

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MIDFIELD

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama met in a regular session on Monday, February 22th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom with Mayor Gary Richardson presiding.

David Austin led attendees in prayer.

Mayor Richardson led the pledge of allegiance

Ashley Lewis, City Clerk, called roll. The following members were present: Councilor Wendy Merriweather, Councilor Janice Anderson, Councilor James Reasor, Councilor Velma Johnson and Mayor Gary Richardson. The following members were absent: Mayor Pro-Tem, Terry Adams

Approval of Agenda: Councilor, Wendy Merriweather, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor, Janice Anderson. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from last regular scheduled meeting: Councilor, Janice Anderson, made a motion to approve minutes from the last regular scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor, Wendy Merriweather. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.

Approval of Bills. Councilor, Velma Johnson, made a motion to approve February# 2 bills in the amount of \$150,176.81. The motion was seconded by Councilor, Janice Anderson. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously

Approval of new business license for RJ Midfield LLC DBA The Crab Barrack located at 103 Bessemer Super Hwy, Midfield AL 35228. Councilor, Janice Anderson, made a motion to approve the business license. Councilor, James Reasor, seconded the motion. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.

Approval of new business license for Gas Pros Carburetors, located at 1432 12th St, Midfield AL 35228 by unanimous consent business license was denied.

Report from Mayor: Yesterday, in my office at city hall, I met with the owners/regional director of the new clinic that will be built in Midfield. They would employ 40 people once the clinic is fully operational. They specialize in patients 65 years and older. It would be a fully functional clinic with EKG, x-ray, laboratory. It is fully self-contained. Their business model concept looks good. They are currently looking for employees to staff the clinic. Had a very good meeting with them.

- **Chief Bell (Police Department)** – Attended the Chief’s winter conference in Montgomery. Received training on planning and preparing on school shooters and active shooters. That’s something we have been working on with the school resource officer to develop a plan. The plan will allow us to train in whole as a police department at the schools and at large venues. We also received training on the admin side of that as far as liabilities and responsibilities for the department as far as responding. At the conference I received a certificate for the 40 hours of certified law enforcement executive program. The certification allows me to be certified in each state. Also last Wednesday we recovered a vehicle that we had been looking for that was involved in a double homicide. Sgt. Jefferies and Officer Pleasant was able to get the vehicle and recovered multiple finger prints in the inside that may lead to other arrests. Councilor Merriweather asked Chief Bell about doors being kicked in around her neighborhood. She is also concerned about police present in the neighborhood.
- **Chief Jones (Fire Department)** – Fire fatality at 1425 12th Ave. Fire started with food on the stove that was left unattended. The fire burned the cabinets and heavy smoke in the house. Did not do a lot of structure damage. Had one female DOS, dead on the scene, when we arrived. It is under investigation with the fire marshal and coroner. It is unclear if she died from the smoke inhalation or substance abuse. There were three other teenagers there. However they do not know what happened because they were in their rooms. The neighbors and teenagers helped pull the female out. Also in the city we had a 2nd death due to an overdose and was probably dead for 3 to 4 days. Since last meeting had 58 emergency response calls. For the month of Feb had 81 calls. 8 possible COVID19 patients. Assisted Fairfield on 4 calls. Also conducting training to keep our license up to date. Working with Archie to help families that have had a house fire. Also had a major gas leak on Swan drive. No injuries due to leak.
- **Van Smith (City Inspector)** – Mayor asked Van about what’s going on in Industrial Park. Van answered that Hot Metals are doing an expansion of their building across the street. At the old Blue Links place the RV Storage yard should be showing up there. However have not seen any movement out there. On the other side of that property there is a lot that is owned by the rail road and it is for sale. There is a construction supply company who is interested in buying that lot. There is a possibility we could gain a fairly large construction supply company out there that will utilize the rail road. At Hot Metals should start seeing the steel beams going up.

- **Jeff Zissette (Public Works)** – The leaf truck has not been able to run due to weather conditions. Will extend the run of the leaf truck into next week. However, the end of next week will be the last week the leaf truck will run after that leaves must be bagged to pick up. Councilor Andersons asked Jeff about having a drive by Easter egg hunt. Jeff replied that due to COVID19 he is not sure and it will be up to the mayor and council. At this point I do not recommend having one due to exposing employees to COVID19. Councilor Merriweather stated that a citizen gave Jeff kudos. Also asked Jeff about the street lights at 12th and 6th. Jeff replied that Alabama Power will have to fix the street lights and he has been in contact with Alabama Power regarding the street lights.

Report from Council:

- **Mayor Pro Tem Terry Adams** – Absent
- **Councilor Janice Anderson** – Nothing to report. However, officially retire on Friday after 45 years.
- **Councilor James Reasor** – Congrats to Ashley for getting the agenda out to the council on Friday before the meeting
- **Councilor Wendy Merriweather** –The boys are still winning and will play Sandrock at Jacksonville in the regional finals at 11:30 AM. I want to make it duly noted that I have expressed the concerns that the citizen had with police department, giving kudos to Jeff, and Mayor going out to see citizens.
- **Councilor Velma Johnson** – Asked Councilor Merriweather about pop up shop for venders at the high school. Merriweather replied that the pop up shop does not have to have a business license. The pop up shop will be at the school Saturday from 12-4. Councilor Johnson is concerned about venders needing to have a business license or a waiver of the business license. Van, building inspector, stated that there is a one day business license for venders that is \$30.00. Asked if a vender's business license was required for the venders at the pop up shop.

In person meeting closed due to COVID-19

Adjourn:

Councilor Velma Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Janice Anderson. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.