

City of Sylacauga
City Council Agenda
May 23rd, 2024

1. Called meeting to order at 7:16 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 Pastor Rick Patrick prior to the work session.
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Report from Mayor Heigl:

Mayor Heigl congratulated the 2024 graduates and acknowledged the City's 16 vacancies: four in the Administration and Finance Department, two in the Municipal Court, one in the Fire Department, six in the Police Department, two in the Street Department, and one in the Shop. The mayor expressed gratitude to all departments, entities, and the City Council for their efforts in passing the recent budget amendments. He emphasized the importance of the increase in sales tax and the need for a balanced budget based on accurate projections. Mayor Heigl also announced that the city was about to commence the Fiscal Year 2025 budget planning. He noted that the Administration and Finance Office would distribute new budget forms the first week of June.

6. Adopt Agenda:
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to adopt agenda 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 May 7th, 2024:
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, 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 May 7th, 2024:
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, 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.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

9. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 48-2024 to authorize the Mayor to enter into Nuisance and Abatement contract with Mintz Machine effective June 1st, 2024. *(Equipment provided on an hourly basis, inclusive of operator and fuel. Rubber Track Skid Steer in 70HP class with Bucket and Grapple - \$160.00; Track Hoe with thumb in 18K lb. class - \$160.00; Tractor with Bucket and Brush Hog 50HP class; or Skid Steer with Brush Axe attachment - \$250.00; Commercial Grade Mower with minimum 54-inch Deck - \$160.00; Commercial Grade String Trimmer - \$160.00; Board Up Services - \$50.00 per sheet of OSB; Debris Removal - \$65.00 per ton).*

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Barlow-Heath to approve Resolution No. 48-2024 to authorize the Mayor to enter into Nuisance and Abatement contract with Mintz Machine effective June 1st, 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. 59-2024, to reallocate funds from Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Department's earmarked funds totaling \$22,267.40 to Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Department's FY24 appropriation. (City Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution No. 59-2024 into the meeting minutes.)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Resolution No. 59-2024, to reallocate funds from Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Department's earmarked funds totaling \$22,267.40 to Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Department's FY24 appropriation 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. 60-2024 for Construction Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) Services to Engineering, Environmental & Forestry Services Company (EEFS) for the Gene E. Stewart Boulevard resurfacing project totaling \$31,000.00. (Funding from Special Gasoline Tax (7-cent).)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Resolution No. 60-2024 for Construction Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) Services to Engineering, Environmental & Forestry Services Company (EEFS) for the Gene E. Stewart Boulevard resurfacing project totaling \$31,000.00 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

12. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 61-2024 to authorize the Mayor to enter into resurfacing contract for Gene E. Stewart Boulevard with Ingram Grading & Paving, Inc totaling \$362,019.84. (City of Sylacauga \$283,128.17 and Talladega County to reimburse the City of Sylacauga \$78,891.67. Funding from Special Gasoline Tax (7-cent).)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Resolution No. 61-2024 to authorize the Mayor to enter into resurfacing contract for Gene E. Stewart Boulevard with Ingram Grading & Paving, Inc. totaling \$362,019.84 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

13. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 62-2024 to enter into agreement with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) to purchase five (5) 14+2 Starcraft (non-CDL) vans for the transportation program at a match of 10%. Sylacauga's match is \$66,729.00. (Total cost per van: \$135,683.00; = \$125,408.00; plus basic stripe package: \$2,225.00, 5311 graphics package: \$4,050.00 and cameras system installed: \$4,000.00. Funding from the General Fund.)

A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Resolution No. 62-2024 to enter into agreement with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC) to purchase five (5) 14+2 Starcraft (non-CDL) vans for the transportation program at a match of 10%. Sylacauga's match is \$66,729.00 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

14. **Emergency Add Item:** Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 63-2024 for the Mayor to enter into an agreement to refurbish the ladder truck due to failure of annual testing and unit being out of service totaling \$98,480.90. (Funding from the General Fund.)

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Brewer to approve Resolution No. 63-2024 for the Mayor to enter into an agreement to refurbish the ladder truck due to failure of annual testing and unit being out of service totaling \$98,480.90 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.

15. Action that is necessary to approve computer purchase totaling \$19,882.51. *(Funding from Capital.)*
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve computer purchase totaling \$19,882.51 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman; Nays Barlow-Heath.
16. Action that is necessary to approve appointment of Tara Douglas to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027. *(There were three (3) vacancies: Tara Douglas, Linda Dickson and Missy Turner.)*
A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Barlow-Heath to approve appointment of Tara Douglas to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.
17. Action that is necessary to approve appointment of Linda Dickson to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027. *(There were three (3) vacancies: Tara Douglas, Linda Dickson and Missy Turner.)*
A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Brewer to approve appointment of Linda Dickson to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.
18. Action that is necessary to approve appointment of Missy Turner to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027. *(There were three (3) vacancies: Tara Douglas, Linda Dickson and Missy Turner.)*
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve appointment of Missy Turner to the Historical Commission for a term of three (3) years ending March 2027 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.
19. Action that is necessary to approve a pay adjustment for Officer Joshua Coleman PDC step 2, (\$21.00) to step 3 (\$21.52), effective May 18th, 2024. *(Hired at PDC Step 2, certified officer, 23 years' experience, and FBI certified instructor.)*
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve a pay adjustment for Officer Joshua Coleman PDC step 2, (\$21.00) to step 3 (\$21.52), effective May 18th, 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.
20. Action that is necessary to approve appointment of Triston Smith, District 1 to the Nuisance Abatement Board. *(Term runs concurrent with City Council.)*
A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve appointment of Triston Sims, District 1 to the Nuisance Abatement Board was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.
21. Action that is necessary to approve Mayor James Heigl, Councilmember Ashton Fowler, and Councilmember Nate Brewer to attend the Municipal Leadership Institute and League Graduation Ceremonies in Orange Beach, Alabama October 30th, 2024 to November 1st, 2024. Registration fee of \$365.00 per person, additional expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage will be incurred. Total estimated expenses for Heigl (\$1,882.38), Fowler (\$1,976.26) and Brewer (\$2,006.35) are \$5,864.99. *(Expenses will be from E&L's budget in FY25.)*

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Mayor James Heigl, Councilmember Ashton Fowler, and Councilmember Nate Brewer to attend the Municipal Leadership Institute and League Graduation Ceremonies in Orange Beach, Alabama October 30th, 2024 to November 1st, 2024. Registration fee of \$365.00 per person, additional expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage will be incurred. Total estimated expenses for Heigl, Fowler and Brewer are \$5,864.99 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman; Nays Barlow-Heath.*

22. Action that is necessary to approve City Clerk-Treasurer, Alexandra Lambert and Administrative Assistant Nicole Brown to attend the Municipal Clerks Winter Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama November 19th - 22nd, 2024. Registration fee of \$265.00 per person (*Early Bird Special*); additional expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage will be incurred. Total FY25 estimated expenses for Lambert (\$2,197.02) and Brown (\$2,305.40) are \$4,502.42. (*This is the Election Conference and expenses will be from A&F's budget in FY25.*)

*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve City Clerk-Treasurer, Alexandra Lambert and Administrative Assistant Nicole Brown to attend the Municipal Clerks Winter Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama November 19th - 22nd, 2024. Registration fee of \$265.00 per person, additional expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage will be incurred. Total FY25 estimated expenses for Lambert and Brown are \$4,502.42 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

23. Action that is necessary to approve payroll for the month of April 2024 totaling \$505,676.24.
*A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve payroll for the month of April 2024 totaling \$505,676.24 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

24. Action that is necessary to approve Fiscal Year 2023 Accounts Payable invoices totaling \$1,300.00.
*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Fiscal Year 2023 Accounts Payable invoices totaling \$1,300.00 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

25. Action that is necessary to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Accounts Payable invoices totaling \$788,459.98.
*A motion by Councilmember Brewer, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Accounts Payable invoices totaling \$788,459.98 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Nix, Brewer, Fowler, Perryman, Barlow-Heath; Nays None.*

26. 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.)

Nathan and Kim Wright, 1764 Oldfield Road – Nathan Wright addressed the council, highlighting his and his wife's roles as local business owners and strong advocates for outdoor recreation and tourism in Sylacauga. Nathan listed his extensive involvement in various organizations, including his presidency at the Alabama Hiking Trail Society, advisory position at the Alabama Trails Commission, and contributions to the Sweet Trails Alabama Project. He proudly mentioned his ownership of the Pinhoti Outdoor Center, honored with the Small Business of the Year award for Alabama, and his leadership as board chair for the Pinhoti Experience Foundation, also known as Penn X.

He then turned attention to his wife, Kimm Wright, outlining her significant roles in community organizations such as the Alabama Hiking Trail Society and the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce. He noted her contributions to the Alabama Pinhoti Trail Association

and her pivotal role as founder of the Pinhoti Outdoor Center. Additionally, he highlighted her position as executive director at Penn X, responsible for orchestrating the Pinhoti Fest.

Nathan proceeded to address the council regarding the Pinhoti Fest, an annual event held in Noble Park during the last weekend of September. He described the festival's three-day program, featuring vendors, live music, food trucks, and various activities. Nathan referenced a geo-fence study conducted by JSU in 2023, revealing an attendance of over 3,000 people, and stressed the extensive 13-month planning process. He noted that many vendors, primarily from out of state, had already committed and incurred travel expenses.

Previously, the festival operated under a blanket business license covering all vendor fees. However, Nathan informed the council that this license was no longer available. Therefore, he and his wife requested the council's support in reinstating the blanket special event license to ensure the festival's continuation in Sylacauga.

In response, Council President Nix suggested a meeting between the Wrights and the City Clerk-Treasurer to discuss the specific stipulations of the blanket special event license, particularly regarding vendor fees.

Greg Patterson, 1005 5th Place - Patterson raised two safety concerns regarding the proposed golf cart ordinance. Firstly, he urged the council to expand their considerations to include mobility devices, emphasizing the importance of ensuring the safety of seniors who depend on them for mobility within the town. Secondly, Patterson expressed concerns about the refurbishment of the fire truck. He urged the council to reconsider their decision and advocated for addressing all issues with the fire truck simultaneously. Patterson highlighted that addressing all issues at once would be more cost-effective, as it would eliminate the need for repetitive labor charges, particularly for removing the ladder.

Councilmember Barlow-Heath expressed gratitude towards Laura Strickland, the Director of the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce, and her team for the success of Crazy Days. She noted that the event was a success and shared that her children thoroughly enjoyed it.

27. Having no further business to discuss:

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

(Time of adjournment: 7:44 p.m.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL June 4th, 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 May 23rd, 2024.


Alexandra Lambert, City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Sylacauga