

## MEETING MINUTES

### CITY OF MIDFIELD

#### CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama met in a regular public session via Zoom in the City of Midfield, Alabama on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Gary Richardson presiding.

1. Rev. David Austin led attendees in prayer.
2. Mayor Gary Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Ashley Lewis, City Clerk, called roll. The following members were present: Councilor Janice Anderson, Councilor James Reasor, Councilor Velma Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Terry Adams, Councilor Wendy Merriweather, and Mayor Gary Richardson.

The Mayor stated that a quorum was present and that the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilor, Janice Anderson, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor, Wendy Merriweather. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.
5. **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 Mayor Pro Tem, Terry Adams. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.
6. **Approval of Bills:** Councilor, Velma Johnson, made a motion to approve April # 1 bills in the amount of \$119,838.87. The motion was seconded by Councilor, Janice Anderson. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously
7. **Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 25:** Resolution of the City Council of Midfield, Alabama to purchase certain equipment form AT&T Capital Services Inc. to address the telephone and communication problems of City Hall, the Police, Fire and Street and Sanitation Departments. Councilor Wendy Merriweather made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Velma Johnson. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.

8. **Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 26:** Resolution of the City Council of Midfield, Alabama approving memorandum for Debris Removal Program. Mayor Pro Tem, Terry Adams made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 26. The motion was seconded by Councilor James Reasor. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.
9. **Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 27:** Resolution of The City Council of Midfield, Alabama authorizing travel advance in the amount of \$1195.77 for City Councilmember, James Reasor, to attend the 2021 Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention. Mayor Pro Tem, Terry Adams made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 27. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wendy Merriweather. The motion was passed with council members Janice Anderson, Velma Johnson, Wendy Merriweather, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Adams and Mayor Gary Richardson voting in favor. Council member James Reasor abstained due to a conflict of interest.
10. **Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 28:** Resolution of City Council of Midfield authorizing the City Attorney to file on behalf of the City of Midfield the joint motion to file brief as Amici Curiae. Councilor Velma Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 28. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wendy Merriweather. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.
11. **Approval of Ordinance No 2021 – 02:** An Ordinance to Amend Article VII Section 12.0 of the General Code of the City of Midfield, by adding and enacting a new section, Sec. 12.1, establishing standards for small cell facilities in the City of Midfield. Councilor Velma Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021 – 02. The motion was seconded by Councilor James Reasor. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.
12. **Appoint Midfield School Board Member:** Councilor Janice Anderson made a motion to table this item until next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Velma Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Terry Adams – Yes  
James Reasor – Yes  
Janice Anderson – Yes

The motion passed.

13. **Report form Mayor:** Alabama League of Municipalities were able to get a law passed through the State's legislator. Any elected officials of the State of Alabama who was elected August 2020 will have an extra year in office. The reason for this extension is that the League wanted the Municipal Election out of the same election cycle as the Presidential Election. In order to have a higher turnout of voters if voters do not have to go to the polls twice in one year. Those who were elected in 2020 term will expire in 2025 instead of 2024. The funeral for Chief Jones will be Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon. The funeral precession will line up at 1:00 at the Midfield Fire Department and move on to Debardeleben Park. We have gotten g support from Birmingham Fire Department.

They will man our Fire Station so that our firefighters can attend the Chief's funeral. We were blown away by the sudden death of Chief Jones.

- **Caption Golden (Fire Department)** – The viewing for Chief Jones will be on Friday at Johnson Memorial Funeral Home in Bessemer from 12:00 Noon – 8:00PM. They have asked us as Midfield Fire Department to stand as Honor Guard at the viewing. Birmingham has graciously stated that they will man our fire station during that time so that we can participate in the Honor Guard. This has been a trying time for me. It has been a shock to myself as well. I hope that his family is honored when all is said and done.
- **Van Smith (City Inspector)** – I received a good news email from the ISO concerning the new building codes we adopted. The ISO had threaten to drop us down to the worst rating which is 10 for residential and 10 for commercial. This would have affected our insurance. We were previously at a 6 commercial and 5 residential. They have increased our commercial to a 5 and residential will remain at a 5. This will help bring in more business since we will have lower insurance rates. Crab Barracks is going okay. They have hit some construction slowdowns but are working through them. They may be a month or two out from opening. T-Mobile plan on re-opening by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Hot Metals building shell is complete and they are now working on the inside of the building. Do not know when they are planning on opening. The RV Storage location now have their business license and are expected to open by May 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm not sure if they will open by May 1<sup>st</sup> because they didn't seem as if they had everything ready to open up.
- **Tyrone Llyod (Public Works)** – The Street Department is trying to keep our citizen's happy and deal with any complaints. We are working very hard and still trying to get everything up to date since the last big storm.

#### 14. Report from Council:

- **Mayor Pro Tem Terry Adams** – I received a call from the Fire Dept. and it hit me pretty hard. They stated that no one from the Council has been there to check on them since Chief Jones' passing. I meant to text everyone about the call but I let time get away from me. Everyone need moral support. If you haven't gone by, please stop by there.
- **Councilor Janice Anderson** – Gary, Will everyone line up at the Fire Dept. or is it better to go to Bessemer? Mayor replied, "I'm not sure. Chief Golden, what are your thoughts on that?" Capt. Golden replied, "It's my understanding that they want the pick-up truck and one engine to escort the precession to the park on Saturday." I have one other question. I received a call the other day about renting out the pavilion at the park. Tyrone, are we renting out the pavilion for an outside event. Tyrone replied, "No, we are not renting out at this time." Chief Golden, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help with Saturday.

- **Councilor James Reasor** – First let me say Chief Jones will be dearly missed. It so tragic that he passed so soon. Terry, thank you for saying that. I was going to say something about being in the dark and not knowing what’s going on. Ashley, what have we done for the family? Ashley replied, “As of now I have gone over to the family home with Capt. Golden. We have not done anything as a City in whole. However, the employees of Midfield have been taking up donations for the family. I have been keeping in touch with the family.” Are we doing anything as a Council? We normally will get a flower. Councilor Johnson replied, “Yes, I was going to suggest that we do something. We normally all chip in and give a gift card or flowers.” Tyrone, I was out in the park in front of the community center. It was a lot of trash out there. How often do we pick up trash out there? It was very embarrassing. Tyrone replied, “I try to send the guys out there once a week or as needed.” Velma and Terry, I know you guys are on the public safety committee with me. If we can get together and have a public safety meeting so we can work with the Police Dept. to come up with something to do about the gun shooting.
- **Councilor Wendy Merriweather** – Mayor, maybe we can get Chief Bell to have the police to ride through the park on Saturday. I’ve been getting complaints that the kids are hanging out at the Rec. Center living their best lives during this pandemic. If we can have Chief Bell to ride through around noon. They are saying the kids are out there from 11:00AM to 4:00PM as if the park is open. Also, save the date for Midfield High School graduation. It will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at the CrossPlex at 6:00PM. We are also having the prom Saturday at DeBardeleben Park at 3:00PM outside since we could not have an indoor prom.
- **Councilor Velma Johnson** – I want to say that I’m sorry and very heartbroken about Chief Jones. I did stop by the fire station on Sunday. I was able to meet two of the newest firefighters. We talked about how Jones made a big difference in our City. I will put in our group text about making donations for the family to get a nice card and gift card. Also, I want to say that sometimes we do not let people know that we really appreciate them until tragic happens. I want to let everyone know that I appreciate everybody. I appreciate our Fire Dept., Police Dept., and Street Dept. I appreciate everyone who works with us and I want them to know that.

15. **Meeting open to public via Zoom due to COVID19** – No one came forward to speak

16. **Adjourn:** Councilor Velma Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wendy Merriweather. All members present voted aye, passing the motion unanimously.

