

City of Sylacauga
City Council Agenda
December 19th, 2023

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

Mayor Heigl announced that he had no report to present at the moment but extended an invitation to Bryanna Belser, Miss Heart of Dixie's Teen 2024, to address the council. Ms. Belser spoke passionately about her initiative, "Feed the Need: Sylacauga," aimed at providing crucial assistance to marginalized communities, particularly those facing food insecurity. She proposed a city-wide donation drive throughout February and expressed her desire to establish collection points in each district of the city. Belser sought the council's assistance in making this initiative successful, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak and highlighting that their endorsement would significantly contribute to the collective effort's success.

Sylacauga Woman of the Year Tara Douglas presented the annual awards on behalf of the Beautification Committee. The prestigious Citizen of the Year Award was bestowed upon Janice Adams, whose illustrious career began in 1975 as a Home Economics teacher at East Highland Middle School. Even after her retirement, Adams continued to make a positive impact by mentoring young adults and actively participating in various community roles. Her involvement ranged from serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board, Sylacauga Education Foundation Board, and Sylacauga Arts Council to leadership roles in the Sylacauga Library Board, Sylacauga Beautification Council, and the Habitat for Humanity Board. Additionally, she played a significant part in New Hope Baptist Church and the Talladega County Tuskegee Club.

The Shining Star Award was presented to Brent Butts, an ICU nurse at CVMC, who returned to his hometown after graduating from Auburn University. Alongside his role as a healthcare professional, Butts demonstrated a strong commitment to community service. As a founding member of the Sylacauga Pickleball Club, he actively engaged in community events, volunteered for the Beautification Council, and dedicated his free time to walking dogs at the Sylacauga Animal Shelter. Known for his readiness to assist those in need, Butts embodies a spirit of positivity and community growth.

The recipient of the Mary Jo Brown Award was Paul Stepp, recognized for his outstanding devotion to community improvement. Stepp actively participates in various Beautification Council initiatives, including litter pick-up events and the Sylacauga Cemetery Clean-up. He introduced the "Things Going on in Sylacauga" Facebook page approximately five years ago, which has grown to include 28,000 members. Stepp's dedication to maintaining a positive online environment and his innovative contributions make him an invaluable asset to the community.

6. Adopt Agenda:
Agenda items 17 and 19 were amended prior to the council meeting. Agenda item 20 was removed.

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

7. Approve minutes of the regular work session held November 21st, 2023:
*A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*
8. Approve minutes of the regular City Council meeting held November 21st, 2023:
*A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*
9. Approve minutes of the regular work session held December 5th, 2023:
*A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*
10. Approve minutes of the regular City Council meeting held December 5th, 2023:
*A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*
11. Approve minutes of the Special Called City Council meeting held December 11th, 2023:
*A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Nix to approve minutes as written was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

Old Business:

12. Action that is necessary to appoint a Board of Education member to the five year term expired in April 2023. (Term expired for Melissa Garris)
Council President opened the floor & called for nominations:
Nominations:
1) Councilmember Nix nominated Olwyn Twymon.
Councilmember Brewer recused himself from nominations and voting due to his employment with Sylacauga City Schools.
Hearing no other nominations, Council President called for nominations to be closed:
*A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Nix to close nominations was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Perryman; Nays None.*
Council President closed the floor & called for the vote on nominations:
*Vote on nominations:
1) Those in favor of Olwyn Twymon
Roll call vote (Yeas) Heath, Fowler, Nix, & Perryman.
Those opposed: Roll call vote (Nays) None.*
*A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Perryman to appoint Olwyn Twymon to the Board of Education for the five-year term ending June 2028 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

New Business:

13. Public hearing to consider annexation and zoning of property located at 23 Tuscaloosa Ave, zoned MX-2.

Council President Heath opened public hearing and called for comments:

None.

Council President Heath closed public hearing and called for action by Council:

If to consider at this meeting:

Ordinance No. 2263-23 as introduced by Councilmember Fowler.

City Clerk - Treasurer read Ordinance No. 2263-23 into the meeting minutes.

ORDINANCE 2263-23

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA, as follows:

SECTION 1. Assent. The City Council of the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, assents to the annexation to the City of Sylacauga, of the property hereinafter described.

SECTION 2. Annexation. Pursuant to petition filed with the City Clerk of the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, in accordance with Act No. 2228 of the 1971 Regular Session of the Legislature of the State of Alabama, the following described property is hereby annexed to the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, and made a part of the municipal limits of the City of Sylacauga:

Parcel 1. Carmelo Salinas and Celia Yanez Hernandez, 23 Tuscaloosa Ave, Sylacauga
100' X 88' IRR AVONDALE MILLS OF SYLACAUGA SEC E LOT 3 BLK 22 OF SEC
19 T21 R4

This property is known as 23 Tuscaloosa Ave, Sylacauga, Parcel ID #27-04-19-4-000-103.000.

At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the property is hereby zoned MX-2 (Limited Mixed Use District) at the time of annexation into the city limits of Sylacauga.

SECTION 3. Filing. The City Clerk of the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, is directed to file a description of this annexed property in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Talladega County, Alabama.

SECTION 4. Date of Effect. The annexation and zoning of the above properties shall be effective immediately after its passage and publication as required by law.

SECTION 5. Police Jurisdiction. In addition, the police jurisdiction of the City of Sylacauga is hereby extended as provided by law with the addition of the above described expansion of the corporate limits of the City of Sylacauga and the boundaries of the police jurisdiction shall expand to the distance provided by law to reflect the newly annexed territory.

If to take action at this meeting:

*A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Nix to suspend the rules and give immediate consideration was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

If unanimous:

*A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Nix to approve Ordinance 2263-23 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

14. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution No. 81-2023 to set public hearing to permanently close the road identified as "Sky View Drive".

City-Clerk Treasurer read Resolution No. 81-2023 into the meeting minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 81-2023

AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RELATING TO THE PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE OF SKY VIEW DRIVE IN THE CITY LIMITS OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sylacauga has been petitioned to permanently close the road, Sky View Drive; and

WHEREAS, all properties on both sides of Sky View Drive are owned by Bryan South; and

WHEREAS, the Sylacauga Planning Commission has heard the request of the petitioner and has recommended that this road be closed permanently.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA,

1. The City shall hold a public hearing at 6:00 P.M. o'clock on Thursday, January 18th, 2024, for the purpose of considering the permanent road closure by the Planning Commission.
2. The City shall cause public notice of this hearing to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Sylacauga one time as required by law.
3. The City shall post a copy of the proposed resolution on the bulletin board next to the City Clerk-Treasurer's office at 301 North Broadway Avenue in Sylacauga.

*A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve Resolution No. 81-2023 to set public hearing to permanently close the road identified as "Sky View Drive" was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

15. Action that is necessary to reallocate unexpended funds in the amount of \$13,701.71 from FY23 Bond Proceeds for Sylacauga Parks and Recreation to upgrade South Highland Park. (*Funding previously approved by City Council at the May 16, 2023 City Council Meeting.*)

*A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Fowler to reallocate unexpended funds in the amount of \$13,701.71 from FY23 Bond Proceeds for Sylacauga Parks and Recreation to upgrade South Highland Park was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.*

16. Action that is necessary to approve Resolution 82-2023 to reallocate \$13,701.71 from FY24 Bond Proceeds for Sylacauga Parks and Recreation to upgrade South Highland Park. *City Clerk - Treasurer read Resolution No. 82-2023 into the meeting minutes.*

RESOLUTION NO. 82-2023

REALLOCATION OF BOND PROCEEDS FUNDS FOR SOUTH HIGHLAND PARK UPGRADES

WHEREAS, at the May 16, 2023 City Council Meeting, the City Council approved funding in the amount of \$13,701.71 from the Bond Proceeds Fund for the South Highland Park upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the South Highland Park upgrades are about to commence, and there are unexpended funds remaining in the amount of \$13,701.71 from the allocated Bond Proceeds Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary to allocate the unexpended funds in the FY24 budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA,

Section 1: The City Council approves the reallocation of unexpended funds in the amount of \$13,701.71 from Bond Proceeds Fund for upgrades to South Highland Park upgrades in the FY24 budget.

Section 2: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve Resolution 81-2023 to reallocate \$13,701.71 from FY24 Bond Proceeds for Sylacauga Parks and Recreation to upgrade South Highland Park was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

Amended

17. Action that is necessary to approve the FY24 Restructured Pay Plan for retention and recruitment purposes.

City Clerk Treasurer Alexandra Lambert advised total implementation cost of the City Wide Pay Plan for the remainder of FY24 would cost \$758,131.10. Funding for the City Wide Pay Plan would be provided by using \$100,000.00 from Street Department earmarked funds, \$99,893.78 from Police Department earmarked funds, and \$336,621.30 from Fire Department earmarked funds and \$221,616.02 from unused salaries.

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve the FY24 Restructured Pay Plan for retention and recruitment purposes was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

18. Action that is necessary to appoint John Parrish to the vacated six-year term for the Industrial Development Board set to expire April 2029. (Replacement for Judge Barry Vaughn. John Parrish is the only applicant.)

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to appoint John Parrish to the vacated six-year term for the Industrial Development Board set to expire April 2029 was carried by the following roll call vote: Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

Amended

19. Action that is necessary to approve request/recommendation from Human Resource Specialist, Jayne McGee, to sell unused vacation leave resulting from departmental staffing shortages to be carried forward to 2024.

(City Clerk-Treasurer read each individual department's request into the meeting minutes.)

*Animal Shelter Department – 105 vacation hours
Municipal Court Department – 245.50 vacation hours
Executive & Legislative Department - 32 vacation hours
Fire Department - 346.50 vacation hours*

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve request/recommendation from Human Resource Specialist, Jayne McGee, to sell unused vacation leave resulting from departmental staffing shortages to be carried forward to 2024 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

Removed

~~20. Action that is necessary to approve the 2024 Special Paid Time Off policy for COVID leave for City employees:~~

21. Action that is necessary to approve 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and 070 – Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) application from Steven Grant Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer of DOLGENCORP LLC and Emily Christine Taylor, LLC Manager of DOLGENCORP LLC, located at 1430 Talladega Highway in Sylacauga.

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and 070 – Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) application from Steven Grant Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer of DOLGENCORP LLC and Emily Christine Taylor, LLC Manager of DOLGENCORP LLC, located at 1430 Talladega Highway in Sylacauga was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

22. Action that is necessary to approve FY23 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$48,628.58.

A motion by Councilmember Fowler, second by Councilmember Perryman to approve Fiscal Year 2023 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$48,628.58 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

23. Action that is necessary to approve FY24 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$285,756.28.

A motion by Councilmember Perryman, second by Councilmember Nix to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Accounts Payable invoices in the amount of \$285,756.28 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

24. Action that is necessary to approve November payroll in the amount of \$466,393.11.

A motion by Councilmember Nix, second by Councilmember Fowler to approve November payroll in the amount of \$446,393.11 was carried by the following roll call vote:
Yeas Heath, Fowler, Nix, Brewer, Perryman; Nays None.

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

Councilmember Brewer announced that increase in taxes, and cuts to appropriations had not been done with the goal of facilitating raises for city employees. He emphasized that budget reviews were scheduled for April 2024 and mentioned ongoing projects, notably the city's pool, among others.

26. Having no further business to discuss:

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

(Time of adjournment: 6:38 p.m.)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL January 4th, 2023


Laura Barlow-Heath, 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 December 19th, 2023.


Alexandra Lambert, City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Sylacauga