



Meeting Minutes City of Midfield, Alabama City Council

The City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama met in special session on Friday, May 15, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Gary Richardson presiding.

Councilmember Janice Anderson gave the invocation.

Tameeka Ephriam called roll. The following members were present: Terry Adams, Janice Anderson, Jimmie Robinson, Velma Johnson, Reginald Wilson and Mayor Gary Richardson. Tameeka Ephriam acted as clerk. A quorum being present the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

Approval of Ordinance No. 2-2009: Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Mike Hale Sheriff of Jefferson County, Alabama for contracted police service. Councilmember Velma Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2009-2. Motion seconded by Councilmember Reginald Wilson. All members present voted aye passing the Ordinance unanimously.

Financial Report & Report from Mayor: Mayor Richardson proposed to the Council to disband the police department, court, and jail and contract the Sheriff department to provide policing for the City of Midfield. The Mayor stated the proposal is a possible solution to the city's financial crisis. The Mayor also stated that the city is having difficulties meeting its financial obligations. The \$149,000.00 payment to AMIC is due May 29, 2009 along with Workman's Comp payment.

The Mayor stated that if we eliminate the police dept., jail, and court the city would save approximately \$700,000.00. The Mayor called Major Farley from the Sheriff's dept. and put him on speakerphone so the Council can ask any questions they might have. Major Farley told the Council that the Sheriff's department would provide comparable service to the city as they received now with the addition of having a drug enforcement task force, swat team, and helicopters. Councilmember Anderson asked, "what would happen to the city's police officers?" The Mayor and Major Farley stated that the officers would be able to transfer to the County if they met the criteria and transfer to other cities.

Councilmember Adams asked, "Are there any other alternatives?" Councilmember Adams further stated, "Mayor there has to be another solution these guys have families and responsibilities." Mayor Richardson responded by saying "not that would yield the savings that is needed."

Councilmember Johnson stated, "I don't understand, what is the real problem here?" This makes common sense. She further stated that the Mayor said it would save us \$700,000.00. Councilmember Johnson further stated we have to do something. If the rest of you all don't have any other suggestions then we need to go on and vote for this since we will see a savings. Councilmember Robinson said, "I am for anything to save the city money".

Councilmember Anderson asked, "What will happen to the current court files and cases pending?" The Mayor responded by saying, "all the tickets, warrants, and court cases will be forwarded to the county courthouse and they will process the tickets and remit the funds to the city." The Mayor also said, "Listen everybody we have paid out over \$800,000.00 in police liability claims which makes our liability insurance premiums increase." I know this is a hard decision but we have to get control of our expenses. Payroll is 80% of our total expenditures.

Councilmember Anderson said " before you sign an agreement with the Sheriff department bring the figures back to us on how many officers and the total cost so the council can decide as a whole on how many officers we will pay for." Councilmember Anderson also told the clerk to make sure that statement is in the minutes.

Report from the Council: None

Open Meeting to the Public: None

Adjournment: Councilmember Janice Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jimmie Robinson seconded the motion. All members present voted aye passing the motion unanimously.

