

MEETING MINUTES

March 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, March 13, 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
Councilor Janice Anderson

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

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilor Anderson 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 February 13, 2023 meeting:** Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 13th 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.
6. **Approval of Minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting:** Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion to approve 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.
7. **Approval of Bills:** Councilor Anderson made motion to approve March #1 bills in the amount of \$84,077.92. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; March #1 bills were approved.
8. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-06:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, AL authorizing a Travel Advance Request for Rodragus Woods, Accounting Assistant II, in the amount of \$259.36, on March 29, 2023 to attend the Certified Governmental

Accounting Technician (CGAT) General Ledger Course in Tuscaloosa, AL. (Recommended by Courtney Hunter, City Clerk) Councilor Johnson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-06. The motion was seconded by Councilor Anderson. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-06 was approved.

9. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-07:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama approving the Letter of Engagement with Preferred Tax & Business Services, LLC to provide pre-audit planning services. Councilor Johnson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-07. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-07 was approved.
10. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-08:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama approving the Letter of Engagement with Sheppard Harris & Associates P.C. to provide audit services for year ended September 30, 2020. Pro Tem Adams made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-08. The motion was seconded by Councilor Merriweather. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-08 was approved.
11. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-09:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama approving the Letter of Engagement with Sheppard Harris & Associates P.C. to provide audit services for year ended September 30, 2021. Councilor Anderson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-09. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-09 was approved.
12. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-10:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Midfield, Alabama approving the Letter of Engagement with Sheppard Harris & Associates P.C. to provide audit services for year ended September 30, 2022. Councilor Anderson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-10. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reasor. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-10 was approved.
13. **Approval of Resolution No. 2023.08-11:** A Resolution of the City of Midfield, Alabama to appoint Charlene Brown to the Midfield Library Board. Councilor Anderson made motion to approve Resolution No. 2023.08-11. The motion was seconded by Councilor Merriweather. A voice vote was taken. All present voted aye and there was no opposition. Motion passed; Resolution 2023.08-11 was approved.

14. **Report from Mayor:**

- **Mayor Gary Richardson**-Reported that the topic of discussion has been youth sports and proceeded to read a letter from Reginald Wilson (See Exhibit A) 690 Dr MLK Drive. Mayor Richardson mentioned a breakdown of funds that was provided but it was not

bank statements so the only thing the City of Midfield has is his word. Compared with all Council members that have traveled to the NLC but Mayor Richardson mentioned that Reginald Wilson was once on the council for 8 years and attended every trip for a total of 11 trips. Accountability is what we are asking for and for youth sports it's a mini Magic City Classic and a lot of weed smoking was coming from the Coaches. Liquor bottles, wine bottles and weed smoking. Using our facilities for free under the guidelines of Midfield youth sports then becomes a liability issue because if anything were to happen out there, Midfield would be liable. David Sullivan, City Attorney confirmed the city would be held liable. Mayor Richardson further stated we need to set up rules and regulations to govern how our facilities are being used especially in the era of let us sue them. We are currently dealing with lawsuits that are frivolous in nature because they think the city has money. We can not expose ourselves to liability with an umbrella organization operating our facilities under the guides of youth sports, those days are gone. You have to have organizational structure and liability insurance of at least \$2 million dollars. The City of Midfield has to be protected because anything can happen at the games because we would be held liable. Mayor Richardson confirmed with the City Attorney regarding the liability issues that it would be liability issues. Just be responsible. There is no ill will with

- **Chief Kenneth Davis, Fire Department** – Introduced the 2 new interns from the Midfield Fire and Science program. Also introduced Frazier and Emerson as 2 new Fire Lt.'s. Also mentioned there are still smoke detectors at the fire station.
- **Tyrone Lloyd, Public Works Department**-Reported about the trash they have picked up and waiting on financial information for the new boom truck. The current boom truck should be out the shop within 2 weeks.
- **Chief Jesse Bell, Police Department**- Reported of a death investigation. Waiting on autopsy report and do not suspect foul play. The dept is dealing with a lot of overdoses specifically with fentanyl. If you know someone who needs help, please let us know or the health dept. Please be mindful of how powerful the drug is...

15. Report from Council:

- **Mayor Pro Tem Adams**- Inquired about the replacement for Tyrone. Mayor Richardson asked when he was leaving which Tyrone stated it would be the end of July and Mayor responded by saying it is premature to be talking about a list because we would have to hire someone and pay them and Tyrone for same position if you were to be training someone so we have to look the personnel list for a qualified candidate. Tyrone stated he could leave early and it was not taken well. Budget will up by next Council meeting.
- **Councilor Janice Anderson** –Easter Egg Hunt, April 1st at the Community Center. Accepting donations.

- **Councilor James Reazor** – Thanked Tyrone for his service to the COM and Councilor Merriweather stated he is not going anywhere 😊 Councilor Reazor asked Chief Bell about preventive measures when it comes to dumping because he's been seeing a lot of dumping all over the city. Chief Bell responded by saying they have cameras to help with finding who has been doing the dumping. Thanked Chief Bell for having the officers looking professional when taking care of the City.
- **Councilor Wendy Merriweather** – Thanked Chief Bell for having two of the best officers at Midfield High School (William Brundidge and Dalvin Dawson) as they are the two best guys to have at Midfield High School. Proud to a teacher at MHS as well as kudos to them because they are her best helpers and so polite. Councilor Merriweather also wanted to address the issue that she has been on trips but due to Covid, she has not attended any training classes within the last two-three years. As a fairly new Council member, training is mandatory to understand how to do her job but also understanding the financial side that comes with it. Councilor Merriweather stated she reaches out to other municipalities to ask questions for them to tell them what they do. Wants to get a better understanding of bylaws rules etc from a tangible source so when going to conferences it is for CLE and not vacation for her. Endo walk reminder and she will be serving as the Grand Marshall starting at 8:00am.
- **Councilor Velma Johnson** – Provided a library board update and it is coming time for clean up day again so please come out and participate. Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

14. Public Comments

- William Hudson- Stated that notices via phone would be great. Also inquired about speed humps. Asked if it is anything we can do regarding Slum Lords rental properties specifically 1840 Stone Rd and to check if we have laws in place regarding Nuisance/Abatement issues. Asked about the garbage fee increase. Mayor Richardson stated that 2001, the fee has not increased and Republic Services continually to increase their fees and put us at a deficient. He would like a robocall.
- Larry Merriweather- Asked about the boom truck and the new boom truck and waiting on city hall for the financials, waiting on the books to be cleaned up due to multiple city clerks and their system of effectiveness and efficiency.
- Kawhran Frazier- Spoke about how he got promoted to Lt last month and he has been working out of class and according to the personnel board you do not get that to the end of the calendar year. December was his date, although it was an unofficial notice. Frazier stated he can not get a call back from anyone at city hall specifically Aisha. Also stated it's March 13th and he has not heard anything from anyone regarding paperwork or anything. Mayor Richardson stated he did not reach out to him and there is a chain of command. Chief to Mayor... go to dept head and come to Mayor. The City Clerk, Courtney Hunter stated that there is always an open line of

communication and that she talks to the Mayor everyday so there is no reason why issues are not being addressed.

- Reginald Hoyett- Issues with pay and calls not being answered and specifically Aisha. The check he was referring to was a reimbursement from RSA due to a clerical error. Hoyett says they won't answer the phone especially Aisha and I mentioned that was not true. Based off hearsay.
- Marva Douglas- ACT with transportation.
- David Beach-Update on the budget online.
- Reginald Wilson- Still was inquiring about the youth programs and called all the Council members and the Mayor sorry. The Mayor stated he would not be disrespected or allow council members to be disrespected and ordered Mr. Wilson to be escorted out the of the meeting. Chief Bell and Chief Davis escorted Mr. Wilson out. Mayor Richardson and Councilor Anderson both expressed the work they have been doing for employees regarding raises and making sure employees have what they need to do their job effectively and efficiently.

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 7:03pm.

APPROVED ON THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH 2023.