



# City of Clay

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

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## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES May 6, 2013

The City Council of the City of Clay met in regular session on Monday, May 6, 2013, at 6:30 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. Mr. 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  
Mayor Webster

Councilor Johnson

Absent: Councilor Thackerson

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 15, 2013. *Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 15, 2013, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by unanimous voice vote.*

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve tonight's Meeting Agenda. *Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve tonight's Meeting Agenda, which was seconded by Councilor Small and approved by a unanimous voice vote.*

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda. *Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda, 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 Mayor Webster  
Nays: None

Under **Scheduled Public Comments**, Mayor Webster introduced Proclamation 2013-05, A Proclamation to Declare May 12, 2013, as NEIDs Awareness Day, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon. *Councilor Johnson made a motion to adopt Proclamation 2013-05 which was seconded by Councilor Baker and approved by a unanimous voice vote.*

Mayor Webster introduced Ms. Lori Chapo-Kroger, President of PANDORA Org. Ms. Chapo-Kroger explained some of the effects of Neuro-Endocrine-Immune Diseases. She also announced that St. Vincents Hospital is providing series of courses on NEIDs for their physicians. She thanked Senator Slade Blackwell, Representative Alan Treadaway, and Mr. Michael Ciamarra who have played a role in the Alabama Legislature's passing of a Resolution to create a center to educate citizens about NEIDs.

Mayor Webster introduced Mr. Rick Barlok who identified himself as the President of Yorkshire Park. Mr. Barlok presented the Council with a petition for speed bumps in Yorkshire Park. He expressed his concern for protecting the children of this subdivision. Councilor Baker stated that he believed the Public Safety Committee would be in favor of granting this request. Councilor Baker clarified that he would



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prefer to wait at least one to two weeks before ordering these speed bumps to allow feedback from the Polo Downs subdivision to ensure no changes would need to be made to installation.

Mayor Webster introduced Mr. David Cork who identified himself as. Mr. Cork presented the City's 2012 financial audit to the City Council.

Mayor Webster introduced the Public Hearing for a Moratorium on Cash Advance Businesses. Mayor Webster asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against this moratorium. Mayor Webster recognized Mr. Ron Self who identified himself as living at 7339 Weems Road. Mr. Self explained that he has a business interest in both Chalkville and North Clay. He believes a moratorium on any business is a mistake. He stated that the city should try to fill vacant commercial properties rather than limit the types of businesses allowed in the city. Mr. Self further stated that many of the patrons of the city's current cash advance/payday loan business use the store for other services and that they often shop at other stores in the same chopping center thereby generating tax revenue for the city. Councilor Halstead stated that his committee is aware of the vacancies and is working to fill the empty properties. Councilor Johnson answered Mr. Self's apprehensions by stating that many residents spoke out against a pawn shop that expressed interest in locating their second facility in Clay. Councilor Johnson stated that the Council is making decisions that represent the views of most residents of the city.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees** Mayor Webster reported for the **Finance Committee**. He stated that the Finance Committee will meet quarterly. The committee will review the audit. Mr. Cork offered to meet with the committee.

Councilor Baker was recognized for a report from the **Public Safety Committee**. Councilor Baker discussed the Public Safety Committee's request to inventory street signs and install any that are missing. The committee also discussed installation of security cameras at various subdivision entrances throughout the city, and will review the cost at the next meeting. He announced that the city's second deputy will begin working on Wednesday, May 8. Councilor Baker then expressed his belief that the city does not have the funds to provide the services many citizens want. He explained that in order to provide vehicles, security cameras, and extra deputies the city must increase revenue needed for this cost. Councilor Baker proposed that the City Council hold work sessions to discuss raising taxes. Mayor Webster stated that the Council will set a date for a work session and post notices. Councilor Baker then brought a scheduling complaint from the softball parents to the attention of the Council. He explained that he feared that if softball fell through the cracks this year, then the program will fail next year. Mayor Webster stated that he is aware of the problem and has been addressing it all afternoon.

Councilor Halstead then asked about the prices at the concession stand. The Council then discussed the prices and quality of food offered by the concessioners. The Mayor stated that he would talk to the manager about the issues.

Councilor Halstead was recognized for a report from the **Committee on Community Development and Annexations and the Building Inspections Department**. Councilor Halstead updated the Council on the progress of McEnally's Mercantile. He also announced that a House Divided store is set to open on May 15 and The BBQ Stop has May 14 scheduled as their opening day.

Under **Committee on Schools, Seniors Advisory Board Liaison and Planning and Zoning Councilor Ex-Officio**, Councilor Johnson announced that there were many participants in the Miss Clay May Days pageant. Clay May Days will be held on May 11 from 9am-4pm at Cougar Drive. The rides will be free



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for children up to 16. The School Committee's reading program is over for the 2012-2013 school year, but will resume in the fall. Councilor Johnson called on Senior Center Co-Director, Linda Plummer for an update on the seniors Center. Ms. Plummer announced that the Senior Center will host an Open House on May 29.

Councilor Small was recognized for a report from the **Public Work Department and Library Board** and thanked Public Works Superintendent Josh Isbell and Library Director Karen Moody for all of their hard work.

**Councilor Thackerson** was not present for a report on the **Parks and Recreation Board**. Mayor Webster announced that the fishing rodeo will take place on June 1 at Cosby Lake.

Under **Reading of Petitions, Applications, Complaints, Appeals, Communications, etc.**, Mayor Webster announced that there were none.

Under the **City Manager's Report**, City Manager Ronnie Dixon reported the account balances in the 4 & 5 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$132,918.32; 7 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$154,619.86; Capital Improvement Fund = \$287,375.34; General Fund = \$494,932.52; Library Fund = \$2,409.79; Senior Citizens Fund = \$1,970.94; Ballpark Revenue = \$53,936.69; and Contractors Bond = \$53,302.96.

Mr. Dixon presented the current and proposed rental agreements for the three city properties. The council discussed the proposals and opted to do more research before voting on changes to rental agreements.

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

*Councilor Johnson 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, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster introduced Ordinance 2013-08, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2006-07, which was summarized by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Small made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-08, 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, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster introduced Ordinance 2013-09, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2013-03, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Baker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-09, 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, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None



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Mayor Webster introduced Ordinance 2013-10, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinances 2004-35 and 2008-15, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-10, 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, and Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster introduced Resolution 2013-13, A Resolution to Place a Temporary Moratorium on the Issuance of Check Cashing/Payday Advance, Title Loan Businesses, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Small made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-13, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead.

Councilor Johnson clarified that this resolution will not affect the current cash advance/payday loan business.

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 Mayor Webster

Nays: None

Mayor Webster called an end to Unanimous Consent and called for **Public Comments**.

Mayor Webster recognized Ms. Carol Foster who identified herself as living at 8061 Lizmore Lane.

Ms. Foster complained about several lots in her neighborhood that are in violation of the city's weed ordinance. She asked the Council to review the current weed ordinance to shorten the process time for continued violations after the first year of violation notification.

Mayor Webster called for any **Mayor / Council comments** and announced that Councilor Thackerson's mother passed away and his daughter graduated from Auburn which is why he is absent tonight.

Mayor Webster announced that the next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m.

*Councilor Small made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Baker and approved by a unanimous voice vote.*

The City Council adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronnie Dixon  
City Manager