

MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2023

Regular Council Meeting

The City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama met for a regular council meeting at City Hall on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:01 p.m. with Mayor Gary Richardson presiding.

1. Mayor Pro Tem Adams provided the invocation.
2. Mayor Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:**

The following were present at roll call:

Mayor Gary Richardson
Mayor Pro Tem Terry Adams
Councilor Janice Anderson
Councilor Velma Johnson
Councilor Wendy Merriweather
Councilor James Reasor

A quorum was established, and the meeting was open for the consideration of city business.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilor Johnson made motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Merriweather. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; agenda was approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting:** Councilor Johnson made motion to approve the minutes from the January 23rd regularly scheduled meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion, and a voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; minutes were approved.
6. **Approval of Bills:** Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve January #2 bills in the amount of \$88,397.35. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; January #2 bills were approved.
7. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-90:** An Ordinance of the City of Midfield, AL to implement Firefighter 9 shift Kelly Work Cycle and Kelly Day off. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-90. The motion was seconded by Councilor Anderson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-90 was approved.

8. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-91:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL approving the Community Infrastructure Paving Agreement between the City of Midfield, AL and Jefferson County, AL for MLK Drive. Councilor Johnson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-91. The motion was seconded by Councilor Anderson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-91 was approved.
9. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-92:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL to appoint Jimmie Robinson to the Midfield Library Board. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-92. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-92 was approved.
10. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-93:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield AL to appoint D'Yonta Jones to the Midfield Library Board. Councilor Anderson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-93 The motion was seconded by Councilor Merriweather. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-93 was approved.
11. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-94:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, Al to appoint Marilyn Williams to the Midfield Library Board. Pro Tem Adams made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-94. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-94 was approved.
12. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-95:** A Resolution to recommend five (5) members to the Park and Recreation Committee. Councilor Merriweather made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-95. The motion was seconded by Pro Tem Adams. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-95 was approved.
13. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-96:** A Resolution authorizing the City of Midfield, AL to join the State of Alabama and other local governments as participants in current and future opioid settlements. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-96. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-96 was approved.
14. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-97:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL approving the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Midfield and the Jefferson County Commission for Debris Removal and Monitoring Services. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-97. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-97 was approved.
15. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-98:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL authorizing a Travel Advance Request for James Reasor, City Councilor to attend the NLC

Congressional City Conference in the amount of \$1,721.00 in Washington D.C. from March 25-29th. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-98. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed with an abstention from Councilor Reasor; Resolution 2022.08-98 was approved.

16. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-99:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL approving authorizing a Travel Advance Request for Falencia Ratcliff to attend the Municipal Court Conference in Huntsville, AL in the amount of \$657.80 from March 1-3rd in Huntsville, AL. Councilor Anderson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022.08-99. The motion was seconded by Pro Tem Adams. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-99 was approved.
17. **Approval of Resolution No 2023.08-100:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL to recommend Terri Davis-Locklyn, Robert Nelson, Janice Anderson and Joseph Williams to the Park and Recreation Committee. Councilor Johnson made the motion to approve Resolution No 2022.08-100. The motion was seconded by Pro Tem Adams. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2022.08-100 was approved.

18. Report from Mayor

Gary Richardson, Mayor-Announced there will be a FREE NACA Workshop on February 25th from 9-1pm and 2-6pm at Midfield Community Center for Homebuyers and Homeowners. Mayor Richardson outlined the details of the housing program which included the ability to show you can pay a mortgage, no down payment and a credit score is not considered. The Mayor also stated he is going to provide NACA a list of vacant properties within the City of Midfield to get them back on the tax roll. Event was posted to the website.

Kenneth Davis, Fire Department – Mayor Richardson reported that Chief Davis was under the weather and Pro Tem Adams added that the Fire team were headed to City Hall but they had to respond to a call.

Tyrone Lloyd, Public Works Department-Reported that the Director of Freshwater Land Trust contacted him and wanted to supply us with signage along the walking trail and asked that the City put up the signs. Tyrone stated that Public Works were able to put the signs up along the walking trail. Also stated, Park and Rec is still aiming for the Community Center to be open by the end of the month. Large items to the shop by residents is a big help when they bring their items to the dumpster. Public Works Dept picked 72 tons of trash and that they have been picking up leaves. Pro Tem Adams inquired about the status of the Boom Truck and Mr. Lloyd informed him that they are waiting on the finances.

Lt. Donna Logan, Police Department- Reported that a lot of people in the Jefferson County area have committed suicide. Ages ranging from 13-79 and Midfield had 1 to commit suicide at the age of 22. Encouraged everyone to check on loved ones especially if

you notice a difference and get them some help. Also mentioned the Health Dept has a fantastic unit that deals with mental health. The 13-year-old and the 22-year-old left a suicide note. Also reported to please be careful regarding your credit cards because the scams are on the rise. Stated to please stop calling the Mayor and City Council if you have a police problem because it only slows down the time that help can get to you. Mayor Richardson mentioned that he has received so many calls regarding police matters.

19. Report from Council

Mayor Pro Tem Adams- Asked that we get the mental health number on our website so residents will have a way to call. Also asked that we get our Master Plan redone because the last plan was done in 2019. Covid-19 did not allow for the plan to be implemented and we need to get it back out there. Mayor Richardson stated that Jefferson County had requested a copy of our Master Plan and the plan we have was submitted and it was not much on the plan that had deviated from our goals (Business area, Park and Rec, 3 Walking Trail etc) Also stated that we needed those entities to attract younger participants into our City. Pro Tem Adams asked with the date being so far back should we take a look at it. Mayor Richardson responded saying the Master Plan does not expire and the City of Birmingham is working on a 40-year plan right now.

Councilor Janice Anderson –No report.

Councilor James Reasor- Thanked Tyrone for filling the pothole.

Councilor Wendy Merriweather – Reminded everyone about the EndoWalk that will take place on Saturday, March 18th and begin at 8:00 at the Midfield Community Center and asked that everyone comes out to support. Councilor Merriweather provided a Park & Rec update from the committee meeting that took place on Friday, February 3rd. that there were good ideas that were discussed and that Mr. Beach was there providing suggestions on things we can add as well to the park. The old ordinance was reviewed and there was not really anything that the committee wanted to change but needs to go over the fee schedule. Councilor Merriweather stated she wants to meet with Tyrone to work on getting the Park and Rec Center back open by the end of the month. Rain has been a hindrance for the baseball team to practice. Mentioned once the Rec Center opens, we will start having Zumba and Aerobic classes and if anyone has any suggestions of what they would like to see at the park to reach out to one of the council members and pass it along as well. Also stated she wanted to meet with Mr. Wilson because he is going to go ahead and start organizing the youth sports. Councilor Merriweather asked Mr. Wilson if he had started organizing yet and Mr. Reginald Wilson stated that he has to get permission and that is why he is in attendance to the meeting. Mr. Wilson also mentioned that Councilor Anderson stated previously why could he not go ahead and do it but Mr. Wilson says he needs permission from the Council. Councilor Anderson provided clarity saying that he does not need permission from the Council in order to start organizing the youth sports

program. Councilor Merriweather asked Mr. Wilson what did he mean by organizing and he responded by saying it is Midfield Youth Sports and that the Council has to give him permission to get everything organized because they are going to be at the Park but the Council has not given him permission to be over youth sports. Councilor Johnson asked Mr. Wilson was he asking to use the park and the building or just organizing youth sports because there is a difference. Mr. Wilson gave an example that if someone else decide they want to organize youth sports, they can do it and if somebody else decides they want to do it, they can do it because neither one of us have been given permission. Councilor Reasor mentioned he would be using Midfield's name and likeness to say Midfield is the one that is organizing. Mayor Richardson stated those days are gone of using Midfield's name and likeness as a sanction due to the liability associated with it. The Mayor asked City Attorney David Sullivan for his legal opinion and Mr. Sullivan stated that is correct regarding liability and that it has to be a separate organization called Midfield Youth Sports which is a separate non-profit entity that has a charter, members and rules and regulations. Mr. Sullivan concluded by stating it is outside the City Council's authority. Councilor Anderson mentioned that it is her understanding that Mr. Wilson would have to create his own board once he gets organized. Mr. Wilson responded by saying the City has a youth sports organization. The Mayor, several Council members and City Attorney clarified that the City of Midfield does not have and never had a youth sports organization. Mr. Wilson stated that is what he is trying to organize. Pro Tem Adams stated although we have been shut down, Midfield Youth Sports has always been under the City but they had their own insurance and own everything but with them being under the City's umbrella, if they received donations, it could come through the City and channel down through the Council's vote for them. Pro Tem Adams stated by them having their own insurance and own everything so the City was not liable for anything and that is the difference and it was always a part of the City. Councilor Merriweather stated that part is confusing to her because if they have their own insurance then how is it the City's thing and she knows that the City has been doing it like that all along but she does not understand it because it is something that needs to be done separately. Mr. Sullivan reiterated that it is called a separate organization that is different than the City of Midfield. Mr. Wilson responded and asked for permission to use the Park and Rec. Councilor Anderson stated she thought the permission to use Park and Rec was already given. Mr. Wilson stated he could organize it but if the Council does not give him permission to use Park and Rec, he wanted to know where were they going to play so he needs permission to use Park and Rec to run the organization. Councilor Johnson asked Mr. Wilson when and about dates and times and he replied saying whenever the Council gives him permission to do it and it is a process. Mayor Richardson stated that the policy that used to be in place, that was used with the old administration. The new administration are doing things differently. For one, there has to be a greater accountability for the use of our facility using the example that people use our facilities and do not charge for it but charge admission to come in, they get the gate and all

the concessions and the City of Midfield gets nothing but a warm and fuzzy feeling. Pro Tem Adams mentioned to Mr. Wilson that you can not explain it if you have not been a part of it saying regardless of what registration is, registration can not pay for a season, it can not pay for police so you have to let people see it and give them the numbers so when you come back to ask for money, they will understand. Mayor Richardson stated there are several organizations that want to use the facility, mentioning a guy wants to move a youth football program from Central Park to Midfield and he requested the use of the facility so we are not giving any exclusivity to any particular organization under some umbrella of youth sports. The Mayor also stated that we are going to lease the facility and give contractor agreements to anyone who wants to use it and that is the bottom line. No one is getting exclusive use of the facility. Mr. Wilson asked were they going to put in place and the Mayor stated yes, that is exactly what they are doing and there will be certain fees associated with it and we will not discriminate but we will facilitate. Councilor Reasor stated that it is going to be a price associated with it and it will be rented out to whomever wants to rent it out and you can do what you need to do once you have rented it out. The Mayor stated we will enter into agreements with whomever. Pro Tem Adams reiterated to Mr. Wilson that he has to show the figures and that he can not explain it and once everyone sees the figures and puts it down then 1+1 will not be 2 anymore.

Councilor Velma Johnson –Thanked all the volunteers that came on for the library board and appreciate them taking the time to participate.

20. Meeting open to public

- David Beach-Inquired about infrastructure and the budget being posted online. Also asked about 3 house demo program and Mr. Lloyd responded saying he has sent letters out.

21. Adjourn

Councilor Anderson made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams. All members present voted aye, meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

APPROVED ON THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH 2023

Gary Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Courtney Hunter, City Clerk

MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2023

Regular Council Meeting

The City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama met for a regular council meeting at City Hall on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Gary Richardson presiding.

1. Mayor Pro Tem Adams provided the invocation.
2. Mayor Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:**

The following were present at roll call:

Mayor Gary Richardson
Mayor Pro Tem Terry Adams
Councilor Velma Johnson
Councilor Wendy Merriweather
Councilor James Reasor

The following were absent during roll call:

Councilor Janice Anderson

A quorum was established, and the meeting was open for the consideration of city business.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilor Merriweather made motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; agenda was approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting:** Minutes Tabled. Councilor Merriweather made a motion to table the meeting minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed.
6. **Approval of Minutes from Special Called Meeting-February 21, 2023:** Councilor Merriweather made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed.
7. **Approval of Bills:** Councilor Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve February #2 bills in the amount of \$33,287.30. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; February #2 bills were approved.

8. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-88:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL authorizing a Travel Advance Request for Carolyn Wilson, Magistrate Supervisor to attend Revenue Training Conference in Tuscaloosa, AL from March 28-31, 2023 in the amount of \$894.17. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-88. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-88 was approved.

9. **Report from Mayor:**

- **Mayor Gary Richardson**-Reported that the NACA workshop that was held at the Community Center was very well attended. People were very appreciative of the opportunity to allow them to get information regarding home ownership. Mayor Richardson also stated that because the workshop went so well, they would like to have another NACA workshop in Midfield again. There were two other workshops going on simultaneously at Mt. Zion in Riley and Miles College and they were also fully attended. Looking forward to doing it again. The Newsletter is printed and that we are looking to get a newsletter out every quarter to ensure people receive information. The newsletter was supposed to be mailed in bulk but not quite sure what happened with the mailing.
- **Chief Kenneth Davis, Fire Department** – Reported that due to retirements, the Fire Dept has 2 lieutenant positions open and one captain opening. Recently had two fire fighters take the lieutenant test and passed. Karwahn Frazier, who is a 16-year veteran here and Chris Emerson, Firefighter/Paramedic who came from the City of Birmingham as a captain for 20 years. Both are good candidates, and they will be his recommendations for the promotion. As far as the captain position, Chief Davis stated he is currently not ready to fill that position but would like to work 2 part time firefighters. Mayor Pro Tem stated that it would help us save money. Councilor Reasor asked if Frazier was already working in the lieutenant position and Chief Davis responded and said yes, he has been working out of class. Mayor Richardson stated he approved both promotions, so it is a given. Mr. Sullivan asked about the captain opening and filling the position with two part time firefighters and Chief Davis stated that with the ISO inspection coming up, he is going to use that position for staffing purposes, and he does not have anyone right now to promote as a captain. Councilor Johnson asked if either of the guys that retired were paramedics. Both were paramedics. Councilor Johnson also asked if the new lieutenants are paramedics. Frazier is currently EMT but is on his way to paramedic school (requirement for promotion) and Chris Emerson is a paramedic. Pro Tem Adams asked if the City of Midfield had an internship like the City of Tuscaloosa or will we be doing it our way. Chief Davis responded saying he has been in talks with Mr. Merriweather and we are working on picking up our internship with the Fire and Science

Program at the high school. Two students at the time to bring in for the internship. They are basketball players so waiting on the season to end.

- **Tyrone Lloyd, Public Works Department**-Reported that there is still ongoing construction at the Highland Center, and it is looking good. Been getting complaints about trash not being picked up because the Boom truck has been in the shop for almost 2 weeks but hopefully it will be out the shop this week. Litter crew picked up 250 bags of trash. Waiting on the financial paperwork to be turned in to finalize the loan for the truck.
- **Chief Jesse Bell, Police Department**- Reported that 4 flock cameras are up and running. 2 were installed earlier this month on Rutledge and the other camera on 8th street. The other two cameras were installed on the 15th on the same street one on BY Williams Industrial and ????. Reading license plate tags and all 4 cameras have read at least 500,000 tags so far. Paperwork was sent to the State today for the other 2 flock cameras for Bessemer Super Hwy and Chief Bell stated he is going to get it signed and sent back to the state. Would like to put one at the park. Possibly going through Verra Mobility instead of Alabama Power as it could be more cost effective. Mayor Richardson asked if the flock cameras could be monitored at the Crime Center at the County. Chief Bell stated that the Crime Center has access, we have access and other municipalities if they request access, we are able to grant it to them. We have access to other municipalities like they have access to our cameras. Chief Bell gave an example if we are looking for a specific type of vehicle and we have a tag or a partial tag, we can put it in the system, and it will pull up everything that matches that description. The system also has the capability to search all black sedans just by entering “black sedan” if the location is known. David Sullivan, City Attorney asked if the Police Dept has had an opportunity to use the system yet and Chief Bell responded that they have not yet. The camera system is new so they are still learning and once detectives get acclimated to it, it will be used all the time. Also, reported he went to the Chief’s Conference from the 12-16th on leadership. The state is looking at establishing a state standard for field training officers. When a police officer comes back from the academy, they are put with a certified field training officer to teach them what they learned at the academy, how to use it on the street.

13. Report from Council:

- **Mayor Pro Tem Adams**- Boys Basketball team at the BJCC at 10am. Final four and our next move is to the championship game so everyone needs to come out and support. 3 fan buses going.
- **Councilor Janice Anderson** –No Report.
- **Councilor James Reasor** – Timeline for the Boom Truck. Mr. Lloyd responded by saying they are waiting on paperwork from the City and it should be a few months. Councilor Reasor asked Chief Bell what time do the Midfield police officers stop patrolling at night and the County takes over. Chief Bell responded the County starts

patrolling at 10:00pm until 6:00 in the morning. Councilor Reasor mentioned there has been discrepancies about people calling in and dispatchers.

- **Councilor Wendy Merriweather** – Reported that she attended the NACA workshop for a while on Saturday and it was very well received. Councilor Merriweather stated her daughter, and two nieces attended the workshop and her daughter said it was very informative and was not hard to navigate with the computer process. It is about 10 steps that has to be done but it was not steps that are not attainable. Very excited about the program. Also, wanted to remind everyone of the EndoWalk that is taking place on Saturday, March 18th starting at the Rec Center beginning at 8:00am. Councilor Merriweather stated she had a small meeting with Donna at the Rec Center and asked Donna to let her know of the immediate needs for the Rec Center in order for us to open up at the end of the month. Donna is gathering a list for Councilor Merriweather with a meeting to follow with Tyrone to address those immediate needs.
- **Councilor Velma Johnson** – Asked Mr. Lloyd has he been recommending to residents who call in to take their trash to the dumpster. Mr. Lloyd responded saying yes he has and a lot of people have been bringing their large items to the shop. Councilor Johnson stated to continue to recommend that they bring the large items to the shop as it could help them to move it before Street & Sanitation has to.
- **Additional Comment:** Councilor Merriweather stated she was hoping the City Inspector was going to be at the meeting because she called him last week and she did not receive a response but there is trash that people are sitting at the end of the street that can go in the blue trash cans located at 800 on 8th Ave right across from the dumpster company. The trash is being dumped on a weekly basis and they are items that can be placed in the blue trash cans. Mr. Lloyd stated he would go by there tomorrow.

14. Public Comments

- Marva Douglas-Solicit help in joining the ACT coalition for public transit. A group of volunteers who wants public transit for all. 3 reasons why: 1. Ex prisoners 2. Tornados are frequent. 3. Taxes we pay for the services we need. Unite through ACT and call your legislators to use infrastructure funding for public transit.
- Reginald Wilson-Asked about restarting the youth program. Councilor Johnson stated the Council asked him for information at the last meeting. Mr. Wilson stated no request for information was asked to be provided. Councilor Merriweather responded saying that the information requested were the exact dates and times in order to get started and use the park. Mr. Wilson stated the letter he has says use of the park from one year to the next year. Councilor Merriweather responded saying that when the Mayor stated at the last meeting that we were not going to exclusively rent the park out to anyone is the reason why he needed the specific dates and times or the Saturdays that you needed. Mr. Wilson stated that if the Mayor is not going to rent out the park then why does he need dates and times. Councilor Reasor clarified by

saying the Mayor stated he is not going to rent it “exclusively” to anyone. Mr. Wilson says that it has been a problem trying to start a youth program to benefit our youth and that last time he was at the council meeting, it was mentioned of the concessions that were made and paying to get in the gate, but Mr. Wilson stated their program is always successful. He also stated that it was kids going to the championship game and it was because of the field program for the high school. Children gain experience through the program that they have. They are building multi-million dollar youth centers in different cities. Main one Gardendale, Alabaster so why can’t Midfield do the same thing. Personal stuff is going on for the people who wants to run it. The program has run for years and a child has not been lost. The money used for the program ran out and that is the reason for concessions and charging at the gate. Anytime you are working with the youth, you lose but there are volunteers that does not cost the City anything to run a youth program for our children of Midfield. Mr. Wilson stated that it is little petty stuff like an application and a board to regulate. Yet when they want to go out, thousands of dollars are spent to go on vacation. Mayor Richardson responded by stating he would have to take Mr. Wilson’s word for it because the City never received a financial report for what the money was spent on.

- David Beach-Asked about the budget being posted on the website for FY '23.

15. Adjourn:

Councilor Johnson made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. All members present voted aye, meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.