CITY OF PLEASANT GROVE, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2024

The City Council of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, met in the Council Chambers on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jerry Brasseale presiding. The following were present:

Mayor: Jerry Brasseale

Council Members:

 Yolanda Lawson

 Kevin Dunn

 Eric Calhoun

 Philip Houston

 Ray Lassiter

Also present: Recarda Cobb (City Clerk), Chief Daniel Reid (Public Safety Director), and John Williamson (Building Inspector).

Prayer: Mayor Jerry Brasseale.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

 Mayor-Pro Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve the minutes from the last regular scheduled meeting held on September 16, 2024.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhoun.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve payment of October 07, 2024 bills in the amount of $556,390.44.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve payment of October 21, 2024 bills in the amount of $314,811.83.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kevin Dunn.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-52. A Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama agreeing to pay $478,442.28 to have the attached roads paved. Not to exceed $530,000.00.

Councilor Ray Lassiter made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-52.

The Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-53**. A Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama agreeing to furnish material to the organizations (volunteers) agreeing to paint certain areas (backdrop) at Pleasant Grove Sports Complex. Not to exceed $900.00.

Councilor Kevin Dunn made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-53.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston.

Councilor Kevin Dunn, Councilor Eric Calhoun, Councilor Ray Lassiter, Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston, and Mayor Jerry Brasseale voted yes. Councilor Yolanda Lawson abstain.

Resolution No. 2024-53 passed by a majority vote.

# OFFICERS OF THE CITY REPORTS

Recarda Cobb - None

Chief Daniel Reid thanked the Pleasant Grove Fall Festival organizers for allowing the Police and Fire Departments to participate, and thanked the Pleasant Grove Library Book Club for allowing him to join.

John Williamson stated that the Building Department have received several building permits for construction work, and he has communicated with a builder concerning a potential subdivision coming to Pleasant Grove.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Ray Lassiter discussed personal challenges he is dealing with, talked about the passing of several old classmates, and thanked Mrs. A. Faye Calhoun for her determination in moving forward with Pleasant Grove street paving. Also, Councilor Lassiter thanked John Williamson for assisting with the street paving project.

Councilor Kevin Dunn thanked Mrs Dunn and volunteers for the success of Pleasant Grove Fall Festival, discussed receiving one bid to perform work on walking trail, and he thanked the organizations leasing Pleasant Grove Sports Complex for assisting with cleanup. Councilor Dunn stated that the organizations have agreed to paint certain areas (backdrop) at the complex, discussed speaking with Alabama League of Municipalities Kaleb Beck concerning the liability and he said that there were no violation of section 94, and has spoken with Attorney J D Terry about providing a volunteer waiver form for participants to sign. Councilor Dunn also thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for their work maintaining Pleasant Grove’s Parks and volunteering to plant shrubbery, talked about the $500.00 donation received from Home Depot and Lowe’s, and discussed the Smithfield Forest Neighborhood meeting he attended. Lastly, Councilor Dunn gave an overview of his non-profit organiztion designed to mentor young boys in socializing etiquette, and he encouraged parents to get their kids more involved in positive programs within the community.

Councilor Eric Calhoun thanked Public Safety for being in the top ten of Alabama safe communities, commended Mayor Jerry Brasseale and John Williamson for meeting with a perspective builder interested in a subdivision in Pleasant Grove, and briefly discussed streaming services. Also, Councilor Calhoun talked about meeting with neighbors about improving Pleasant Grove, and encouraged citizens to attend the Planning Board meeting November 07, 2024, at 6:00 pm to discuss a potential subdivision.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston stated that Pleasant Grove Library can have material shipped from the Birmingham Library, if not available locally. Also, he said Linda Schrader was reappointed to the Library Board, briefly talked about events being held at the library, and discussed the upcoming Christmas parade.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated that the presidential election is fourteen (14) days away, talked about how important it is, and encourage citizens to check their voting locations. Councilor Lawson said that the last day to register to vote for upcoming November 05, 2024 election is October 21, 2024, she talked about teenagers being able to vote even though they turn eighteen (18) after the deadline to register but before November 05, 2024, and stated that in-person absentee voting can be done at the Bessemer or Birmingham courthouses until October 31, 2024. Councilor Lawson gave a brief overview of a discussion with Commissioner Jimmie Stephens concerning cleaning up areas entering Pleasant Grove, stated that she is very appreciative for the students participating in city cleanup events, and encouraged citizens to participate in the Christmas parade December 07, 2024 at 8:30 am.

# MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Jerry Brasseale introduced Dr. Robin Litaker who is running for Congress in District 7.

Dr. Robin Litaker gave a brief background of herself, discussed plans to improve District 7, and asked all in attendance for their support.

# CITIZENS COMMENTS

A Faye Calhoun, 417 13th Street, thanked Councilor Ray Lassiter for recognizing her, commended Councilor Yolanda Lawson for carrying the weight for many, and thanked Councilor Kevin Dunn for being interested in joining the Beautification Board. Mrs. Calhoun thanked John Williamson for operating the digital sign, thanked the Code Enforcement Officer for informing her of a variance requesting to be allowed to park in the yard, and inquired about the variance overtaking Pleasant Grove’s parking ordinance. John Williamson said that the decision is made by Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilor Yolanda Lawson asked Attorney J D Terry would the proposed variance go to Council before being enforced. Attorney Terry said the variance does not have to go before Council. Councilor Lawson also asked Attorney Terry about changing the parking ordinance and changing the variance once submitted. Attorney Terry said that he will look into changing the ordinance, but the variance can’t be changed once submitted. Lastly, Mrs. Calhoun asked Attorney Terry did he know about the variance. He replied no.

Demetrius Hampton, 413 13th Street, asked for an update on the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association request to increase meeting days to fifteen (15) at Pleasant Grove Community Center. Councilor Yolanda Lawson said that a decision hasn’t been made and apologized. She asked Mr. Hampton would they consider lesser days. He replied yes. Councilor Kevin Dunn suggested combining their meetings with Council meetings. Attorney J D Terry said that Pleasant Grove can only allow six (6) meetings at Pleasant Grove Community Center. Mr. Hampton inquired about the process Birmingham Water Works Board will take to pave his street. Mayor Jerry Brasseale said that the street will be dugout and repaved spring 2025.

Michelle Burton, 1325 11th Way, stated that she was very impressed with the City Council meeting and would like to get more involved. Ms. Burton also said that Pleasant Grove is a very peaceful city.

# ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made motion to adjourn.

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Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor

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

Recarda Cobb, City Clerk