



City of Clay

P.O. Box 345
Clay, Al 35048-0345

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES January 22, 2013

The City Council of the City of Clay met in regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at Clay City Hall. Mayor Webster presided over the meeting and City Manager Ronnie Dixon, served as recorder.

Mayor Webster called the meeting to order and City Manager Ronnie Dixon opened in prayer and led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of those present was answered by the following:

Councilor Baker
Councilor Small

Councilor Halstead
Councilor Thackerson

Councilor Johnson
Mayor Webster

Absent: None

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of January 10, 2013.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of January 10, 2013, which was seconded by Councilor Baker and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve tonight's Agendas.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve tonight's Meeting Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Councilor Small made a motion to hold the check totaling \$1123.75 for Sloss Technologies until the work is completed.

Councilor Halstead amended his previous motion to state approval of tonight's Meeting Agenda and Consent Agenda with the exception of holding the check for Sloss Technologies as recommended by Councilor Small. Councilor Small seconded the motion.

Mayor Webster put the motion for the Meeting Agenda before the Council and a roll call was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster put the motion for the Consent Agenda before the Council and a roll call was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Under **Scheduled Public Comments**, Mayor Webster announced that there were none.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees** Mayor Webster reported for the **Finance Committee**. He announced that he will be in contact with the members of the finance committee for a meeting in February.



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Councilor Baker was recognized for a report from the **Public Safety Committee**. Councilor Baker announced that the Public Safety Committee had their first meeting and for the time being they will try to meet every two weeks. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 29, at City Hall. Councilor Baker discussed the Committees recommendation to spend \$6,000 or \$7,000 per month for extra deputies in lieu of hiring one extra full time deputy.

Councilor Baker discussed extra security with Deputy Scott and made a motion to increase the monthly expenditures for extra patrol to allow up to \$7,000.00 per month on a monthly basis, which was seconded by Councilor Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Baker discussed acquiring cars for the reserve deputies. He announced that the Public Safety Committee recommends this as a cost effective way to put more Deputies on the streets. Mayor Webster stated that he has spoken with Sheriff Hale about getting their low mileage cars being replaced by the new Tahoes the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department will obtain.

Councilor Halstead was recognized for a report from the **Committee on Community Development and Annexations and the Building Inspections Department**. Councilor Halstead applauded the Inspections Department for their work, reviewing the amount and types of inspections completed in the last week. He also announced that the Committee of Community Development and Annexations still needs three or four voting members. Mayor Webster suggested that Councilor Halstead contact Mark Sims. He stated that the Committee will probably meet twice per month in the beginning and gradually move to once per month.

Councilor Halstead scheduled the first Abatement Board meeting for January 31 in the City Hall Conference Room. He will invite Lynn Burch for transition purposes.

More new businesses are showing interest in the City's vacant commercial buildings.

Under **Committee on Schools, Seniors Advisory Board Liaison and Planning and Zoning Councilor Ex-Officio**, Councilor Johnson reported that the School Committee met with the principals from Clay schools to discuss the schools' needs. Councilor Johnson asked anyone interested in volunteering for the reading program to contact City Hall. Clay Elementary is hosting a Clay Cares Random Acts of Kindness in remembrance of the January 23, 2012 tornado. The City of Clay is also hosting a tornado commemoration event on Saturday, January 26, at Cosby Lake. The BZA met and granted variances for Dollar General and Sterling Glen subdivision. She thanked the Senior Center Co-Directors for attending the meeting.

Councilor Small was recognized for a report from the **Public Work Department and Library Board** and announced the Library Board will meet on January 29 to discuss signs for the library and an outdoor reading area, both results from a grant received. He thanked the Public Works Department for their work during the snow. Councilor Small discussed a previous motion to buy a side arm cutter. He stated that the vendor has been unable to produce the side arm cutter.

Councilor Small made a motion to rescind the order for the side arm cutter which was seconded by Councilor Halstead.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None



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Councilor Thackerson was recognized for a report on the **Parks and Recreation Board**. He announced that Park Superintendent Will Collins has extended baseball and softball registration until February 8. The Disc Golf course is progressing well. He announced that the Park Board met last week.

Councilor Thackerson made a motion to add Rick Rogers to the Park Board, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Halstead asked about the number of people registered for baseball and softball. Councilor Baker explained that this is the first year that the City has started registration in January, which has never been done before. City Manager, Ronnie Dixon, clarified that the City is allowing parents to pay a deposit because they do not want finances to be a hindrance for registration. Councilor Thackerson stated that Opening Day will be the first Saturday in April.

Under Reading of **Petitions, Applications, Complaints, Appeals, Communications, etc.** there was nothing to report.

Under the **City Manager's Report**, City Manager Ronnie Dixon reported the account balances in the 4 & 5 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$105,805.12; 7 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$124,192.20; Capital Improvement Fund = \$69,836.25; General Fund = \$81,225.89; Library Fund = \$1,485.49; Senior Citizens Fund = \$5,225.44; and Contractors Bond = \$53,302.96.

Councilor Small asked Mr. Dixon about the \$43,000.00 accepted by the City for the roads in the Cross Keys subdivision. Mr. Dixon answered that those funds are in CDs at Regions Bank.

City Manager Ronnie asked the Council to consider a General Services Consulting Contract for Lynn Burch to pay him \$1,000.00 per month for the next 18 months for 40 hours per month of his consulting services. The City will pay him an additional \$25.00 per hour if he is needed for Inspections Services. *Councilor Small made a motion to approve the recommendation for a General Services Contract with Lynn Burch to pay \$1,000.00 per month for 40 hours of his services per month. The motion was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.*

Mr. Dixon announced that he adjusted the personnel budget to allow for raises for employees who had not received raises in seven years.

Mr. Dixon discussed a letter from D.R. Horton asking the City to accept the roads in the Yorkshire Subdivision. He asked the Council to consider accepting these roads. Councilor Small asked about the current condition of the roads, to which Mr. Dixon answered that they are in good condition currently. City Attorney Alan Summers asked if D.R. Horton provided a bond for these roads. Mr. Dixon answered that the bonds were refunded by the City in 2009.

Councilor Small made a motion to accept the roads in Yorkshire Subdivision which was seconded by Councilor Thackerson and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Halstead suggested that these roads be added to the City's list of road responsibilities.

Mr. Dixon then recommended that the Council accept a proposal from Turner Food Systems. They are the largest concession stand food contractor in Central Alabama. He discussed the proposal and the company.



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After discussion, Councilor Halstead made a motion to allow Mayor Webster and/or City Manager, Ronnie Dixon, to enter into a contract with Turner Food Systems, which was seconded by Councilor Small.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mr. Dixon then introduced the Proposals for Turf Maintenance for the Ballpark. He explained that he contacted the three most recent companies to work on the fields for proposals. Further, he explained that he included an evaluation of the three proposals. Mr. Dixon then recommended that the City Council accept the proposal from Lawn Guard, explaining there are extra items included in this proposal that will benefit the City. He also explained that on a per visit basis, Lawn Guard is the most cost efficient, and that they are a local business. Councilor Halstead asked about the payment schedule. Mr. Dixon answered that they will bill the City quarterly for four quarters. Councilor Baker asked about the Common Area and Practice Fields. Mr. Dixon explained that the proposal covers the common area, practice field, soccer field, and baseball fields. In response to Councilor Thackerson's inquiry, Mr. Dixon explained that the contract will begin on February 1.

Councilor Thackerson made a motion to accept Lawn Guard's bid for turf maintenance which was seconded by Councilor Johnson. The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, and Thackerson

Nays: None

Abstain: Mayor Webster

Under **Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business** Mayor Webster called for a motion to enter into unanimous consent.

Councilor Small made a motion to suspend the regular rules of order and enter into unanimous consent which was seconded by Councilor Baker.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster introduced Proclamation 2013-01, A Proclamation to Honor Christina Heichelbech, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve Proclamation 2013-01 which was seconded by Councilor Halstead.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster introduced Resolution 2013-03, A Resolution Designating Meeting Times for the Park Board for the Calendar Year 2013, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Thackerson made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-03 which was seconded by Councilor Baker.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None



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Mayor Webster introduced Resolution 2013-04, A Resolution to Appoint Matt Angelo as an Ex-Officio Member of the Public Safety Committee, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Baker made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-04 which was seconded by Councilor Johnson.

The motion was put before the Council and a roll call vote was conducted with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilors Baker, Halstead, Johnson, Small, Thackerson, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster called an end to Unanimous Consent and called for **Public Comments** and recognized Mr. George Post who identified himself as living at 6927 Mountain View Drive who congratulated the Alabama football team on their championship win.

Mayor Webster recognized Ms. Dina Young who identified herself as living at 6400 Harness Way. She discussed the Jefferson County Commission building apartments for people 55 years and older behind Midway Baptist Church on Chalkville Mountain Road. She is worried about the County making changes to these plans during the building process. Ms. Young is concerned about public safety issues, traffic issues, fire assistance issues, and school system issues. She asked the Council what kind of interaction they have with the County for more information. Ms. Young suggested starting a petition in opposition of these apartments. Mayor Webster stated that the City plans to stay involved with these apartments and asked Mr. Dixon to explain further. Mr. Dixon explained that the County Planning and Zoning Commission recommended to the County Commission that they follow the site plan and use specified on the application. The apartments will be a gated community strictly for people 55 years and older. He stated that the restrictions placed on this project should eliminate the worries and opposition of the public.

Mayor Webster called for any **Mayor / Council comments** and recognized Councilor Halstead who said he understands the role of apartments.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The City Council adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronnie Dixon
City Manager