

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SYLACAUGA HELD APRIL 4, 2023**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Council President, Ashton Fowler. Fowler asked that everyone remember the families of the Lifesaver members that lost their lives in the crash this week.
2. Roll Call: Council members present: Ashton Fowler, Tiffany Nix, Nate Brewer, Lee Perryman, and Laura Heath; Council Members Absent: None. Mayor James Heigl and Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Kim Morris were also present.
3. Invocation was provided by Police Chaplain Mark Ledbetter prior to the work session.
4. Council President led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Report from Mayor James Heigl:
Mayor Heigl asked for prayers for the families of Lifesaver Pilot Marc Gann, Medic Adam Russell, who lost their lives in the helicopter crash this week, and for Amanda Daniels as she recovers from her injuries. Heigl proclaimed April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
6. Adopt Agenda:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to amend agenda to delete Item #9 and Item #11 was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
7. Approve minutes of the regular city council meeting held March 21, 2023:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
8. Approve minutes of the regular work session held March 21, 2023:
A motion by Councilwoman Heath, second by Councilman Perryman to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

9. Action that is necessary to adopt ordinance #2257-23 authorizing increase in General Sales/Use Tax from 3% to 4.5%, Vending from 3% to 4.5%, Amusement from 3% to 4.5%, Manufacturing Machinery from 0.75% to 1.125%, Auto from 1.25% to 1.875%, and Farm Machinery from 0.75% to 1.125%, to become effective July 1, 2023:
item removed from agenda.
10. Action that is necessary to approve request from Mayor James Heigl to change current budgeted positions and all associated records to reflect a name change from Code Enforcement Department to Building Services Department:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve action as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

11. Action that is necessary to approve revisions to COS Personnel Policies and Procedures Employee Step-Raise, Section 10.7.2.3.2, Procedure B:
Item removed from agenda.
12. Action that is necessary to accept the recommendation of Mayor James Heigl to promote David Michael Whetstone to the position of Building Services Director effective with the pay period beginning April 8, 2023, and to establish salary for position at Grade AO-12 Step 3.
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve action as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
13. Action that is necessary to promote Alexandra M. Lambert to the position of City Clerk and Treasurer effective with the pay period beginning April 8, 2023, and to establish salary for position at Grade AO-12 Step 3.
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve action as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: Nix.
14. Action that is necessary to approve resolution designating signatories for checks of COS bank accounts and for conducting other financial transactions on behalf of the City; *Approval repeals Resolution 01-2023 approved 01-05-23:*
Resolution #19-2023 was introduced by Councilwoman Heath; Dispensed with reading of the resolution.
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to suspend the rules and give immediate consideration was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
Upon unanimous consent to consider resolution at this meeting:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve Resolution #19-2023 was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: Nix.
15. Action that is necessary to approve resolution authorizing the use of a facsimile signature of Mayor James Heigl for checks drawn on COS bank accounts;
Approval repeals Resolution 04-2021 approved 01-25-21:
Resolution #20-2023 was introduced by Councilman Brewer; Dispensed with reading of the resolution.
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to suspend the rules and give immediate consideration was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
Upon unanimous consent to consider resolution at this meeting:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve Resolution #20-2023 was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.
16. Action that is necessary to accept the recommendation of Mayor James Heigl to reclassify Animal Shelter Manager position from Grade SM-04 to Grade AO-8:
A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve approve action as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: Nix.
17. Action that is necessary to accept the recommendation of Mayor James Heigl to remove reporting and supervision responsibilities of the Animal Shelter from the Street Department, and to establish the Animal Shelter as a separate department, with reporting duties to Mayor Heigl:

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

18. Appointment to Board of Education – Five-year term of Melissa Garris expiring June 2023:

Council President opened the floor & called for nominations:

Nominations:

*Councilman Perryman nominated Olwyn Twymon.
Councilwoman Heath nominated Eddie Varnadore.
Councilwoman Nix nominated Blaine Green.*

Hearing no other nominations, Council President called for nominations to be closed:

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

Council President closed the floor & called for the vote on nominations:

Vote on nominations:

*Those in favor of Olwyn Twymon: Roll call vote (Yeas): Nix, Perryman;
Those opposed: Roll call vote (Nays): Fowler, Heath.*

With no majority of votes:

*Those in favor of Eddie Varnadore: Roll call vote (Yeas): Fowler, Heath;
Those opposed: Roll call vote (Nays): Nix, Perryman.*

With no majority of votes:

*Those in favor of Blaine Green: Roll Call vote (Yeas): Nix;
Those opposed: Roll call vote (Nays): Fowler, Perryman, Heath.*

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes, this item will carry over to the next agenda.

19. Reading into the minutes Mayor Heigl's appointment of Jeff Turner to the Planning Commission for the six-year term to expire January 2029. No Council action required.

20. Action that is necessary to approve request from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to purchase up to four 2023 Ford Explorer Police Cruisers from Stivers Ford Lincoln at the State Bid price of \$36,384.00/each, plus all related equipment, for a total estimated vehicle cost of \$61,517.50 per vehicle; Funding source - \$215,000.00 from proceeds received from sale of 4th Street property to Blue Bell Creameries, with balance from Capital Improvement Funds:

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

21. Action that is necessary to approve request from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to purchase K9 cage system at a total cost of \$4,185.00 from Emergency Lighting by Haynes, LLC; Funding from Capital Improvement Funds:

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

22. Action that is necessary to approve request from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to purchase in-car video system for K9 vehicle at a total cost of \$6,042.00 from GovDirect, Inc.; Funding from Capital Improvement Funds:

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

- 23.** Action that is necessary to approve payment, according to Civil Service Board ruling, to Timmy Epperson in the amount of \$10,676.80, plus six percent simple interest per annum of \$299.96, for a total of \$10,976.76:
A motion by Councilman Perryman, second by Councilwoman Nix to approve action as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 24.** Action that is necessary to approve travel/training expenses for Accounting Specialist Sandy Sorensen to attend the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Budgeting course in Tuscaloosa May 24, 2023. Registration fee of \$150.00; additional expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage will be incurred. Total estimated expenses for Sorensen are \$485.74:

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Nix to approve travel/training expenses as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 25.** Action that is necessary to approve travel/training expenses for Firefighters Andrew McLain and Clint Payton to attend the Alabama Fire College Rescue Technician: Rope II course hosted by the Alex City Fire Department May 23-26, 2023. Registration fee of \$240.00/ea. Additional expenses for lunches and use of a city-provided vehicle will be incurred. Employees will carpool. Total estimated expenses for McLain and Payton are \$285.00/ea.:

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve travel/training expenses as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 26.** Action that is necessary to approve travel/training expenses for Firefighters Matt Carpenter and Brett Autrey to attend the Alabama Fire College Operator: Aerial course hosted by the Anniston Fire Department May 8-12, 2023. No registration fee; expenses for lunches and use of a city-provided vehicle will be incurred. Total estimated expenses for Carpenter and Autrey are \$75.00/ea.:

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve travel/training expenses as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 27.** Action that is necessary to approve travel/training expenses for Firefighter Reid Tapley to attend the Alabama Fire College Live Fire Instructor/Fire Instructor In Charge course hosted by the Oxford Fire Department April 17-21, 2023. Registration fee of \$350.00. Additional expenses for lunches will be incurred. Tapley will carpool with Toland. Total estimated expenses for Tapley are \$425.00:

A motion by Councilwoman Nix, second by Councilman Perryman to approve travel/training expenses as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 28.** Action that is necessary to approve travel/training expenses for Firefighter Andrew McLain to attend the Alabama Fire College Rescue Technician: Rope I course hosted by the Anniston Fire Department April 17-21, 2023. No registration fee. Expenses for lunches will be incurred. McLain will carpool with Autrey & Byrd. Total estimated expenses for McLain are \$75.00:

A motion by Councilman Brewer, second by Councilwoman Heath to approve travel/training expenses as stated was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas: Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman, Heath; Nays: None.

- 29.** Action that is necessary to approve March Accounts Payable invoices received to date in the amount of \$68,545.32:

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

- 30.** Council President asked anyone wishing to address Council to come to the microphone & state name and address for record prior to addressing Council.
1. Shaquita King, 895 Hammett Ave, complained of potholes on several streets, including areas around the hospital. Council President advised there are future plans for a paving project.
 2. Thomas Combs, 29 Quailwood Lane, voiced concerns of the recent youth murders in Sylacauga, and asked what the Council was doing about it. Combs stated that each school needed an SRO officer. Council President responded that the PD pay plan has been addressed to help recruit new officers, and Perryman advised that Crime Stoppers rewards had been increased.
 3. Fred Crum, 912 Heritage Drive, also spoke regarding the recent murders, and advised the City must provide entertainment for the youth. Fowler stated that the Housing Authority had plans to remodel the Verlie Collins Center and there are future plans for a new recreation center. Brewer advised that surrounding cities are also having some of the same problems, even though entertainment is provided. Nix stated that even though activities had been provided for the youth, most did not participate.

- 31.** Having no further business to discuss,

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

(Time of adjournment 6:50 P.M.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL APRIL 18, 2023


Ashton Fowler, President of City Council

CERTIFICATION

I, ALEXANDRA M. LAMBERT, 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 a regular meeting of the City Council held April 4, 2023.


Alexandra M. Lambert, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Sylacauga