

City of Sylacauga
City Council Agenda
April 16th, 2024

1. Called meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. by Council President, Tiffany Nix.
2. Roll Call:
Councilmembers present included – Tiffany Nix, Nate Brewer, Ashton Fowler, Lee Perryman and Laura Barlow-Heath. Councilmembers absent: None. Mayor James Heigl and City Clerk-Treasurer Alexandra Lambert were also present.
3. Invocation was provided by Councilmember Fowler prior to the work session.
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Report from Mayor Heigl:

Mayor Heigl reported vacancies for each department, including four in the Administrative and Finance Department, one in the Animal Shelter, two in the Building Services Department, one in the Municipal Court, four in the Fire Department, six in the Police Department, and four in the Street Department. Following this, Mayor Heigl introduced the Police Chief Kelley Johnson to say a few words regarding the retirement of K9 Drago.

Chief Johnson noted that Drago had come to the department from the IK9 located in Anniston. He mentioned that Drago was already an older K9 upon arrival, and they anticipated only a few years of service. However, Johnson saw it as a valuable opportunity to initiate the K9 program in the Sylacauga Police Department. He explained that Drago is now experiencing mobility issues, leading them to the decision that it's time for him to retire and enjoy his retirement with his owner/handler Officer Taylor.

Lieutenant Gaither also provided some statistics regarding Drago's tenure at the Police Department noting that Drago has served with the Sylacauga Police Department since April 15, 2021. During his 3 years of service, Drago has had many successful deployments that resulted in recovery of marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and firearms that led to over 40 felony charges and 60 misdemeanor charges. Drago was also part of the spark that rekindled a long gone K9 unit at the Sylacauga Police Department. Both Chief Johnson and Lieutenant Gaither expressed gratitude to Drago for his dedicated service to the Sylacauga Police Department.

6. Adopt Agenda:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to amend the agenda to remove Agenda Item #12 and add quoted amount of \$20,115.00 from Sleeping Giant to Agenda Item #15 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

7. Approve minutes of the regular work session held April 2nd, 2024:
A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

8. Approve minutes of the regular City Council meeting held April 2nd, 2024:
A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Brewer, to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

9. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 44-2024 to authorize the Mayor to enter into Waste Hauling contract with Green for Life effective April 17th, 2024. (40 yard dumpster, \$260.00 per haul, \$30.00 disposal fee per ton) (Consumer Price Index will occur January each year).

If to consider at this meeting:

Resolution #44-2024 as introduced by Councilmember Brewer,

If to take action at this meeting:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to suspend the rules and give immediate consideration was carried by the following roll call vote:

Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

If unanimous:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer second by Councilmember Fowler to authorize the Mayor to enter into Waste Hauling contract with Green for Life effective April 17th, 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:

Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

10. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 45-2024 to amend Resolution No. 52-2023 to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended FY24 Chamber of Commerce contract to add an additional \$17,000.00. (Total FY24 Budget approved for the Chamber of Commerce is \$52,000.00. Amendment to be applied starting with the May 2024 appropriation.)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer second by Councilmember Perryman to approve Resolution No. 45-2024 to amend Resolution No. 52-2023 to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended FY24 Chamber of Commerce contract to add an additional \$17,000.00 was carried by the following roll call vote:

Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

11. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 46-2024 to amend Resolution No. 63-2023 to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended FY24 Talladega County Health Department Memorandum of Agreement to add an additional \$6,000.00. (Total FY24 Budget approved for the Talladega County Health Department is \$18,000.00. Amendment to be applied starting with the May 2024 appropriation.)

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Brewer, to approve Resolution No. 46-2024 to amend Resolution No. 63-2023 to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended FY 24 Talladega County Health Department Memorandum of Agreement to add an additional \$6,000.00 was carried by the following roll call vote:

Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

12. Removed: Action that is necessary to approve the Board of Education an additional \$319,000.00 for the FY24 Budget. (Total FY24 budget approved for the Board of Education is \$919,000.00. Amendment to be applied starting with the May 2024 appropriation.)

13. Action that is necessary to approve an additional \$25,000.00 to Lake Howard for the FY24 Budget. (Total FY24 Budget approved for Lake Howard is \$50,000.00. Amendment to be applied starting with the May 2024 appropriation.)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer second by Councilmember Barlow-Heath to approve an additional \$25,000.00 to Lake Howard for the FY24 Budget was carried by the following roll call vote:

Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

14. Action that is necessary to approve an additional \$500.00 to the Beautification Council for the FY24 Budget. (Total FY24 Budget approved for the Beautification Council is \$2,500.00. Amendment to be applied starting with the May 2024 appropriation.)

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer second by Councilmember Barlow-Heath to approve an additional \$500.00 to the Beautification Council for the FY24 Budget was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

15. Action that is necessary to approve capital purchase in the amount of \$20,115.00 to Sleeping Giant for repairs to Animal Shelter duct work.

*A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Brewer to approve capital purchase in the amount of \$20,115.00 to Sleeping Giant for Animal Shelter duct work was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

16. Action that is necessary to approve additional funds to advertise and hire a Business License Clerk until August 9th, 2024. (This would allow the current Business License Clerk to train the new Business License Clerk. Funding will come from unused salaries.)

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve funds to advertise and hire a Business License Clerk until August 9th, 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

17. Action that is necessary to approve the retirement of K-9 Officer Drago from the Sylacauga Police Department effective April 16th, 2024. (Presentation by the Sylacauga Police Department)

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve the retirement of K-9 Officer Drago from the Sylacauga Police Department effective April 16, 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

18. Action that is necessary to approve the City of Sylacauga to buy-out the contract of certified Police Officer Malcolm Kelley in the amount of \$16,728.50. (Funding will come from unused salaries.)

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve the City of Sylacauga to buy-out the contract of certified Police Officer Malcolm Kelley in the amount of \$16,728.50 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

19. Action that is necessary to approve March 2024 payroll in the amount of \$746,397.67.

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve March 2024 payroll in the amount of \$746,397.67 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

20. Action that is necessary to approve FY24 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$731,760.49.

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve FY24 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$731,760.49 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

21. Time for anyone to address the City Council – no action to be taken at this meeting:

Councilmember Fowler addressed an anonymous letter sent to him and fellow councilmembers concerning Police Chief Johnson's now-cancelled retirement party. He acknowledged that the concerns raised in the letter were valid but expressed disappointment in the anonymous nature of the communication, labeling it as cowardly. Fowler suggested that moving forward, for him to consider any concerns brought to his attention, the letter must include the sender's identity.

22. City Attorney Edwin B. Livingston, Jr., addressed Council regarding a need to go into executive session to discuss certain matters for which an executive session is allowed pursuant to Section 36-25A-7(a)(7) Code of Alabama 1975, as amended:

If to take action relative to Mr. Livingston's comments:

Council President Tiffany Nix read the letter from City Attorney, Edwin B. Livingston, Jr., recommending and detailing the Open Meetings Act section allowing such executive session.

Livingston suggested going into executive session in order to discuss matters involving matters of trade or commerce in which this body is in competition with private individuals or entities, other Alabama governmental bodies or other States or foreign nations.

Nix called for Council action on the recommendation:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to enter executive session was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

Nix stated that once Council concludes its business of the regular City Council meeting that Council will adjourn the city council meeting immediately following the executive session.

All Council members, Mayor Heigl, City Attorney Win Livingston, Brian Cash, Bryan Taubert, Mayor's Admin. Asst. Kassey Epperson, and City Clerk-Treasurer Alexandra Lambert entered into executive session at approximately 6:36 p.m.

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to exit executive session was carried at approximately 6:57 p.m. by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

23. Action that is necessary to reconvene or adjourn Council meeting:

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to adjourn was carried at approximately 6:58 p.m. by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

(Time of adjournment: 6:58 p.m.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL May 7th, 2024


Tiffany Nix, 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 April 16th, 2024.



Alexandra Lambert, City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Sylacauga