



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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 10, 2013

The City Council of the City of Clay met in regular session on Thursday, January 10, 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 Halstead	Councilor Johnson
Councilor Small	Councilor Thackerson	Mayor Webster

Absent: None

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of December 17, 2012.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of December 17, 2012, which was seconded by Councilor Small 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 unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Webster stated that Resolution 2013-02 needed to be added to the Consent Agenda and Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve tonight's amended consent which was seconded by Councilor Small and approved unanimously by voice vote

Under **Scheduled Public Comments**, Mayor Webster announced introduced the Public Hearing on Highway Commercial Sign Size. Mayor Webster asked if there was anyone present to speak about Highway Commercial Sign Size and there was no response.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees** Mayor Webster reported for the **Finance Committee**. He announced that a budget will be discussed later in the meeting. Mayor Webster also announced that he planned to contact the volunteers for the Finance Committee to schedule a meeting.

Councilor Baker was recognized for a report from the **Public Safety Committee**. Councilor Baker had nothing to report.

Councilor Halstead was recognized for a report from the **Committee on Community Development and Annexations and the Building Inspections Department**.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve the following as Abatement Board Members: James Harbison, Buddy Clark, Ron Self, Charles Agnew, Mark Halstead, and Don Isbell who will be a non-voting member. The motion was seconded by Councilor Small and approved by a unanimous voice vote.



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Councilor Halstead said that several people have expressed interest in being a part of the Community Development and Annexations Committee and discussed their qualifications.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve the following people as members of the Community Development and Annexation Committee: Kim Wren, Janice Brown, and Dr. Irwin Fingerman. The motion was seconded by Councilor Small and approved by unanimous voice vote.

He also explained his plan to attend the Tri-Neighborhood Home Owners Association meeting on January 20 to see if anyone else is interested in joining his committee. Additionally, Councilor Halstead discussed the permits sold in 2012. Finally, Councilor Halstead discussed sales tax in the City of Clay. He explained that the city of Clay has 8% sales tax of which the City only receives 2% revenue, or two cents per dollar. Councilor Halstead read a report stating most neighboring communities have a 9%-10% sales tax. The 2% portion of sales tax the City currently receives accounts for approximately \$1 million in annual revenue. Councilor Halstead stated that he wanted to bring up this topic to discuss how concerned he is. He further explained that if the City had a 10% sales tax he would plan to dedicate one of the extra cents to replenish capital funds used by the last administration for storm cleanup and use the other one cent to build a three month emergency reserve fund as well as to pay off approximately \$7 million debt accrued over 12 years. Councilor Halstead clarified that he is bringing this up tonight to express his concerns as a citizen and elected official. Further, he shared that the Council would hold a public meeting to discuss raising sales tax.

Under Committee on Schools, Seniors Advisory Board Liaison and Planning and Zoning Councilor Ex-Officio, Councilor Johnson reported that Clay Elementary School Teacher Brenda Hancock is a finalist for Jefferson County Teacher of the Year. She also introduced Ms. Beth Petty and Ms. Linda Plummer as the new Co-Directors of the City's Senior Activity Center. The Senior Center calendar and menu are both available on the city's website. Councilor Johnson announced that the School Committee is looking for volunteers for their reading program.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to appoint James Richeson to the Board of Zoning Adjustments until December 2015. The motion 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

Councilor Johnson made a motion to appoint Jadell Dunn as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Adjustments until December 2015. The motion 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 Johnson then clarified all Board of Zoning Adjustments members' terms as follows:

Ron Self until December 2013

Wayne Bryant until December 2013

Andy Driggers until December 2014

Cindy Godwin until December 2015

James Richeson until December 2015

Alternate = Carol Foster until December 2014

Alternate = Jadell Dunn until December 2015



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Councilor Small was recognized for a report from the **Public Work Department and Library Board** and announced that he is gathering quotes for signs and outdoor reading areas for the library. The library was previously awarded a grant to provide for an outdoor reading area and sign. He also announced that he hopes to work on handicap sidewalk at the library soon. Councilor Small announced the Library's Reading Group meeting on January 15 to discuss *Commencement* by J. Courtney Sullivan. He reported that the Public Works Department is working on storm drains, pot holes, and removing Christmas lights. Councilor Small also explained the removal of recycling bin from the Old City Hall because several people were using the recycling bin for household non-recyclable garbage. Councilor Small explained that in October 2012 the City Council accepted several incomplete roads in exchange for cashing in the builder's bonds to use for finishing these roads. *Councilor Small made a motion to put out to bid the paving of Cross Keys Section of Somersby Drive, Hanover Parkway, Dandridge Drive, Buckland Mills, Hatchers Run, and Stedman Circle with the bond money from the original builder. Councilor Halstead seconded the motion and it 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 Small made a motion to put the garbage pickup with an optional rider for curbside recycling out to bid. Councilor Halstead seconded the motion and it 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 stated that he had met with the County to discuss working with the County for road maintenance.

Councilor Thackerson was recognized for a report on the **Parks and Recreation Board**. He announced that Park Superintendent Will Collins has been working hard to increase the numbers for youth baseball and softball. The clearing for the disc golf course is underway and should be complete in a few weeks. Mayor Webster has been in contact with Academy Sports to try to get some sponsorship for the course.

Councilor Thackerson motioned to approve the following as members of the Park Board: Rodney Pruett, Julie Mahaffey, Linda Fordham, Christina Webb, Robert Wigginton, and George Post. Councilor Baker seconded the motion and it 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 Thackerson reported that the Park Board will meet Tuesday January 15.

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 = \$106,001.73; 7 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$125,865.31; Capital Improvement Fund = \$25,372.00; General Fund = \$105,896.37; Library Fund = \$2,639.10; Senior Citizens Fund = \$6,257.36; and Contractors Bond = \$53,375.76.



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City Manager Ronnie Dixon brought the Council's attention to the proposed budget. He explained that he used 2010 and 2011 as a guideline for the budget. He explained that the proposed budget is balanced. He stated that all operating expenses have been honored, but "wish list items" could not be granted. This budget also includes funds for an additional deputy in addition to \$3,000.00 for extra patrols monthly. The total budget is \$2,150,150.00 based on the projected income of franchise fees, sales tax, and business licenses. He explained that the City is not allowing extraordinary expenses. The City is attempting to meet state requirements to establish a reserve contingency fund. Mr. Dixon recommended that the Council wait until the reserve fund is established before pursuing the splash pad.

Mr. Dixon asked for the Council's instruction on the contract for the Concession Stand Contract. Councilor Thackerson motioned to cancel the current contract and put it out for rebidding. Councilor Baker seconded the motion and it 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

After discussion about the budget, Councilor Small made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Councilor Halstead seconded the motion and it 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

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 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 Ordinance 2013-01, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2010-02, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-01 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

Mayor Webster introduced Resolution 2013-01, A Resolution Approving Severance Pay for Bobby Christmas, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-01 which was seconded reluctantly 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, and Mayor Webster

Nays: Councilors Small and Thackerson

The Resolution passed on a 4-2 vote.

Mayor Webster introduced Resolution 2013-02, A Resolution for the City of Clay's Participation in the Sales Tax Holiday for Severe Weather Preparedness, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.



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Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-02 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 called an end to Unanimous Consent and called for **Public Comments** and recognized Ms. Gail Kohser who identified herself as living at 7090 Goodner Mountain Road. Ms. Kohser spoke about the finances of the City. She believes the City has never had a budget. Several Councilors disagreed. She expressed concern about responsibility of the \$7 million of debt. She asked that the finger pointing stop. Mayor Webster stated that the Council is not blaming anyone, but it is time for the City to move forward.

Mayor Webster recognized Mark Dockins who identified himself as living at Pickens Circle. He asked that the Council allow the citizens to finish their comments before responding.

Mayor Webster called for any **Mayor / Council comments** and recognized Councilor Johnson who announced the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, January 15 at the Grayson Valley Country Club.

Mayor Webster thanked Ms. Beth Petty and Ms. Linda Plummer for taking on the responsibility of co-directing the Senior Center.

Councilor Thackerson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

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 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronnie Dixon
City Manager