



CITY OF LEEDS, ALABAMA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Annex - Meeting Room - 1412 9th St, Leeds, AL 35094

September 19, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

CALL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor David Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL / INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT

Mayor David Miller
Council member Kenneth Washington
Council member Eric Turner
Council member Johnny Dutton
Council member Angie Latta

ABSENT

Council member Devoris Ragland-Pierce

INVOCATION

Council member Eric Turner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor David Miller

CUTOFF FOR PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 1326 Beech Street
Ms. Donna Smith, 1326 Beech Street, addressed Council regarding both 1326 Beech Street and 1332 Beech Street. Her deceased family members owned the properties. Her attorney, Richard Bates, was held up in court. Inspector Glen Williams gave his report to Council and recommends an architect to submit a plan for repairs or the structures removed. Mr. Brunson knows her attorney and will contact him. The items were referred to Council.
2. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 1326 Beech Street
Discussion was combined with item 1.
3. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 1332 Beech Street
Discussion was combined with item 1.
4. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 1332 Beech Street
Discussion was combined with item 1.
5. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 8412 Thornton Avenue

No one was present. There was no public comment. Item was referred to Council.

6. Consider Determination of Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 8412 Thornton Avenue

No one was present. There was no public comment. Item was referred to Council.

Public Hearing closed at 6:08 pm.

APPROVE COUNCIL MINUTES

7. Minutes from September 06, 2022

Motion to approve minutes from September 06, 2022 made by Council member Dutton, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

8. Mayor's Report: Mayor David Miller

9. Police Department: Chief Irwin

Chief Irwin emailed monthly reports to Council. He reminded Council that National Night Out will be Tuesday, October 4th at Leeds Memorial Park from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. He added that citizens need to be careful giving out personal information over the phone to scam artists. D.A.R.E. graduation will be in November.

10. Fire Department: Chief Parsons

Chief Parsons reported that the City's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating has not change. It remains at a "3". The Fire Department has been awarded a grant to purchase special washers/dryers for turnout gear. He stated that they've completed driver training of the new truck at The Shops of Grand River.

11. Municipal Court: Magistrate Roberts

Ms. Roberts informed the Council that she and her staff will be attending the annual Court conference from Wednesday to Sunday.

12. Development Services Department: City Administrator Watson

Mr. Watson was absent. Mr. Williams had no report.

13. Public Works Department: Public Works Director Warren

Mr. Warren was absent. Ms. Ports had no report.

14. Social Services Department: Director Bryan

Ms. Bryan stated that their numbers are increasing at the new temporary location.

OLD BUSINESS:

15. Resolution 2022-08-05: Consider an Agreement with Regional Planning Commission to develop a Comprehensive Plan Update

Council member Turner stated that he did some research and is willing to support the resolution now.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-08-05 made by Council member Dutton, Seconded by Council member Washington. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

16. Resolution 2022-09-01: Consider Adoption and Ratification of Monthly (January 2022 - August 2022) City Expenditures/Payables

Council member Turner stated he has reviewed the expenditures and is good to approve this resolution. Mayor Miller added that the Finance Committee had approved expenditures along the way too.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-09-01 made by Council member Dutton, Seconded by Council member Washington. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

NEW BUSINESS:

17. Resolution 22-001562: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 1326 Beech Street

Items 17, 18, 19 and 20 were combined into one motion.

Motion to approve Resolutions 22-001562 (Public Nuisance and Unsafe Building) and 22-001561 (Public Nuisance and Unsafe Building) made by Council member Washington, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

Mr. Washington and Mr. Williams discussed an extension to bring a plan for permitting. City Attorney Johnny Brunson asks to table for 30 days extension for ownership verification with her attorney. There could be an action in Probate Court regarding the property ownership change.

Mr. Washington withdraws his motion and makes a new motion.

Motion to table Resolutions 22-001562 (Public Nuisance and Unsafe Building) and 22-001561 (Public Nuisance and Unsafe Building) for 30 days to hear back from City Attorney made by Council member Washington, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

18. Resolution 22-001562: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 1326 Beech Street

Discussion was combined with item 17.

19. Resolution 22-001561: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 1332 Beech Street

Discussion was combined with item 17.

20. Resolution 22-001561: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 1332 Beech Street

Discussion was combined with item 17.

21. Resolution 21-001317: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be a Public Nuisance at 8412 Thornton Avenue

Items 21 and 22 were combined into one motion.

Motion to approve Resolution 21-001317 (Public Nuisance and Unsafe Building) made by Council member Washington, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta

22. Resolution 21-001317: Consider Declaring Certain Conditions to be an Unsafe Building at 8412 Thornton Avenue

Discussion was combined with item 21.

23. Resolution 2022-09-03: Consider an Appropriation to Leeds Arts Council Inc

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-09-03, Resolution 2022-09-04 and Resolution 2022-09-05 made by Council member Dutton, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

24. Resolution 2022-09-04: Consider an Appropriation to Woman's Literary Club of Leeds

Discussion was combined with item 23.

25. Resolution 2022-09-05: Consider an Appropriation to Leeds High School Band Boosters

Discussion was combined with item 23.

26. Resolution 2022-09-06: Consider an Appropriation to Leeds Main Street

Resolution 2022-09-06 includes Recitals that are slightly different and caveats pertaining to Personnel Board of Jefferson County contract approval and a one-time appropriation of \$50,000 payable as follows: \$10,000 following receipt of a finding from the PBJC and \$10,000 quarterly after submission of written reports to the City Finance Committee providing detailed explanations of exactly how the appropriated public funds have been utilized to date during the prior quarterly period during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-09-06 made by Council member Dutton. Mr. Turner made a Second with an amendment that Item 5 of the Resolution be removed.

Mr. Dutton amended his motion to include the removal of Item 5 from Resolution 2022-09-06, Seconded by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

27. Discussion Topic - Council member Turner: Leeds Water Works property and the City of Leeds

Council member Turner wants to discuss the wall one more time since the Leeds Water Works Board owns half the wall and maintains that they were not contacted.

Motion to remove the wall between Leeds Water Works property and the City of Leeds made by Council member Turner, Seconded by Council member Washington. Mayor Miller stated that he has appointed an outside engineer to do research on what would be appropriate given the size of the Annex building. Mr. Brunson added that a subdivision case was done in 2020 to split that part of the Annex to the Leeds Water Works Board.

Motion to amend pending resolution to include that if report states no sprinkler is required then the wall will be torn down by Council member Turner, Seconded by Council member Washington. Mayor Miller stated that he has appointed an outside engineer to do research on what would be appropriate given the size of the Annex building. Mr. Brunson added that a subdivision case was done in 2020 to split that part of the Annex to the Leeds Water Works

Board. Mr. Cary Kennedy and Mr. Eddie Moore, Leeds Water Works Board members, spoke of their Mr. Dutton asked if a door could be put in to allow access to the Annex bathrooms.

Motion to amend pending resolution to table until the next Council meeting to allow for a meeting between Mayor and Leeds Water Works Board, Seconded by Council member Washington. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

Council member Turner asked on behalf of the Knights of Columbus about the number of available bathrooms after the Civic Center renovation. Also, he asked if the toddler play area would be built back at Memorial Park. He asked for clarification of the Downtown Entertainment District.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All comments are to be limited to 2 minutes

Mr. Trygve Arnesen, 1809 Clarke Circle, asked about final topcoat in his subdivision since the developer has passed away.

Mr. Walter Oden, 1059 Kings Forest Drive, asked about his neighbor's variance approval for honey bees on August 23, 2022. City Attorney Scott Barnett explained that he is beyond his time to file for an appeal.

Ms. Demetrice Oden, 1059 Kings Forest Drive, recounted her attempt to file an appeal for the variance in which she had the certified mail variance notice in hand both at City Hall on September 06, 2022 and at tonight's Council meeting. City Attorney Scott Barnett explained that Council does not have authority. An appeal should have been filed within 15 days of the August 23, 2022 meeting at Jefferson County Circuit Clerk's office.

Mr. James Carroll, 9041 Bush Avenue, asked about his permit status for The Office Lounge (8040 Parkway Drive).

Ms. Amber Vines, Main Street Leeds Executive Director, thanked the Council for their appropriation and help with Personnel Board of Jefferson County. She reminded Council of tomorrow's Vision meeting with Main Street Alabama staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Council member Turner. Voting Yea: Mayor Miller, Council member Washington, Council member Turner, Council member Dutton, Council member Latta.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

David Miller, Mayor

Attest:

Toushi Artbitelle, City Clerk