CITY OF PLEASANT GROVE, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 09, 2024

The City Council of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, met in the Council Chambers on Monday, December 09, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jerry Brasseale presiding. The following were present:

Mayor: Jerry Brasseale

Council Members: Yolanda Lawson

Kevin Dunn

Eric Calhoun

Ray Lassiter

Also present: Recarda Cobb (City Clerk), John Williamson (Building Inspector), and Chief Daniel Reid (Public Safety Director).

Prayer: Reverend Patrick Sellers

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Yolanda Lawson

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes from the last regular scheduled meeting held on December 02, 2024 with corrections.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Ray Lassiter.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve payment of December 09, 2024 bills in the amount of $251,645.00.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Jerry Brasseale.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-68. Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama entering into a personal service contract with Mary Jo Chafin.

Mayor Jerry Brasseale made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-68.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-69 Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama agreeing to fund the attached Pleasant Grove High School programs in the amount of $68,000.00.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-69.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Ray Lassiter.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-70**. Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama agreeing to fund the attached Pleasant Grove Elementary School programs in the amount of $32,000.00.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-70.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhoun.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-71**. Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama moving the January 20, 2024 Council meeting to January 21, 2024, due to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Mayor Jerry Brasseale made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-71.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously.

# OFFICERS OF THE CITY REPORTS

Recarda Cobb - None

Chief Daniel Reid stated that the “Safe Package” program has been in operation for a week, and there no reported thefts.

John Williamson - None

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Ray Lassiter encouraged citizens to spend more time with family, briefly discussed deaths he experienced in 2024, and suggested citizens reach out to others to help improve their lives. Also, Councilor Lassiter stated that Councilor Eric Calhoun’s son Joseph is his MVP of 2024. Lastly, he gave an overview of the upcoming street paving in Pleasant Grove, and thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the street paving project.

Councilor Kevin Dunn thanked the Mayor and staff for putting on an outstanding Christmas parade, talked about the park projects passed at previous Council meeting, and thanked everyone for the part they played in moving Pleasant Grove Parks projects forward. Councilor Dunn encouraged citizens to focus on family and things that are important, asked for prayers for the Colston family, and voiced how satisfied he was with the B-Kind Birmingham turnout this past weekend. Also, Councilor Dunn asked citizens to contact him if they know of someone in need, thanked the Mayor and Council for a great year, and stated that he is looking forward to addressing future concerns about Public Safety.

Councilor Eric Calhoun discussed work that needs to be done in Public Safety the upcoming year, presented a Neighborhood Ordinance, and talked about legal concerns involving the ordinance. Also, Councilor Calhoun inquired about amending the ordinance to address the legal concerns. Attorney J D Terry said he will look into it.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated that she is very appreaciative of the Mayor and staff for their work, and talked about Pleasant Grove Schools scores. The scores were as follows:

Pleasant Grove High School received a 68 in 2022. After challenging the score, it was changed to a 71. In 2023, the score improved to a 74, and in 2024 Pleasant Grove High School received a score of 76.

Pleasant Grove Elementary School received a score of 69 in 2022. Their score increased to a 73 in 2023, and improved to a 77 in 2024.

Each school scores increased by eight (8) points in three years. As a result of the rapid score improvements, Ms. Staci Lewis (PGES principal) and Mr. Jarvis Watkins (PGHS pricipal) were invited to present at their Principals Conference to share the process used to increase their schools scores.

Councilor Lawson also talked about Pleasant Grove High School Theatre Program. In the Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre competition Pleasant Grove High School received nine(9) superiors. Lastly, Councilor Lawson wished everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Jerry Brasseale gave an overview of the Christmas Parade, and named the float winners.

# CITIZENS COMMENTS

Yolanda Wright, 4148 Woodridge Lane, asked Mayor Jerry Brasseale and Councilor Kevin Dunn when was the proposed neighborhood ordinance presented to them. Mayor Brasseale said that the ordinance was shared with him several days ago. Councilor Dunn stated that he has questions about the ordinance as far as what roles the Mayor and Council would play. Ms. Wright briefly discussed the importance of the ordinance and stated that it would help eliminate similar situations like misinformation received on the Habitat for Humanity homes being built in Pleasant Grove. Also, Ms. Wright asked Councilor Kevin Dunn and Mayor Jerry Brasseale how long have they lived in Pleasant and who is the voice for their neighborhoods. Councilor Dunn stated he has lived in Pleasant Grove for fifteen (15) years, and personally talk to neighbors about their concerns. Mayor Brasseale said that he has resided in Pleasant Grove for approximately forty (40) years, and there are not a specific spokesperson in his subdivision. Councilor Eric Calhoun suggested having a work session to discuss the proposed neighborhood ordinance. Councilor Yolanda Lawson said that the neighbors and council can use her zoom if need be.

A Faye Calhoun, 417 13th Street, said that she is concerned about public perception. Mrs. Calhoun stated that it doesn’t look good for Mayor Jerry Brasseale, Councilor Eric Calhoun, and Councilor Kevin Dunn to be so friendly with each other during Council meeting. She asked Mr. Demetrius Hampton, who spoke at the previous meeting, not to use any of the citizens as his punching bag. Mrs. Calhoun inquired about the specific information needed to move forward with the neighborhood ordinance. Councilor Kevin Dunn said that it would be great to have a work session to discuss the proposed ordinance. Councilor Eric Calhoun said that he will meet with the neighbors and present the information to Mayor and Council.

James Wilkerson, 1680 12th Avenue, stated that the Mayor and Council should act on the proposed neighborhood ordinance expeditiously. Mr. Wilkerson asked Chief Daniel Reid about Public Safety Department being fully staffed. Chief Reid replied no. Mr. Wilkerson inquired about keeping the parks maintained after the upgrades. Councilor Kevin Dunn stated that the Public Safety Department will patrol the parks more, and Public Works Department will maintain the upkeep.

Sheila Pleasant, 1408 9th Street, commended the Mayor and Council for allocating money for Pleasant Grove Schools.

# ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made motion to adjourn.

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Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recarda Cobb, City Clerk