



**ALEXANDER
CITY**
ALABAMA

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

281 James D. Nabors Drive

Council Chambers of Municipal Complex

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 --- 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 Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Councilors Hardy and Keel were 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; Meredith Wingler, Gas department. Others present included: Bryan Newell, Mark Lamborne and others. The media was represented by the Outlook.

Council President Colvin asked for any comments regarding the agenda. Mayor Baird stated that a representative was not present to discuss the elimination of the grade crossing and asked that it be tabled again until February 5th and hold a public hearing.

Kathy Railey and Chris Hardy asked for support of resolution #1 to provide for a position to manage the operation of gas appliance sales. The grade and title change would result in a pay increase that has been budgeted.

Amanda Thomas asked that this item be tabled.

Council President Colvin asked that agenda item #4 be amended.

Miles asked for support of the bid award to provide pipe for upcoming city projects. Councilor Eric Brown questioned the pipe not being domestic while we have three (3) domestic foundries locally. He asked about bid specifications requiring Alabama preference. He is supportive of awarding a low bid if there is a substantial price difference, but prefers to purchase locally if the cost difference is minimal. Miles explained that sometimes supply chain breakdowns are an issue, and that the bid law only allows a 5% preference for local vendors. Councilor Chris Brown expressed his desire in buying local. Miles reported that Southern Pipe is local and Councilor Chris Brown stated that Southern Pipe doesn't sell the bid item. Councilor Chris Brown further stated that previous bid specs have required domestic production and asked when it was changed, and why it was not brought to their attention.

Drew asked for support of agenda item #6. The original low bidder withdrew their bid due to missing a key point in the bid. The second lowest bidder was over budget but they were able to

negotiate it to meet funding provided by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Kasey asked that they be granted more time in their fund-raising efforts. Currently there is \$277,000.00 plus in the account. Turf added to the cost of the Imagination Station, but will serve a better purpose and last longer. Council President Colvin stated the \$25,000.00 hasn't shown up yet, bringing the total to \$312,000.00. Kasey further reported that they have applied for a grant from Alabama Power and have been denied a grant from another entity, but are re-applying for a lesser amount. Councilor Chris Brown stated that the city had agreed to sell the property to the school system and agreed to pledge \$100,000.00 to the Imagination Station, with Council President Colvin in agreement. Mayor Baird stated that there is no documentation to support that. Romy informed the council that the sale was in fiscal year 2023 and those funds cannot be allocated to a fiscal year 2024 project. Council President Colvin agreed with the idea of continuing to a specified date and the city filling the gap. Kasey gave a breakdown of the payment schedule to Hercules. There is an 8 – 10 week lead time for construction to begin upon order and plan to begin work this summer. Council President Colvin asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting to allow Kasey to get more details regarding construction time.

CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: Council President Colvin called the Council Meeting to order at 5:54 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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 January 2, 2024. Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were adopted (4-0).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Regular City Council meeting January 16, 2024. Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. The agenda was approved (4-0).

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Council President Colvin expressed her appreciation to the Finance Department for working diligently to save the city money.

Councilor Chris Brown stated that youth basketball has started and are playing at the Sportplex. New scoreboards were installed at the Sportplex gym on Monday.

Work has started at the city pool to replace the pool filter. We expect 4-5 days for the project to be completed.

Work on the baseball upper fields parking lot is going well.

The cabin renovation is off to a great start with the flooring being replaced.

Youth basketball held a shooting contest and are sending four (4) participants to participate in State competition next week.

Meals will not be served on Wednesday the 17th. Our meals are delivered from Birmingham and the drivers cannot safely deliver meals due to the icy roadways father north.

He encouraged everyone to go play a round of golf at the city course.

Council President Colvin reported on Councilor Keel's behalf that gas service has been completed to the Advanced Care for Russell Medical. We are still doing valve maintenance. We moved the test lead for ALDOT Airport Bridge Project. We have 3 new services to run and are preparing for customer calls due to extreme cold.

The Light Department has set the padmount at Russell Medical Advance Care. We also continue to work on trimming and line maintenance.

The Alabama Graphite force main to the Kellyton Industrial Park has been completed. The lot is being cleared for the sewer pump station at the Russell Hospital Legacy project. The two pump stations at Wicker Point are operating with the final punch list items being completed. Sewer personnel is working on service repairs, main replacements, 811 locates, and responding to customer issues.

Sugar/Coley Creek has replaced block heater on the generator at Dobbs lift station, cleaned out RAS/WAS wet well, and installed lights in the new breakroom/classroom. The sewer department is still helping pump sand out of tanks at Coley Creek plant.

The chlorine dioxide booster pump on the generator at Adams filter plant has been replaced; they worked on ADEM water usage report for 2023, all reports have been turned in, samples collected for January 2024, tanks checked for working heaters/heating strips.

The water department has repaired several leaks, responded to numerous route notes and customer request, and performed numerous 811 line locates. The water department has also completed 51.2 Percent of lead service line inspections.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

REPORT ON STATUS OF CITY FINANCES: Romy Stamps, Finance Director, gave a financial report, as attached.

PROCLAMATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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 DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to table this until February 19. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the resolution was tabled until February 19, 2024 with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

Councilor Tapley made a motion to set a Public Hearing to hear public comments on the elimination of the proposed grade crossing. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a public hearing was set with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION: To Amend the FY24 Personnel Authorization List for the Gas Department (Sponsored By: Councilor Keel) **RESOLUTION BOOK 2024-05**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. Councilor Tapley expressed his appreciation to the Gas Department in aiding lower income residents who may need a payment plan. There being no further discussion, the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

2. RESOLUTION: To Authorize the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Tallapoosa County Commission to Accept \$100,000.00 American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Purpose of Expanding Recreational Services. (Sponsored By: Mayor Baird) **RESOLUTION BOOK 2024-06**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. Councilor Tapley thanked Mr. Steve Robinson for offering these ARPA funds to the city and him personally for donating funds. There being no further discussion, the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

3. ORDINANCE: To Amend Chapter 18, Buildings and Building Regulations of the Alexander City Code of Ordinances. (Sponsored By: Mayor Baird)
TABLED UNTIL FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Councilor Eric Brown made a motion to table this until February 5. Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the resolution was tabled until February 5, 2024 with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

4. ORDINANCE: To Rescind Ordinance 2022-22, to Sell and Declare Real Property no Longer Needed for Public Use. (Sponsored By: Mayor Baird) **ORDINANCE BOOK 2024-01**

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 Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the rules were suspended (4-0). Council President Colvin made a motion to amend the ordinance as follows:

On line 2, replace the word “rescind” with “amend”.

Replace line 15 with the following: That Amadeus Development Group (Amadeus) has thirty (30) days from the date of publication to purchase the subject property by payment of \$600,000.00 to the City of Alexander City, Alabama. If payment is not made within thirty (30) days, ordinance 2022-22, adopted on June 20, 2022, shall be rescinded and be null and void for failure of Amadeus to complete the purchase.

Delete lines 17 and 19.

Councilor Tapley made a motion to amend the ordinance as presented. Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the ordinance was amended with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

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

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

5. RESOLUTION: To Award Bid No. 24-06 to Calhoun Meter Company for Ductile Iron Pipe at a Cost not to Exceed \$29,262.24. (Sponsored By: Council President Colvin) **NO ACTION**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

6. RESOLUTION: To Award Bid No. 24-03, Project Clean Water Part B to Hutchins Backhoe and Septic Service, LLC in an Amount not to Exceed \$1,858,274.00 for the Construction of Multi-agency Wastewater Solution -Project "B" Highway 128 Sewer Force Main (Sponsored By: Council President Pro Tempore Hardy) **RESOLUTION BOOK 2024-07**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. Councilor Eric Brown was appreciative that this is a local vendor. Councilor Chris Brown stated that they are not local, they're from Sylacauga. There being no further discussion, the resolution was adopted with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

7. RESOLUTION: To Grant \$100,000.00 to the Imagination Station from the Sale of Sportplex Property to the Alexander City Board of Education. (Sponsored By: Councilor Chris Brown) **TABLED UNTIL FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

Councilor Tapley made a motion to table this resolution until February 5 in order to get more information. Councilor Eric Brown seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the resolution was tabled until February 5, 2024 with the following roll call vote:

YEAS:	COLVIN, TAPLEY, E. BROWN, C. BROWN	4
NAYS:	NONE	0
ABSTAINED:	NONE	0
ABSENT:	NONE	0

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker):

Mr. Bryan Newell, candidate for the 3rd Congressional District addressed the city council and asked for their support in the Republican primary.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Baird asked everyone to be careful over the next several days with freezing temperatures. He announced that the Municipal Complex is open to be used as a warming station and will be open through noon on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

COMMENTS FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR: Romy thanked each of the departments in their assistance in preparing the capital budget update.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY CLERK: Our next City Council meeting will be held Monday, February 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Tapley thanked everybody for coming out and thanked Romy for her presentation. He commended the MLK Committee for the programs over the last few days and gave a special thanks to Mr. Herbert Harrell for his hard work in preparation for the performances depicting the Civil Rights movement. He encouraged everyone to stay warm and watch for ice patches. He offered condolences to former council member, Lorenzo Grant, who passed away Monday, January 15, 2024.

Councilor Eric Brown thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the mayor and his staff and the wonderful job that they all do. He commended the staff for how well they work together and help each other out and that it is a testament to how well everything runs within the city.

Councilor Chris Brown thanked everyone for coming out and expressed his appreciation to Romy and department heads for always keeping them updated on where money is being spent. He asked that everyone stay warm and have a good week.

Council President Colvin thanked everyone for their hard work and all of the in-house services being provided. Being a public servant is not an easy, but a very rewarding job and commended Mr. Newell in his efforts to seek change. She further gave an update on Councilor Keel being in a rehab facility and is scheduled to be released on or about January 22 and asked for continued prayers for his healing.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the council, Councilor Tapley made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Chris Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Audrey Buffo Colvin

Stephanie J. Southerland

Council President

City Clerk

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

The draft minutes were e-mailed to the mayor, city council members and the city attorney on January 23, 2024 for review.

OTHER:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Agenda