



City of Sylacauga

Jim Heigl, Mayor

PO Box 390
301 North Broadway Avenue
Sylacauga, Alabama 35150

City Council
Ashton Fowler, President
Tiffany Nix
Nate Brewer
Lee Perryman
Laura Barlow-Heath
Interim City Clerk-Treasurer
Kimberly S. Morris

JANUARY 19, 2023 WORK SESSION

Council President Ashton Fowler opened the January 19, 2023 work session at 5:00 P.M. Council members Ashton Fowler, Tiffany Nix, Nate Brewer, Lee Perryman and Laura Heath were in attendance. Mayor James Heigl and Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Kim Morris were also present. PD Chaplain Mark Ledbetter provided an invocation.

Commercial Development Authority Chairman Bryan Taunton presented information regarding costs to add Street Sounds in the downtown area. This is a unique boxed package that could pipe in local music, broadcast football games, etc. Taunton stated that the CDA would be willing to bear most of the annual costs and would pay one-half the cost of the purchase and installation. Councilwoman Nix suggested using a percentage of proceeds from bringing in new businesses into downtown to help fund the project.

Libby Renn discussed the previous request of the Magnolia Garden Club for the City to provide watering services to hanging flower baskets the club wants to install in downtown Sylacauga. Simcut bid the service at \$105.00 per basket. Council members agreed to add an amendment of Simcut's contract to the next Council meeting approving the service for the watering of 18 baskets for five months.

Chief Osgood discussed a request to apply for two Assistance to Firefighter grants; the first grant to purchase thermal imaging camera equipment and the second grant to purchase a fire truck. The price of fire engines has doubled in the last ten years. FEMA will be awarding a maximum of \$750,000.00, with the cost of a fire apparatus at \$850,000 to \$900,000. If awarded a vehicle, the City must remove one engine from service. If awarded, Osgood plans to transfer as much equipment as possible from the vehicle being removed from service. He estimates three years to take possession of the truck after order, with grants being awarded in late FY23 or early FY24.

Michael Rice, EEFS, provided an update on the downtown drainage project. The design stage is complete, with a pre-bid construction conference scheduled for February 22, bid opening on February 28, and bid results to Council on March 7. The estimated project cost is \$425,000 to \$450,000. Jeff Turner asked about flooding concerns at Calhoun. This area was not included in the scope of the downtown drainage project, and Council members asked Reed to look into Turner's concerns. Rice advised that the Walnut Road bridge survey was complete and the project design is scheduled for the summer. The gas and water utilities will be addressed.

Randy Clark asked about the possibility of providing CPR classes to citizens of the City. Members briefly discussed the matter.



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Council President Fowler announced a Capital budget meeting on Tuesday, February 23, beginning at 4:00 PM, and continuing following the Council meeting, if needed. Fowler also announced that future work sessions would be used to review items to be included on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting.

There was no additional discussion, and the work session concluded at 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 7, 2023:

Ashton Fowler, President of City Council