



City of Clay

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

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES August 19, 2013

The City Council of the City of Clay met in regular session on Monday, August 19, 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. 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 (entered at 6:40 pm)	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 August 5, 2013.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of August 5, 2013, which was seconded by Councilor Small and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster called for a motion to approve the Council Public Hearing minutes of August 12, 2013.

Councilor Small made a motion to approve the Council Public Hearing minutes of August 12, 2013, which was seconded by Councilor Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

Councilor Small made a motion to approve the evening's meeting agenda with Ordinance 2013-21 removed, which was seconded by Councilor Johnson.

The motion was put before the Council for a voice vote with the results as follows:

Yeas: Councilor Johnson, Small, and Thackerson

Nays: Councilor Halstead and Mayor Webster

The motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

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

Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Under **Scheduled Public Comments**, Mayor Webster introduced Proclamation 2013-08, A Proclamation to Declare September 2013 as National Preparedness Month.

Councilor Johnson made a motion to suspend the regular rules of order which was seconded by Councilor Small and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster reintroduced Proclamation 2013-08, A Proclamation to Declare September 2013 as National Preparedness Month, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.



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Councilor Johnson made a motion to adopt Proclamation 2013-08, A Proclamation to Declare September 2013 as National Preparedness Month, which was seconded by Councilor Thackerson and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Webster presented a copy of Proclamation 2013-08 to Mr. Coleman of Center Point Fire Department.

Mayor Webster introduced the Public Hearing for Resolution 2013-26, A Resolution to Condemn and Authorize Demolition of Unsafe Buildings and/or Structures located at 5904 Elizabeth Drive. Mayor Webster asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against this abatement and recognized Ms. Tabitha Daugherty who identified herself as living at 5902 Elizabeth Drive. Ms. Daugherty stated that she and her neighbors are present at the meeting to encourage the Council to adopt this Resolution. She explained that the house at 5904 Elizabeth Drive is in despicable condition. Ms. Sherry Piazza, 5903 Elizabeth Drive, and Mr. Donnie Peterson, 5911 Elizabeth Drive, also spoke in favor of this Resolution. Mr. Peterson also brought to the Council's attention the property at 5900 Elizabeth Drive which is also vacant and in poor condition. Mayor Webster explained that voting for this Resolution will take place under Unanimous Consent.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees** Mayor Webster reported for the **Finance Committee**. He stated that the City continues to operate within the approved budget.

Councilor Baker was recognized for a report from the **Public Safety Committee**. Councilor Baker announced that the Committee is still planning to host emergency training at the schools. He also discussed their plans to put radios in the schools for principals, teachers, and officers. Councilor Baker asked about the status of the new patrol cars. Mayor Webster and Mr. Dixon explained that two of the three cars are road ready.

Councilor Halstead was recognized for a report from the **Committee on Annexations, Business Development, and the Building Inspections Department**. Councilor Halstead had nothing new to report.

Under **Committee on Schools, Seniors Advisory Board Liaison and Planning and Zoning Councilor Ex-Officio**, Councilor Johnson announced that school started today. She also announced that the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be held at Grayson Valley Country Club on August 20, at 11:30 am.

Councilor Small was recognized for a report from the **Public Works Department and Library Board** and called on Library Director Karen Moody for a report from the library. Ms. Moody announced that the Summer Reading Program was a success and the library will continue to host its normal programs throughout the year. She informed the Council that the library will be participating in a food for fines canned good drive in September.

Councilor Small made a motion for the Mayor and City Manager to seek an Attorney General's opinion regarding the County's abandonment of responsibility for road maintenance while continuing to collect 70% of tax funds marked for road maintenance. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion and it was put before the Council for a roll call vote 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 the Disc Golf Tournament was a big success and the Clay Disc Golf Course is now considered a destination course.

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 General Fund = \$170,965.70; Senior Citizens Fund = \$2,920.94; Library Fund = \$1,069.45; Contractors Bond = \$124,035.55; Capital Improvement Fund = \$244,943.33; 4 & 5 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$157,896.02; 7 Cent Gasoline Fund = \$173,197.36; Ballpark Revenue = \$80,524.39; Ballpark Expense = -\$66,554.33; General Fund Contingency Fund = \$50,000.00; General Fund Road Paving Projects = \$50,000.00; and BBT AMFUND Payment Fund = \$25,000.00.

Mr. Dixon reported on the following: (1) Kyle Whitmire of al.com will be the speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. (2) Spencer Bachus and the Freshwater Land Trust will be at Cosby Lake on Thursday, August 22. (3) Discussed the offer from Center Point Fire Department to sell a retired 1995 pumper truck to the City of Clay for Public Works' and Public Safety's use for \$6,900.00.

Councilor Small made a motion to purchase the 1995 pumper truck from Center Point Fire Department for \$6,900.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund, which was seconded by Councilor Halstead and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

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 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 2013-20, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2003-100, which was summarized by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Small stated his preference to earmark 35% of the future tax revenue generated by this increase for Public Safety and to earmark 10% of the future tax revenue generated by this increase for Schools. The remaining 55% would be put in the General Fund.

The Council discussed the benefits and drawbacks of earmarking funds, the percentage of the earmarks, and beginning programs at the schools with the earmarked funds.

City Manager Ronnie Dixon explained that personnel operational costs for the City will increase approximately 37.5% in the future with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and plans to enroll in the retirement system.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-20.



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Councilor Baker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-20 with 35% of the projected future tax revenue generated by this increase earmarked for Public Safety and 10% of the projected future tax revenue generated by this increase earmarked for Schools, 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 2013-26, A Resolution to Condemn and Authorize Demolition of Unsafe Buildings and/or Structures located at 5904 Elizabeth Drive, which was read by City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Councilor Halstead made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-26, 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 called an end to Unanimous Consent and called for **Public Comments**. There was no response.

Mayor Webster called for any **Mayor / Council comments** and announced that the next City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 3.

Mr. Dixon announced that the Kick-Off for Breast Cancer Awareness Month will take place on September 29 at Cosby Lake.

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 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronnie Dixon
City Manager