

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA HELD JANUARY 5, 2021

1. Council President, Lee Perryman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Council Members Present: Ashton Fowler, Tiffany Nix, Nate Brewer, Lee Perryman, and Laura Heath. Absent: None. Mayor James Heigl and City Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Carden were also present.
3. Ashton Fowler, District 1 Councilman, provided an invocation.
4. Council President Perryman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Mayor James Heigl provided an update on recent COVID numbers reported by CVMC and encouraged citizens to be diligent in practicing recommended safeguard measures to help reduce the risk. Heigl provided an update on the numbers of animals processed into and out of the City's animal shelter, adding that the area Mayors will be meeting with the Talladega County Commission to discuss ways to deal with the increasing problems of providing adequate animal control facing the municipalities and the County. Mayor Heigl proclaimed January, 2021, as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the City of Sylacauga. Heigl recognized Ray McDiarmid, local pharmacist and owner of Dixie Drug for 60 years, on his recent retirement by proclaiming January 1, 2021, as Ray McDiarmid Day in the City of Sylacauga. Dixie Drug has operated in Sylacauga for over 90 years.
6. Adopt Agenda:
A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to adopt agenda was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
7. Approve minutes of the regular city council meeting held December 15, 2020:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Nix to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
8. Approve minutes of the special city council meeting held December 22, 2020:
A motion by Councilwoman Heath, second by Councilman Brewer to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

9. Public hearing to consider public input and other factors relative to filing an application with ADEM for a permit to operate an air-curtain incinerator for the purpose of disposing of green waste such as trees, limbs, brush, leaves, and other similar types of yard waste generated within the city limits—*Hearing date set 12/01/2020; Resolution 90-2020. Permit application authorized 8/18/2020; Resolution 57-2020.*

Council President restated the reason for the public hearing and explained that speakers would be limited to five minutes each and that groups presenting or supporting the same/similar opinions would be limited to one representative speaker. Perryman then opened the public hearing and called for any comments. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposed action. Hearing no comments, Council President closed the public hearing and called for action from the Council.

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilman Fowler to authorize the City Attorney to draft letter to ADEM & to file application on behalf of the City was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

10. Action that is necessary to approve the request from City Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Carden to approve the addition of a full-time Accounting Clerk III position for the Admin/Finance (A/G) Department, to allocate funding for the position within Pay Grade AO-4 (Pay Range \$29,570.35 - \$41,244.15), and to authorize posting of said position through the CSB:

A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to authorize stated action as requested was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

11. Action that is necessary to designate Kim Morris as Assistant City Clerk-Treasurer effective immediately, to appoint Ms. Morris as interim City Clerk-Treasurer effective upon the retirement of CCT Patricia Carden on 2/01/2021, and to authorize a 5% pay increase for Morris to become effective at the beginning of the first pay period following Council approval:

A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to authorize action stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None; Abstain: Brewer.

12. Action that is necessary to approve the request/recommendation from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to separate the Police Department from the existing Public Safety (PS) pay plan in order to provide a separate pay plan for the PD with such separation to become effective April 1, 2021—*Once separated, the existing PS pay plan will be designated as the Public Safety-Fire (PS-FD) pay plan:*

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to authorize stated action as requested was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

13. Action that is necessary to accept the request/recommendation from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to establish a separate Public Safety-Police (PS-PD) pay plan for the PD and to implement the new PS-PD pay plan as proposed to become effective April 1, 2021:

A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to authorize implementation of the new PD pay plan as presented was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

14. Action that is necessary to accept the request/recommendation from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to approve the proposed PD Recruitment/Retention Incentive Plan to become effective April 1, 2021:

A motion by Councilman Fowler, second by Councilwoman Nix to approve the PD incentive plan as presented was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

15. **Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (aka Board of Adjustments & Appeals)—Three-year term of Jonathan Hall expiring January, 2021—Jon Hall was the only applicant:**

Action that is necessary to make an appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (aka Board of Adjustments & Appeals) for the three-year term ending January, 2024:

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to appoint Jonathan (Jon) Hall to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (aka Board of Adjustments & Appeals) for the three-year term ending January, 2024, was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

16. Action that is necessary to approve travel/expenses for PD Lt. Willis Whatley and PD Sgt. Chris Vinson to attend the JSU Crime Scene Professional Development course to be held at Ft. McClellan (Jacksonville), January 20, 2021—No registration fee & meals are included; Only cost incurred will be fuel/use of a departmental vehicle (employees will carpool):
A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve training/travel as requested was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
17. Action that is necessary to approve the first-quarter financial statement (October-December, 2020) as presented:
A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to approve the financial statement as presented was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
18. Action that is necessary to approve request/recommendation from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to authorize unused vacation leave resulting from departmental staffing shortages for PD Officers Kyle Smith (8 hours), Angela Tait (8 hours), and William Taylor (16 hours) to be carried forward to 2021:
A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Fowler to authorize unused vacation hours to be carried forward as requested was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
19. Action that is necessary to approve recommendation from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to authorize the purchase of security cameras at a cost of \$13,734 and security access control systems at a cost of \$11,876.00 from Wesson Companies, LLC, for installation in the City Hall complex, the PD firing range, the Street and Shop Dept. complex, and the Animal Shelter—To be paid from C/Hall Building Maintenance Reserve Fund:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Nix to authorize purchase as recommended was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
20. Action that is necessary to authorize payments totaling \$4,938.47 for additional FY2020 accounts payable invoices received after year-end:
A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilwoman Heath to authorize payment of accounts payable invoices as presented was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
21. Action that is necessary to authorize payments totaling \$75,481.32 for accounts payable invoices received for December, 2020:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to authorize payment of accounts payable invoices as presented was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.
22. Council President asked anyone wishing to address Council to come to the microphone & state name and address for record prior to addressing Council—No one addressed the Council at this meeting.
23. Council President announced that the Council had a need to go into executive session to discuss certain matters for which an executive session is allowed pursuant to Section 36-25A-7(a)(1) Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and referenced a letter from the City Attorney supporting such action—**Perryman advised that Council would not return to the council meeting following adjournment of the ES, but would adjourn the meeting immediately upon its conclusion.**

A motion by Councilman Fowler, second by Councilwoman Nix to enter into executive session was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

All Council members, joined by the City Attorney, Mayor, City Clerk-Treasurer, and CCT Admn. Assistant, entered into executive session at approximately 6:27 p.m.

A motion by Councilman Fowler, second by Councilwoman Nix to exit the executive session at approximately 6:47 p.m. was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

24. Having no further business to discuss,

A motion by Councilman Fowler, second by Councilman Brewer to adjourn was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Perryman, Brewer, Heath; Nays: None.

(Time of adjournment 6:48 p.m.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL JANUARY 25, 2021:



Lee Perryman, President of City Council

CERTIFICATION:

I, PATRICIA G. CARDEN, as City Clerk-Treasurer of the CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA, do hereby certify that the foregoing document constitutes a true and correct permanent record of the action taken during the regular meeting of the Sylacauga City Council held January 5, 2021.



Patricia G. Carden, City Clerk-Treasurer