



City of Clay

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES December 17, 2012

The City Council of the City of Clay met in regular session on Monday, December 17, 2012, 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 Councilor Small 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 stated that the meeting agenda should be amended to add Allen Treadaway and Eloise Staples to the Scheduled Public Comments and called for a motion to approve the additions to the Agenda.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as corrected which was seconded by Councilor Small, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.

Councilor Small made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of December 3, 2012, which was seconded by Councilor Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Agendas.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the agendas which was seconded by Councilor Small and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Under **Scheduled Public Comments**, Mayor Webster introduced Mr. Andy Driggers who identified himself as living at 5517 Garden Valley Lane in the Holly Springs Subdivision. He stated he is here tonight to ask the Council for topcoat on this street and take appropriate punitive action against Mr. Brian Plant to recover the bond money which was not posted with the City before the development began. Mr. Driggers distributed information to the Council (included). While distributing information, Mr. Driggers asked other residents on this street – Mr. Jonathan Hyatt, Mr. Tom Thomason, Ms. Linda Love, and Mr. Charlie Sheep – to share their experiences and concerns with the condition of this street. Councilor Baker asked Mr. Driggers when the road was built. Mr. Driggers answered that he believed it was built sometime in 2004 or 2005, after the property had been annexed into the City of Clay. Mayor Webster told Mr. Driggers that the Council would need some time to investigate the matter further, but promised that they would give him an answer about what the City could legally do about this road. Councilor Small assured Mr. Driggers that this administration takes these concerns very seriously.



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Mayor Webster introduced Ms. Carol foster who identified herself as living at 8061 Lizmore Lane. She expressed her concern about the personnel policy. She volunteered to chair a committee to rewrite the City of Clay's Personnel Manual. Ms. Foster recommended that the committee be composed of retired individuals with various backgrounds including government and human resources. Mayor Webster addressed her concerns by stating that the City is currently in the process of reviewing the manual to be rewritten, but that he and City Manager, Ronnie Dixon, would like to meet with Ms. Foster to discuss her suggestions.

Mayor Webster introduced Representative Allen Treadaway, of the Alabama House of Representatives. Mr. Treadaway announced that the Legislative Session will begin on February 15 and asked everyone to feel free to contact him with concerns or questions. Representative Treadaway also discussed future plans for the state.

Mayor Webster introduced Ms. Eloise Staples who stated that she was at the meeting to represent the Jefferson County Commission, Office of Senior Citizens Services, and Alabama Department of Senior Services. Ms. Staples addressed the changes happening for the 32 Senior Citizen's Centers in Jefferson County, including the budget cuts Mr. Treadaway previously mentioned. Ms. Staples asked any seniors who have questions or concerns to contact the Office of Senior Citizens.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees** Mayor Webster reported for the **Finance Committee**. He announced that he and the City Manager, Ronnie Dixon, have been working putting numbers together for a budget. He plans to contact the Finance Committee members to have a meeting in January to look at a proposed budget. He stated that the total income is approximately \$1.9 million, and the City has spent approximately \$2.1 million this year. Mayor Webster informed the audience that he and Mr. Dixon have met with Department heads to inform them that there will be strict spending limitations and the City will only spend money to keep itself operational for the next few months. His immediate goals are to get a handle on the spending and to know where the money is being spent before it is spent. He announced that this administration has implemented a policy approved in 2007.

Councilor Baker was recognized for a report from the **Public Safety Committee**. Councilor Baker announced that the City is under contract with Jefferson County Sheriff's Department until September.

Councilor Baker discussed extra security and made a motion to continue to set aside \$5,000.00 per month on a monthly basis to use for scheduling extra police patrol as needed for the duration of the City's contract with Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, 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

Councilor Baker then announced the names of volunteers for the Public Safety Committee: Dr. Charles Hart (Chairman), Paul Pitts, Michael Harter, Chris Sharrit, and Jeff Dempsey.

Councilor Baker made a motion to approve the members of the Public Safety Committee, 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.



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Nays: None

Councilor Halstead was recognized for a report from the **Committee on Community Development and Annexations and the Building Inspections Department**. Councilor Halstead announced that he continues to speak with volunteers for his committee and hopes to have a list for approval at the next meeting. He stated that he has contacted business owners and some have expressed interest in opening businesses in the city. Councilor Halstead discussed the Inspections Department, announcing that there have been 15 inspections last week and a few permits sold.

Under **Committee on Schools, Seniors Advisory Board Liaison and Planning and Zoning Councilor Ex-Officio**, Councilor Johnson and Mr. Ronnie Dixon presented the parade winners with their awards. Mr. Dixon clarified that the prizes were provided by the Clay Pinson Chamber of Commerce. Councilor Johnson thanked the seniors for their attendance. She also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for providing the parade prizes and suggested that the city make a donation to cover their prize expense.

Councilor Small made a motion for the City to donate \$1,000.00 to the Clay Pinson Chamber of Commerce to cover parade costs which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Small was recognized for a report from the **Public Work Department and Library Board** and announced that the Science Fiction Book Club continues to grow despite the Christmas season. He announced that the Public Works Department has been cleaning up garbage. There will be a meeting in January with the County to discuss roads.

Councilor Thackerson was recognized for a report on the **Parks and Recreation Board**. He announced that approximately 40 people attended the Parks and Recreation Public Forum held on the 10th, and that youth baseball and softball registration forms are available on the city's website and at City Hall, as well as a sign up day at the Community Center in January. Councilor Thackerson presented a proposal from Coca-Cola (included), with the value totaling \$174,600.00. City Attorney Alan Summers asked about the City's responsibilities of the City in this proposal. City Manager Ronnie Dixon answered that the proposal is for an exclusivity contract, so the City would be required to only allow Coca Cola products to be sold at city functions and in city buildings. City Attorney Alan Summers suggested that the city enter into a written contract. Mr. Dixon and Mayor Webster clarified that the vote tonight is to authorize Mayor Webster to enter into contract, once it has been written to reflect the changes negotiated by Mr. Dixon. Councilor Small stated that he would like to see some designation for money not already earmarked by the contract.

Councilor Thackerson made a motion to allow Mayor Webster to enter into a four year contract with Coca Cola which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Under the **City Clerk's Report**, City Manager Ronnie Dixon reported the account balances in the 4 & 5 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$100,019.62; 7 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$118,491.18; Capital Improvement



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Fund = \$38,913.00; Contractors Bond = \$53,375.76; General Fund = \$235,201.22; Library Fund = \$6,159.93; and Senior Citizens Fund = \$9,323.50.

Under **Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business** there was nothing to report.

Mayor Webster called for **Public Comments** and recognized Mr. George Post who identified himself as living at 6927 Mountainview Drive North East. Mr. Post thanked the Council for moving their January 7 Council meeting to January 10. Mr. Post wished the Mayor and Council a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Webster called for any **Mayor / Council comments** and recognized Councilor Baker who asked about mattresses left on the ground outside of a dumpster near the park and library. He asked if there is an ordinance against this or if there can be anything done to prevent dumping household waste in City dumpsters. Mayor Webster answered that the Public Works Department will discard the current mattresses and that he will ask Deputy Scott to patrol the area more frequently to discourage this activity.

Mayor Webster announced that the next Council meeting will take place on Thursday, January 10, 2013.

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

The City Council adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronnie Dixon
City Manager