



**ALEXANDER
CITY**
ALABAMA

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

281 James D. Nabors Drive
Council Chambers of Municipal Complex
Monday, December 18, 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, December 18, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Councilor Keel was recorded as being absent.

Individuals present included: Mayor Baird, Romy Stamps, Finance Director; Piper Barnett, Administrative Assistant; Police Captain McKinney; Brittany Shores, Mayor's office; Kasey Kaschak, Parks & Recreation Director; Drew Meacham, Public Works Director; Amanda Thomas, Community Development Director; Lynn Miller, Water Superintendent. Others present included: Teresa Moten, Gary Lawrence, Mark Lamborne and others. The media was represented by the Outlook.

Lynn Miller reported that several years ago a storm took out the generator and there is a need to replace it.

Councilor Tapley asked that this be tabled in order to negotiate the incentive payment.

Mayor Baird expressed his pleasure in recommending Ed Durrett to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission and his involvement in the city thus far.

Council President Colvin stated that she would be asking for a motion to suspend the rules to bring two (2) items from the floor.

CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: Council President Colvin called the Council Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex.

The opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was held during the work session, preceding the city council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular City Council meeting December 11, 2023. Councilor Chris Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were adopted (4-0) with Councilor Tapley abstaining from the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Regular City Council meeting December 18, 2023. Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. The agenda was approved (5-0).

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Council President Colvin reported that the Finance Department is doing their due diligence in collecting taxes.

Councilor Eric Brown reported that Santa on a Firetruck would be taking place again tomorrow.

Councilor Chris Brown stated that Santa on a Firetruck started today and would carry through tomorrow. He thanked SL Industries for their recent \$15,000.00 donation to the Imagination Station, bringing their total donation to \$30,000.00. He was pleased to announce that the city has 197 youth registered for basketball and commended Cooper Rec Center for their efforts.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy sent Christmas wishes from the Public Works Department and best wishes for the New Year.

Councilor Tapley reported that 11,129 people are library card holders and this year over 36,000 citizens utilized the library, over 4,000 used computers and over 7,000 utilized wi-fi.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

REPORT ON STATUS OF CITY FINANCES: Romy Stamps, Finance Director, gave an overview of the city's finances (as attached). The city has attained Preferred Status on our health insurance, resulting in savings of \$227,000.00.

PROCLAMATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION: To Authorize the Mayor to Apply for Funds Through the EMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for a Generator for the Water Tank at Washington Street. (Sponsored By: Councilor Keel) **RESOLUTION BOOK 23 - 133**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. Councilor Tapley expressed his appreciation to the Water Department in helping to ensure water for citizens in the areas of Washington Street. There being no further discussion, the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

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

2. RESOLUTION: To Provide for the Elimination of a Grade Crossing at 17th Street W, DOT #728239C, RR Milepost P-365.03. (Sponsored By: Mayor Baird) **TABLED**

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy made a motion to table this resolution until January 16, 2024. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the resolution was tabled with the following roll call vote:

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

3. RESOLUTION: To Appoint Ed Durrett to the Historic Preservation Commission. (Sponsored By: Mayor Baird) **RESOLUTION BOOK 23- 134**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. Councilor Chris Brown expressed his confidence in Mr. Durrett as he has a vested interest and has been active in the community. There being no further discussion, the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

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

Council President Colvin asked for a motion to suspend the rules in order to bring two (2) items from the floor. Councilor Tapley made a motion to suspend the rules and Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion to suspend the rules passed with a vote of (5-0).

Councilor Chris Brown reported that a request to rezone property located on Airport Boulevard was brought before the Planning Commission and in discussion it was determined that there is an ordinance and covenant written for the Industrial Park that may be prohibitive in the plans of the property owners. The Planning Commission requests an extension to allow the property owners time to research what may be allowable.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy explained that the resolution that was adopted at the last meeting to allow the lease of fifty (50) new golf carts for Lakewinds was more costly than originally expected. They are requesting to adjust some of the fees at Lakewinds in order to make up for the added expense. Kasey further explained that the interest rate caused the expense to be greater than expected. There have been \$165,000.00 in improvements that have been authorized through the City Council. We are still less expensive than surrounding golf courses.

4. REQUEST: The Planning Commission requests an extension to Rezone Property Located on Airport Boulevard, Parcel #62 12 02 04 3 001 011.002 from I1 (Light Industrial) to R3 (High Density Residential). (Requested by Mayor Baird)

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the request was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

5. ORDINANCE: To Amend Alexander City Code Section 62-1, Fees for use of Facilities. (Sponsored By: Council President Pro Tempore Hardy) **ORDINANCE BOOK 23-34**

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 (5-0). Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. Council President Pro Tempore Hardy seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the ordinance was adopted with the following roll call vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker):

Barron Bevels addressed the body and asked for support in her campaign for Alabama’s Third Congressional seat on the Republican ticket, against Mike Rogers. She aims to be a strong voice for the State of Alabama and our local communities.

Ms. Teresa Moten addressed the city council and asked for more public input regarding the railroad crossing being closed. She also asked what is being done for the city and its citizens. She asked that Washington Street be looked at when it’s raining because it floods.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Baird wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to be safe and asked for prayers for Councilor Keel.

COMMENTS FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR: Romy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY CLERK: Wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Tapley wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to remember the reason for the season. He asked for prayers for Councilor Keel.

Council President Pro Tempore Hardy thanked everyone for their attendance and also asked for prayers for Councilor Keel and his family. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilor Eric Brown thanked everyone for coming out, Ms. Bevels for her attendance, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Chris Brown asked for prayers for Councilor Keel and his family and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and is looking forward to 2024.

Council President Colvin asked for continued prayers for Councilor Keel and offered any assistance from the city administration. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the council, Councilor Tapley made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:56 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 e-mailed to the mayor, city council members and the city attorney on December 22, 2023 for review.

OTHER:

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Agenda