CITY OF PLEASANT GROVE, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2024

The City Council of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, met in the Council Chambers on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jerry Brasseale presiding. The following were present:

Mayor: Jerry Brasseale

Council Members:

Yolanda Lawson

Kevin Dunn

Ray Lassiter

Eric Calhoun

Philip Houston

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

Prayer: Councilor Ray Lassiter

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor-Pro Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve the minutes from the last regular scheduled meeting held on July 22, 2024.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhoun.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to amend the approval of the payment of bills from the amount of $301,605.04 to the amount of $300,112.16, which excluded the following bills; Bains and Terry in the amount of $1,050.00 and High Ground Solutions $442.88.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-44. A Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama authorizing the opening of bank account to deposit Opioid Recovery Funds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve resolution No. 2024-44

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2024-44 for an interest bearing account, if not prohibited, at a FDIC insured bank.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhoun.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-45**.A Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama agreeing that Council receive monthly updates on any litigation or potential litigation of claims filed against the City of Pleasant Grove.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-45.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kevin Dunn

Motion passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46** A Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama to have the recycle bin at City Hall picked up twice a month instead of once. The additional cost is $178.00 per month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-46.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02**. An Ordinance of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama establishing the monthly salary of the Councilmembers, which increases from $350.00

to $1,250.00 per month. This should become effective the first Monday of November, 2025.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to consider Ordinance No. 2024-02.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Ray Lassiter.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-02.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Ray Lassiter.

The motion passed by a majority vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston abstain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston stated that he became a councilmember to serve, not for the pay. Also, Mayor Pro-Tem Houston talked about deducting the City paid council phones from their monthly expense pay.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated she didn’t join Pleasant Grove’s council for the pay either, but believes that the pay should be brought up to date with other cities. Also, Councilor Lawson said that she does not have a problem with City furnished cellphones being deducted out of council expense pay.

Rep. Patrick Sellers, House District 57, presented the City of Pleasant Grove with a grant in the amount of $2,600.00 for “Jazz in the Grove.”

# OFFICERS OF THE CITY REPORTS

Margaret Ryce– None

Chief Daniel Reid stated that Public Safety received an Opioid grant from Jefferson County Commission in the amount of $38,495.22, and said that Pleasant Grove Police Department cars will be in soon. Chief Reid also swore new Police Officer Jonathan Freeman. Councilor Yolanda Lawson thanked the officers for their service.

John Williamson stated that all is well in the Building Department.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Yolanda Lawson thanked Rep. Sellers for the contributions for the “Jazz in the Grove”, stated that more sponsors are needed for “Jazz in the Grove”, and informed everybody of the Valley Creek cleanup being held Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 8:30-11:00 am. All volunteers will meet at City Hall. Council Lawson encouraged citizens to come out, and discussed the Plus One program which was designed to help keep Pleasant Grove clean year round. Also, Councilor Lawson thanked Councilor Ray Lassiter for assisting with the backpacks and Jack’s sponsorship, thanked Councilor Eric Calhoun for his assistance, and encouraged citizens to prepare to vote in the November presidential election. Furthermore, Councilor Lawson thanked Joseph Calhoun for attending council meeting, thanked everyone for her birthday wishes, and said that “Jazz in the Grove” is set for September 1, 2024 from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm at Pleasant Grove High School. Lastly, Councilor Lawson discussed issues concerning the council pay. After researching other municipalities’ councilmember salaries, she learned that the City of Homewood councilmembers make $2,350.00 per month plus are given a credit card for their expenditures. This is 88% more than Pleasant Grove’s council members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston gave the following report on Pleasant Grove Library:

NEWS FROM PLEASANT GROVE LIBRARY

2024 Summer Reading Winners

Most Books Read Winner: Anthony Green

Most Pages Read Winner: Fiona McClinton

Most Activities Completed: Ty’Laiyjah Boyd

2nd Place Books Read: Erik & Damian Barrett (Tied)

2nd Place Pages Read: River Rainey

Back to School with Pete the Cat treat available in the library to all school children through the all month of August.

Painting with Brenda this Wednesday, August 07, 2024 @ 10 a.m.

Genealogy group meets every Thursday @ 9 a.m.

Book Club is Wednesday, August 21, 2024 @ 10 a.m. Karen Bishop is our leader this month. We are reading “*The Measure”* by Nikki Erlick.

Foods for Fines will begin Tuesday, September 02, 2024.

Pleasant Grove Library will be closed August 31, 2024 thru September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day.

Councilor Eric Calhoun asked John Williamson, Building Inspector, about enforcing the nuisance and parking in the yard ordinances. Specifically, parking junk cars in the backyard. Mr. Williamson said that he doesn’t feel comfortable entering citizens property with the laws currently in place.. Attoney JD Terry explained what the City are allowed to do at this time, and said that he will look further into the situation.

Councilor Kevin Dunn discussed overgrown lawns and what can be done to have them cut, talked about keeping the park clean, and encouraged citizens to participate in “Valley Creek Cleanup” this upcoming Saturday. Also, Councilor Dunn discussed having a work session to review ordinances, talked about how great it was to give the kids backpacks, and encouraged praying for Pleasant Grove’s kids. Lastly, he thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston for getting the digital sign replaced.

Councilor Ray Lassiter applauded Joseph Cater for his courage and determination, thanked Tamara Griffen for assisting with passing out backpacks, and thanked the Mayor and Council for working together. Also, Councilor Lassiter talked about Pleasant Grove’s Council pay versus nearby municipalities Council pay.

# MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Jerry Brasseale stated that there will be a work session on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

# CITIZENS COMMENTS

Willie Doss, 1202 13th Court, stated that a stop sign near his resident has a big N in the middle, and said that there’s not a stop sign between 13th court and 13th Street. Also, Mr. Doss stated that the property behind him has snakes, tree limbs, and lizards.

A Faye Calhoun, 417 13th Street, has concerns regarding a pot hole on 13th street left by Birmingham Water Works, and inquired about when the street will be paved. John Williamson, building inspector, explained the process the Birmingham Water Works have go through to make sure that the water main line will not leak before making the final street repairs. He said it could take up to approximately five weeks. Mrs. Calhoun thanked Chief Daniel Reid for attending the Fall Festival last year, and asked about officers attending this year. Also, Mrs. Calhoun congratulated Councilor Eric Calhoun for doing and excellent job.

# ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made motion to adjourn.

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Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor

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

Recarda Cobb, City Clerk