CITY OF PLEASANT GROVE, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 04, 2021

The City Council of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, met in the Council Chambers on Monday, October 04, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jerry Brasseale presiding. The following present:

Mayor: Jerry W. Brasseale

Council Members: Philip Houston

Yolanda Lawson

Kevin Dunn

Ray Lassiter

Ken Hatfield

Also present: City Clerk Recarda Cobb, Chief Robert Knight (Police Department), Building Inspection Doug Hyche, and Captain Jason Sadlin (Fire Department).

Prayer by Doug Hyche.

Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on October 04, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilor Ken Hatfield made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of $130,383.12.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-41 Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama adopting the Personnel Board of Jefferson County, Alabama 2020-2021 Annual Classification and Compensation Survey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-38.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kevin Dunn.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-42**  Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama declaring certain personal property of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama unneeded property and authorizing the disposal of certain property.

Mayor Jerry Brasseale made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-42.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kevin Dunn.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-43.** Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama appropriating $36,000.00 to the Jefferson County Board of Education to be used solely for the City of Pleasant Grove Schools.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-43.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kevin Dunn.

Councilor Kevin Dunn, Councilor Yolanda Lawson, and Councilor Ray Lassiter voted yes. Councilor Ken Hatfield, Mayor Jerry Brasseale, and Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston voted no.

Motion failed.

# OFFICERS OF THE CITY REPORTS

Chief Robert Knight – None

Recarda Cobb – None.

Captain Jason Sadlin – None

Doug Hyche stated that new homes are continuously being built in Pleasant Grove.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston stated that the Library is fully staffed, and is moving in the right direction. The “Food for Fines” September 2021 canned goods drive was a success, and five boxes of food were collected for FBC Pleasant Grove. Also, the Book Club meets Wednesday (October 20, 2021) at 10:00 am, and Art Class is Wednesday (November 03, 2021) at 10:00 am at the Pleasant Grove Library. Please call to participate. Painting is $10 per person.

Councilor Ken Hatfield stated that the lighting is finally fixed at the football field, and the goal pole nets are also installed.

Councilor Kevin Dunn received messages from citizens concerning safety issues (unloading and loading kids) at the ballparks. He said that the issue will be addressed at the Park Board meeting on October 05, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Councilor Dunn also stated that the poor lighting in the park parking lot needs to be addressed, thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston for organizing the food trucks in the community, and asked Attorney JD Terry for an update on the speeding problem on Forest Road. Attorney Terry said that the new study, by Jefferson County, came back the same as the original. Doug Hyche will contact the City engineer about conducting another study. Lastly, Councilor Dunn gave an update on the Fall Festival being held on October 19, 2021 from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. He is organizing vendors and food trucks for the event, and is expecting a great turnout for family fun and games.

Councilor Ray Lassiter thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the installation of extra street lights throughout the City, inquired about trash pickup of limbs and debris sitting in yards throughout the City, and asked Doug Hyche how to address the issue. Mr. Hyche said that he will talk to the person responsible for the trash pick-up. Councilor Lassiter also discussed the burning of leaves and trees in front yards of citizens.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated thanked Bethel Baptist Church for the food truck event, said that she is grateful for Jefferson County Commission working on some of their roads in Pleasant Grove, thankful for Waste Management being on time with the trash pick-up, and thanked everybody (Councilor Ray Lassiter, Public Works, Recarda Cobb) who helped with taking backpacks to the Elementary and Middle Schools. She explained the Plus One program, and inquired about receiving budget information. Recarda Cobb said that the budget information will be emailed to the Mayor and Council on October 05, 2021.

Councilor Lawson asked Doug Hyche about having the trees by the cemetery cut back, and about someone to talk to concerning Jefferson County Commission cleaning up their roads in Pleasant Grove. Mr. Hyche said that he will talk with Chris Willis, County manager assistant. Councilor Lawson asked Chief Robert Knight about having a Police Officer assist with monitoring the traffic on football game nights. Chief Knight said that he can’t make any promises, but he would try. Councilor Kevin Dunn stated that the football league should be responsible for monitoring the traffic flow.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson discussed the donations requested for Pleasant Grove’s Schools. After speaking with the School Board and the League of Municipalities, she doesn’t see why the City can’t donate to the schools in Pleasant Grove. Based on past Attorney General’s opinions similar to this situation, the City of Pleasant Grove can donate. She discussed several AG opinions related to giving to county schools. Attorney JD Terry said that he is sticking with the recommendation of the Alabama League of Municipalities, which is to get the Attorney General’s opinion.

Councilor Ken Hatfield said that he is not for all of the items listed to be donated, but he is for helping with the larger items. Also, Councilor Hatfield said that he is for providing raises to the Police and Fire Departments in order for them to remain competitive, and that he have given to the schools personally.

Councilor Lawson said that the donations have nothing to do with raises for the Police and Fire Departments. She’s for the City of Pleasant Grove being competitive as a whole, when it comes to the employees. Actually, Councilor Lawson stated that she introduced the premium pay for all of the employees. She discussed the needs of the kids, and talked about helping the citizens who pay taxes in Pleasant Grove. Also, Councilor Lawson inquired about the balance of COVID/American Rescue Funds, and asked Mayor Jerry Brasseale about Recarda Cobb checking on interest bearing accounts for COVID/American Rescue Funds.

# CITIZENS COMMENTS

Robert Sellers, 1401 Woodridge Circle, discussed the drainage problem his neighbor is having, due to debris in the drain. Doug Hyche said that the Public Works Department cleaned out the drains. Also, Mr Sellers asked for an update on the altercation in Smithfield Forrest. Attorney JD Terry stated that no one can comment, because the situation is still under investigation.

Emily Romine, 1148 11th Street, complained about the trash in Pleasant Grove, and roads being damaged by trucks driving through the community. Mayor Jerry Brasseale said that he will have it checked out.

Vincent Dewitt, 4025 Woodridge Place, discussed the debris throughout the neighborhood, burning brush in yards, and inquired about the process of limb and brush pickup in Pleasant Grove. Doug Hyche explained the two days a week Waste Management picks up tree limbs and brush. Mr. Dewitt also stated that he has never had a trashcan and are stilled being billed.

# ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Ken Hatfield made a motion to adjourn.

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Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor

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

Recarda Cobb, City Clerk