOLUTION BOOK 23-69

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

8. RESOLUTION to Reject Bid No. 23-10, CDBG Water Main Improvements RESOLUTION BOOK 23-70

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

9. RESOLUTION to Declare an Industrial Treatment Unit as Surplus Property and Authorize the Sale of the Unit RESOLUTION BOOK 23-71

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	TAPLEY, COLVIN, HARDY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN, KEEL	6
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker):

Ms. Ashley Brown, 1175 Ridgeway, reported that there are two issues at Stephens school, with a STOP sign in the middle, causing confusion; also, when you leave Stephens, sign says KEEP MOVING FORWARD, but people stop. She further asked for credit for the youth wrestling

team. Council President Colvin informed her that they are welcome to attend any city council meeting.

Comments from the Mayor: Mayor Baird stated that he has not told Mr. Saffold or anyone else that signatures are required to address the city council. We encourage participation from the community.

Comments from the Finance Director: Ms. Stamps reported that she is conducting budget meetings this week and hopes to have a summation in early June.

Comments from the City Clerk: Benjamin Russell High School graduation will be held Friday, May 26. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2023.

Comments from the Council:

Councilor Tapley thanked everyone for coming out and reminded everyone to remember our fallen soldiers on Memorial Day.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy thanked everyone for their attendance and recognized Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurses Appreciation Week and expressed his appreciation to each of them.

Councilor Eric Brown thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilor Chris Brown asked for recognition for our service men and women, teachers, nurses, and all of the mothers for being the backbone of their families. Memorial Day kicks off summer and encouraged everyone to enjoy the city.

Councilor Keel thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a safe and blessed week. He reminded everyone that the Farmer's Market will be opening soon and encouraged everyone to support those vendors.

Mayor Baird asked for recognition of Law Enforcement Week.

Ms. Alesia Boddie (address unknown) asked why Ms. Brown's issue wasn't addressed. Council members stated that Dr. Price is in the audience so she has been made aware. Dr. Price offered her assistance, and encouraged Ms. Brown to call her office.

Council President Colvin recognized Teacher Appreciation Week, Nurses Week, and this week is the 100th celebration for the hospital. She stated that last week was Elected Officials week and thanked each of them for their service to the community.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy reminded everyone about Blues in the Park this coming weekend.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Councilor Tapley made a motion to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVED:

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Audrey "Buffy" Colvin
Council President

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Stephanie J. Southerland
City Clerk

METHOD OF DELIVERY: The draft minutes were emailed to the Council for review on June 1, 2023

OTHER: The agenda was posted to the City's website and the bulletin boards that are located at the Municipal Complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Agenda

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: