CITY OF PLEASANT GROVE, ALABAMA

COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 02, 2024

The City Council of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, met in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 02, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jerry Brasseale presiding. The following were present:

Mayor: Jerry W. Brasseale

Council Members: Yolanda Lawson

 Eric Calhoun

 Kevin Dunn

 Ray Lassiter

 Philip Houston

Also present: Recarda Cobb (City Clerk), Sgt. James Williamson (Police Department) and John Williamson (Building Inspector).

Prayer: Pastor Robert Sellers Sr.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jerry Brasseale.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Kevin Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the last regular scheduled meeting held on December 11, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhoun.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of $444,264.97.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01**  Resolution of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama authorizing travel advance for Recarda Cobb to attend continuing education.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-01.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Yolanda Lawson.

Motion passed unanimously.

# APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01 An Ordinance of the City of Pleasant Grove, Alabama FIRST READING for rezoning 1000 5th Avenue Pleasant Grove, Alabama 35127 from residential (R-1) to business (B-2) on the recommendation of Pleasant Grove Planning Commission.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-01.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Eric Calhouin.

Motion passed unanimously.

# OFFICERS OF THE CITY REPORTS

Recarda Cobb – None

Sgt. James Williamson stated that Chief Reid had a family emergency and is very excited about the upcoming year.

John Williamson - None

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Ray Lassiter wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Kevin Dunn discussed gratitude, talked about the number of friends and relatives he lost in 2023, and stressed how thankful he is for memorable moments. Also, Councilor Dunn said that he is extremely proud of his son, who graduated Cum Laude from Alabama A & M University in Sports Management. Lastly, Councilor Dunn encouraged citizens to get out and meet their neighbors, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Eric Calhoun wished everybody a Happy New Year, stated that the Public Safety Department is doing well, and talked about how professional a request for rezoning was presented to the Planning Commission. The hearing request for rezoning is scheduled for February 05, 2024. Also, Councilor Calhoun expressed his condolences to Chief Daniel Reid and family for the loss of his father.

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston wished everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated that she is excited about the upcoming year, thanked God for family and being able to serve, and wished the kids of Pleasant Grove a great school year. Also, she thanked Mr. Gary Williams for volunteering as a cross guard, discussed the Plus One program, and talked about the trash accumulating on Park Road. Councilor Lawson stated that she plans on forming a committee to clean up trash in Pleasant Grove, and inquired about appointing the remaining Planning Commission members. Mayor Jerry Brasseale said that he is working on appointing the remaining members. Councilor Lawson informed the citizens that Habitat for Humanity will be moving forward with building against the desire of Pleasant Grove’s citizens, and stressed how disappointed she is with Habitat for Humanity and the Pleasant Grove Planning Commission for ignoring the concerns of the citizens. Lastly, she stated that the City of Pleasant Grove is operating with an incomplete Planning Commission, and is knowingly making decisions with an incomplete Planning Commission.

# MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Jerry Brasseale appointed Barbara Houts and Joey Dunnie to the Planning Commission.

# CITIZENS COMMENTS

A Faye Calhoun, 417 13th Street, asked who knew about Habitat for Humanity moving forward with building homes in Pleasant Grove, and inquired about the Planning Commission bylaws. Attorney J D Terry gave an overview on how Habitat for Humanity was able to move forward. He stated that failure to act on the Habitat for Humanity project automatically approved it. Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated that there are no bylaws and Habitat for Humanity was able to move forward by using the Codes of Alabama. Mrs. Calhoun asked Mayor Jerry Brasseale about informing the citizens of Habitat for Humanity moving forward. Mayor Brasseale stated that he will inform the citizens when Habitat for Humanity breaks ground.

Mikey Hankins, Planning Commission Chairman, stated that a motion was made by Mayor Jerry Brasseale to move the project forward, but no one second it. Nor did anyone make a motion to not approve the project. Therefore the Habitat for Humanity project was automatically approved. Councilor Eric Calhoun said he didn’t know anything about Habitat for Humanity moving forward. Stated that a plat has to be approved before a subdivision can move forward. Also, he stated that no feasibility study had been done.

Sheila Pleasant, 1408 9th Street, stated that she didn’t know Habitat for Humanity was moving forward. Mrs. Pleasant asked was it due to the Planning Commission not having bylaws. Mayor Jerry Brasseale said no.

Gary Williams, 1456 5th Avenue, talked about citizens having input when it comes to building in Pleasant Grove.

Councilor Kevin Dunn stated that the citizens should not be satisfied with the minimum. It’s totally not ok. He stated that there should be better communication with the citizens.

Mikey Hankins, Planning Commission Chairman, suggested getting together to make the necessary changes moving forward.

Pastor Robert Sellers Sr., 1401 Woodridge Circle, said that he heads many organizations and nothing goes on without him knowing. He stated that the citizens should have been informed of Habitat for Humanity moving forward, and the elected officials and Planning Commission should be transparent no matter what. Pastor Sellers asked Mickey Hankins when he knew about Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Hankins replied June, 2023.

Councilor Yolanda Lawson stated that John Williamson, Building Inspector, said that Habitat for Humanity did not provide him with everything he needed. She asked how the thirty (30) days could have started, if the paperwork wasn’t completed. Lastly, Councilor Lawson said that the Mayor and Council should follow procedures when representing the citizens of Pleasant Grove.

Victor Jordan, The Digital Plug, thanked everyone for having him.

# ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Philip Houston made motion to adjourn.

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Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor

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

Recarda Cobb, City Clerk