

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SYLACAUGA HELD JUNE 22, 2023**

1. Called meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. by Council President, Ashton Fowler.
2. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Ashton Fowler, Nate Brewer, Tiffany Nix, Lee Perryman; Councilmembers absent: Laura Heath. Mayor James Heigl and City Clerk/Treasurer Alexandra Lambert were also present.
3. Invocation was provided by Council President, Ashton Fowler.
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Report from Mayor Heigl:

Mayor Heigl presented a certificate of recognition to honor the remarkable angler achievement and exceptional sportsmanship of Will Davis Jr. in the Whataburger Bassmaster Elite tournament held at Lay Lake. As a native of Sylacauga, Davis Jr.'s triumphant win not only brought pride to his hometown but also showcased his admirable representation on the national stage. Mayor Heigl wholeheartedly congratulated him for this accomplishment.

Mayor Heigl extended an invitation to Laura Strickland, the Director of the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the upcoming Fourth of July Community Fireworks Show. The celebration is scheduled to take place at Central Park on Friday, June 30, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In addition to the fireworks display starting at 8:30 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy various children's activities, food trucks, and live music, which is set to commence at 6:45 p.m. The event will also feature a mega sprinkler provided by the Sylacauga Fire Department.

Strickland expressed her gratitude towards the event's sponsor, Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union, for their invaluable support in making this event possible. Additionally, she extended her thanks to the Sylacauga Parks and Recreation for their contributions to the festivities.
6. Adopt Agenda:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to adopt the agenda was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
7. Approve minutes of the regular city council meeting held June 6, 2023:

A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Brewer to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
8. Approve minutes of the regular work session held June 6, 2023:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Nix to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
9. Approve minutes of the special called work session held June 15, 2023:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.

Old Business:
None

New Business:

10. Reading into the minutes the Mayor's appointment of Tara Douglas to the Sylacauga Planning Commission for the remainder of vacated term to expire January 2024.
(*No council action necessary.*)
11. Reading into the minutes the Mayor's appointment of Taylor Pharr as the Acting Municipal Judge effective June 17, 2023 to July 17, 2023 or until appointment of Presiding Municipal Judge.
(*No council action necessary.*)
12. Action that is necessary to approve request from Human Resource Specialist Jayne McGee for an extension to FMLA leave for Street Department employee, R. Stacey Landry, until October 31, 2023:
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve an extension to FMLA leave for Street Department employee, R. Stacey Landry, until October 31, 2023, was approved by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
13. Action that is necessary to make appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals for the remaining three-year supernumerary term vacated by Jon Hall expiring January 2024; *Jason Clary was the only applicant:*
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Nix to appoint Jason Clary to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals for the vacated three-year term expiring January 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas: Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
14. **Agenda Add Item:** Action that is necessary to approve Change Order #2 for Sylacauga Drainage Improvements along E. Clay Street & S. Church Ave., S. Norton Ave. & W. Walnut St., and E. 1st St. & Calhoun Ave. EEFS Project No. 2397-22 totaling \$594,000.00, originally approved by the Sylacauga City Council with Resolution No. 15-2023. Change Order 2 in the amount of \$21,200 funding supplied by American Rescue Funds.
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$21,200 for Sylacauga Drainage Improvements along E. Clay Street & S. Church Ave., S. Norton Ave. & W. Walnut St., and E. 1st St. & Calhoun Ave. EEFS Project No. 2397-22 totaling \$594,000.00, was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
15. Action that is necessary to approve Accounts Payable invoices received to date for June 2023 in the amount of \$236,175.94
A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve Accounts Payable invoices received to date for June 2023 in the amount of \$236,175.94, was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Fowler, Brewer, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.
16. Time for anyone to address the City Council – no action to be taken at this meeting: (Please come to the microphone and state your name and address for record prior to addressing the council.)
Earl Lewis, 219 Mountain Springs Road, provided a summary of events since 2018 that leading to the closure of the pool. He wanted to dispel false rumors he had heard, such as concerns about sinkholes and the risk of the pool sides collapsing. Lewis referred to the LWCF survey, which indicated six positive responses regarding the pool and four negative responses related to routine maintenance, including replacing rotted wood, installing a new light fixture, and adding a handicap sign. He emphasized the survey did not recommend the closure of the swimming pool. He noted no specific reason for the closure was

documented. Realistically, Lewis stated it would take at least three years for a new pool to be ready, leaving the city without a pool for an extended period.

Dan Whitehouse, 91 Longview Road addressed the council to emphasize the significance of families and children in our community. He expressed concerns about the lack of a swimming pool for young people and questioned what is being done to address this issue and stressed the importance of taking action to ensure families stay in Sylacauga.

Dan Perkins, 1115 Lake Drive shared he is a native of Sylacauga and holds a deep connection to the city. He said he has devoted his entire life to serving its children and continues to do so at 74 years old. His first job at the age of 19 involved teaching swimming lessons and working as a lifeguard. Perkins emphasized the significance of having a swimming pool in Sylacauga and questioning where the kids would swim if there wasn't one. He expressed concerns about the lack of swimming lessons available, resulting in families having to travel to neighboring towns for classes. Perkins spoke about a time when Sylacauga boasted one of the best recreational programs in the state. He credited Coach Lewis, the athletic director at the time, for their remarkable success. Perkins conveyed his love for Sylacauga and a sense of indebtedness to the town and its children. He urged the council to take meaningful action and make a difference in the lives of the kids if they genuinely care about them.

Ginger Clifton, 92 Dogwood Road, shared her personal experience of taking swim lessons at the city pool. She urged the council to listen to the voices of the people who elected them. Clifton advised the council to present any relevant documentation, including papers and estimates from two independent pool companies, regarding the potential replacement or construction of another swimming pool in the same location. She asked the council to consider the money already invested and prioritizing what is best for the children who greatly benefit from having a swimming pool. Clifton reassured the council the citizens addressing them are not the enemy and encouraged them to take a moment to pause and explore the available options. President Fowler commented that the Master Plan from Chambliss King was built around input from the community.

Randy Clark, 205 Dale Street recalled his previous encounter with the Council two years ago when he inquired about the opening date of the swimming pool. He noted the Council laughed at his question. Clark emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue for the future and highlighted the immediate need for a place where children can swim. He expressed concern about the Master Plan being several years away, while children are currently traveling to Alex City and Talladega to swim. Clark referenced Fowler's recent estimate of the new facility costing \$33 million and questioned the additional funds the council plans to borrow beyond that amount. You can not put a cost on the loss to children by not having a swimming pool. We need a swimming pool right now.

Lathan Hutchinson asked the council to clarify the upcoming process. Council President Ashton Fowler responded by explaining they had received the plans from Chambliss King, but they still need to be finalized. Fowler mentioned the Council will collaborate with the Planning Commission, and the next step will involve hiring an architect. Afterward, the city will proceed to the bond market to secure the necessary funds for construction.

Beth Morrison, 315 W Clay St expressed her concerns stating time lost can never be found, and we have already wasted four years, soon to be five. I returned to Sylacauga a year and a half ago, and I am deeply saddened by what is happening. It breaks my heart to think it will be another four years if we can secure the bond. Just imagine the impact on the children. We cannot put a price tag on the loss they are experiencing.

17. Having no further business to discuss:

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

(Time of adjournment: 6:07 P.M.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL JULY 6, 2023



Ashton Fowler, President of City Council

CERTIFICATION

I, ALEXANDRA 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 July 6, 2023.



Alexandra Lambert, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Sylacauga