

**COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
Tuesday January 5, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met for the regular Council Meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers, Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Mayor Handley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Council member Leslie Whiting	Council member Barbara Moore
Council member Ricky Ruston	Council member Kim King
Council member Ouida Mayfield	Mayor Stancil Handley

Absent:

None – A quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes 12-15-2015 Regular Meeting.
- B. Approval for City Clerk Mark Frey to use credit card for meals and accommodation for the AAMCA Clerks Institute Training in Tuscaloosa on February 9th-12th not to exceed \$550.

Council member Whiting made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Council member King. The Council voted and the consent agenda passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Department – Police Chief Lamar Vick reported that things have been going good and he introduced Officer Orth, Officer Peppers and his newest officer, Officer Jason Sexton. Chief Vick stated that officer Sexton is A Post certified and has worked in law enforcement for some time.

Mayor Handley invited Officer Sexton to join him at the front so that he can be sworn in. Officer Sexton took his oath and was welcomed by everyone in attendance.

Fire Department – Jason Head reported that the Christmas holiday was very busy with the Christmas Day flooding event. The new Firetruck is being prepared for service. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation during the Major's house fire and flooding event.

Streets and Maintenance – Allen Reynolds reported the City Park was almost back to normal. They hauled over 40 tons of garbage to the dump in 2 days after the Christmas Holiday. Extensive repairs were required after the flood tore the fence up at Kiwanis's Park. His crew has also been working to repair several culverts that were washed out during the flooding event.

Library – Director Tom Rary reported that attendance at the library is up about 150 people over last year's numbers. There is a bee keeper meeting happening tonight and on the 21st of this month, there is a book signing with Olivia Folmer Ard. This is the second of a 3 book series that Olivia is writing. Lego Day is coming back on the 23rd of January and the summer reading program schedule is being prepared. Mayor Handley thanked Tom for all of his work developing programs for the Library.

Rescue – Matt Rush reported that they finished the year with 2247 calls; including 213 for the month of December. They graduated 6 people from their EMT basic class. The Rescue building was flooded during the Christmas Day flooding event. There is estimated \$32,000 in damage in the Rescue Building. The carpet and baseboards throughout the building have been removed. ServePro will be sending out a bill shortly. This is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$10,000 just for the water and moisture remediation.

Environmental Services – Dale Lucas reported that he and his guys worked Christmas Day and the rest of the weekend dealing with flooding and overflowing sewers. The water level was over some of the control panels at the treatment plant and they will have to be replaced. Some of the fence was washed away at the plant as well as a corner of the stabilization pond. Approximately \$87K worth of damage was done to the plant. The State has been notified about all of the overflows.

They met with the EMA Director on Christmas Day as well as today. The City is gathering information about damage and sending this data in to the EMA office. There is a minimum damage amount required before FEMA will step in and offer assistance. According to the EMA office, Shelby County will not meet the minimum amount of damage in order to qualify for assistance.

Dale stated that we received 8.4 inches of rain in approximately a 12 hour period. This was the first time that the dam at the plant had been overrun. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for Dale's department and all city workers that helped during this crisis.

Marketing – Mayor Handley asked Jon Harrison about events going on in the City. Jon reported that there is a meeting on January 7th at 6:30 being held at the Senior Center. The meeting is about the Main Street Alabama program and everyone is invited. On the 13th the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce is hosting Columbiana's Coffee With The Mayor at the Senior Center at 8:30 am. On January the 19th a meeting for the Main Street Alabama program will be held in Vestavia. A delegation from Columbiana will travel up to this meeting in hopes of being selected as a Main Street Community.

February the 20th is Cowboy Day in Columbiana. This year there will also be a Chili Cook-off competition included as well as the Cowboy Parade and many vendors.

The South Shelby Chamber of Commerce is putting together a list of available retail spaces within each municipality. This program is being done in conjunction with the Greater Shelby Chamber and will aid in identifying potential tenants for any vacant buildings.

Administration – City Clerk Mark Frey reported that there had been some sickness at City Hall and they have been working short-handed. Business license renewals are coming in and being processed. City Hall has fielded many calls about the recent flooding. Preparations are being made for the upcoming 2016 election. City Hall is busy as usual.

Mayor Handley asked the Council to consider swapping items 6 and 9 on tonight's agenda so that the guest in attendance would not have to wait. All of the Council agreed that this would be ok and the Mayor proceeded with the discussion about the recent flooding in town.

CHRISTMAS DAY FLOODING EVENT DISCUSSION

Mayor Handley reported that, according to the EMA, Columbiana sustained more damage than any other municipality in the County. Per Hub Harvey, we would need to have approximately \$700K in damage in order to qualify for the State of Emergency assistance. At this point we have approximately \$500K in damage. The EMA was back out today looking at damage. There were also several private citizens who had significant damage during this event. Where the City was able, we tried to assist during the time of this flooding event.

Mayor Handley welcomed Mike and Susan Conn, from Collins Street, Danny and Ester Shiflett and Zack White from Hidden Springs. Mike stated that he had discussed the backup of rainwater in the ditch and culvert in front of their house on Collins with the previous Mayor and Council in the past. Dale Lucas added that there were 2 pipes that are joined under the road and the pipe is clogged up. Apparently what is needed is a new culvert under the road as Dale has cleaned it out several times. The Mayor explained that he Allen Reynolds, Dale Lucas and Dave Bechtel, the City's waste water engineer, would be on site to address the problem tomorrow around 2PM.

Mayor Handley asked the Shiflett Family to address the council. Ester explained that they had approximately 3 feet of water that came through the basement of their house. There is a retention pond and dam located behind the Hidden Springs subdivision that usually catches water that flows down the hill towards these homes. Apparently it couldn't handle the large volume of water that came down on Christmas morning. There were 3 homes flooded including Zack White, who was also in attendance. Zack stated that the heavy rain overran the dam and to his knowledge this was the first time that had ever happened.

According to the FEMA rules, there must be at least 50 uninsured homes destroyed before any federal funds are released.

In the last year the Shifletts purchased 2 new vehicles and paid the City taxes on these vehicles. They are requesting the City waive the taxes for these replacement vehicles. Council member Mayfield recommended that the city tax be waived on the new vehicles which was seconded by Council member Whiting. All of the Council voted in favor of waiving the City taxes for these 2 vehicles that were destroyed as they have already paid them within the last 12 months.

PROPOSED DONATION OF 3.8 ACRES TO THE CITY

The Mayor and Council discussed a 3.8 acre tract of land that is located behind the new Shoals Mill Village development on the Hwy 25 Bypass. This project receives federal funding and because of this, they cannot own or develop this tract due to it being identified as a potential bat habitat. The Shoals Mill Village development is proposing giving this 3.8 acre tract to the City. After some brief discussion; Council member Whiting made a motion to accept the property which was seconded by Council member King. All of the Council in attendance agreed that the City will accept this parcel and directed the City Clerk to prepare any needed documents.

ALDOT DIRECTOR JOHN COOPER MEETING

Mayor Handley met with John Cooper about our urgent highway needs here in the City. The Highway 70 and CR 26 intersection needs to be started before any project can begin at that intersection. The Mayor requested that the State 3-lane Hwy 70 from that intersection into the 25

Bypass. The intersection project is ready to commence except for an easement document. There is already a tremendous amount of traffic dumping into this area from Shelby County workers coming into work, school traffic and lake traffic. The Mayor also asked about the possibility of 3-laning this road all the way to Interstate 65 in the future.

The A-Trip project on the Old Hwy 25 will begin this spring as well.

BUILDING COUNTEROFFER

After much discussion regarding the building across the street, the Council asked the Mayor to make an additional counteroffer and continue negotiations for this property.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Alvis greeted the Council and everyone in attendance. She is running for Circuit Judge in Shelby County and has served with the Shelby County District Attorney's office. She requested support from all in attendance.

MAYORS REPORT

- Mayor Handley invited everyone out to the Main Street Program on Thursday night at the Senior Center.
- There is Coffee with the Mayor on January 13th at 8:30 am. This is also being held at the Senior Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Billy Joe Walker stated that he wanted to address the Council about the 2 trailers located on the corner of Egg and Butter Road and Nelson Walker Road. Mayor Handley stated that we are waiting to hear back from Maxine about one of the trailers, but the other trailer in question is supposed to be removed from the property. There is no power, but there are people hanging out at this location.

Mayor Handley asked Chief Vick to go out tomorrow and investigate what is happening. The Mayor stated that there have been 3 raids in the last 12 months at that location and the City is making arrest on a regular basis. Mr. Walker stated that he is paying the taxes on that property even though he doesn't own it. Mayor Handley recommended that Mr. Walker contact the County and clean up the deeds through the tax assessor's office.

There being no further business, Council member Whiting moved that the meeting be adjourned, Council member King seconded and the motion which was passed by vote of all members of the Council present. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

J. Mark Frey, City Clerk

Stancil Handley, Mayor