

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
August 4, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met in a Regular Session in the Council Chambers of Columbiana City Hall at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday August 4, 2015. Mayor Handley called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk Mark Frey to call roll after the invocation and pledge.

Present: Council member Leslie Whiting Council member Ouida Mayfield
Council member Ricky Ruston Mayor Stancil Handley

Absent: Council member Kim King - A quorum was present.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes 07-21-2015 Regular Meeting.
- B. Approval for City Clerk, Mark Frey to attend the AAMCA Clerks Training on August 26 - 28 in Tuscaloosa. Not to exceed \$500 for meals and accommodations.

Council member Mayfield moved to approve the consent agenda and Council member Whiting seconded the motion, which given to a vote was approved unanimously by all members present.

Council member Barbara Moore joined the meeting during the presentation from the Library.

Mayor Handley invited the Library Director, Tom Rary, to address the Council.

Special Presentation – Columbiana Public Library

Mayor Handley asked Tom Rary to address the council. Tom talked about the success of the Summer Reading Program, which was sponsored by the Library Board, State Aid and the Friends of The Library. 226 kids participated in Summer Reading this year and everyone who participated was entered into a random drawing for an iPad. This year's iPad winner for the Middle School division was Samuel Davidson and the High School's winner was Matthew Davidson. The Mayor and Council congratulated the winners and thanked them for their participation.

Special Presentation – Shelby County Arts Council

Mayor Handley welcomed three members of the Shelby County Arts Council: Mary Jean Sanspree, Judy Quick and Phillip Prichard. They presented a video, "Writing Our Stories". This 12 week program is held at the Middle School and encourages the children in our middle school to write and be creative. Offering Pottery Classes, Art Classes and many other activities; this program is sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Alabama Council on the Arts.

After watching the video Mayor Handley added that "Writing Our Stories" and other programs through the SCAC are a tremendous asset to our City. SCAC have more grant funding opportunities for these programs, but they are in need of partners with matching

funds. Council member Whiting stated that he and Teresa could see programs like this making a real difference in the children's lives. Mayor Handley encouraged all who are able, "Get involved!"

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- **Rescue** – Matt Rush reported that Rescue has averaged 180 calls per month for the last 3 months. They have also added another truck here in Columbiana. Having this second truck has increased staffing by 14 hours each day and Rescue has been able to handle more calls and not defer to other mutual aid agencies.
- **Streets** – Allen Reynolds reported that there is no more room at the City brush pile and the City has incurred about \$1000 in dump fees at the County Dump in the last month. They are trying to keep the grass cut and have been hauling lots of brush.

The sod was laid out at the new Senior Center and Rick Harmon has been helping keep the new sod watered. Allen also mentioned that the old flag pole in front of City Hall would be taken down, sanded and re-installed in front of the new Senior Center. Mayor Handley added that Rick has been helping with the watering of the flower pots on Main Street as well.

- **Environmental Services** – Department Head, Dale Lucas, reported that he has been working on the State Permit renewal as well as the smoke test. Most of the equipment has been moved into the new office that the Board of Education gave to the City. There are some residents that are currently not tied to the City Sewer, but it is available at their home. There are approximately 31 homes that are not tied to the sewer. City ordinance requires that they pay for sewer if it is available.

A resident of Hwy 25, Townley Chapman, was invited to address the Council. She stated that she understands that the City has cost associated with the sewer system; however she feels that those residents who are on a septic tank should only be charged a minimum charge due to the fact that her water usage does not have any impact on the sewer system. She asked that the Council consider charging only the minimum charge instead of having it tied to the water usage for anyone who is not tied to the sewer lines.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Handley and the Council asked that City Clerk Mark Frey prepare an ordinance to amend our sewer ordinance for the 1st Council meeting in September.

- **Marketing** – City Marketing Director, Jon Harrison, stated that he enjoyed the Tourism Conference down in Mobile. He learned how to build a business district and entice new businesses to come into our City. Also he learned about new ways to market the City.
- **Admin** – City Clerk Mark Frey reported that his department has been working on a large scanning project related to a court case discovery process. He has set up 2 new scanners to speed up the process.

Mark reported that he is also working to prepare documents for all of the department heads in preparation for the FY2016 Budget. He is finishing up all of the work with his CPM II

project at AUM and his team will be presenting their findings at the State Capitol next Wednesday.

Library – CPL Director Tom Rary reported that Dr. Baggett, from Sanford University, is coming down to host a Harper Lee Event celebrating the works of Harper Lee at 5:00 on Thursday. There will be a light meal served and prizes will also be given away. The adult reading program will be running at the library and once per month there will be an event hosted at the Library. The reason for this program is to encourage people to use the library.

All of the numbers are up. There were over 460 people at different events at the library during the month of July. There were also over 1000 users on the Library's computers during the month of July as well. Mayor Handley thanked Tom for all of his hard work.

Concerned Citizen Comment

Betty Satterfield, a Columbiana citizen asked to make a comment. She stated that Susan Conn had gone above the call of duty in aiding the Green family during the recent month following Hailey Green's murder.

She also mentioned that the City needs to cut Mt. Dixie Road as it has only been cut one time this summer and trees are hanging over the road. Mayor Handley stated that our Streets Department has been shorthanded and with the weather, many maintenance items have been delayed. Allen Reynolds stated that he has been very shorthanded and this road was already on the schedule to be cut tomorrow. Mrs. Satterfield left the meeting.

Hwy 25 – Bentley Abatement Update

Mayor Handley thanked Terry Bentley for waiting patiently to address the Council. Mrs. Bentley reported that the next step for the cleanup of their abated property is to clean up the brush and trees in the back of the property. Mayor Handley and the Council thanked Mrs. Bentley for the continued work that is being done on this property.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Handley reported that he and Allen Reynolds went out and did a final inspection on the Pitts Drive sidewalk project. It is almost finished but there are just a few items that need to be completed. While he and Allen were out looking at the Pitts Drive they looked at the City Park across from the elementary school. There is significant damage that has been done to the picnic tables as they were thrown in the ditch repeatedly. This park has been vandalized on a regular basis.

The Mayor asked the Council to consider passing an ordinance that would prevent skating in the pavilion area in that park. Scott Owen can fix the signs and Mayor Handley asked City Clerk Mark Frey to work on an ordinance addressing the skateboards and bicycles.

Ali Conn Payne was hired on Monday and she is spending the morning at the Senior Center and the afternoons visiting other centers and planning for all of our new programs. Tomorrow will be our senior citizens first trip down to the new Senior Center. Alabama Power is offering a discount on a couple of massage chairs for the Center.

Mayor Handley reported that he has had 2 different meetings about Egg and Butter Road and Nelson Walker Road. There has been a murder, a shooting, a pedestrian hit by a vehicle and 3 overdoses in the last 30 days. The entire city is focused on what is happening out in this area and it has been identified as a habitual high crime area. Although the green ribbon campaign has been great success; it is time to do more than lip service for this situation.

The Mayor wants to do whatever we can legally do to help combat the crime in this area. The Mayor is requesting 4 or 5 new street lights for this habitual high crime area. Friday he and other community leaders went door to door talking to residents and 100% of the people stated that they were “all in” to get this area cleaned up.

The Council unanimously agreed to have Alabama Power install new lights out on Nelson Walker Road in an effort to reduce some of the crime that is taking place there. Mayor Handley reported that Sheriff Samaniego has offered to allow him, the District Attorney, and the Police Chief the use his media facility.

Mayor Handley stated that in an effort to engage the community, the next Council meeting scheduled for August 18th will be held on Main Street in front of the museum. Matt Rush noted that there have been 3 teens that have overdosed in that area in the City in the last 3 weeks. All of them reported that they purchased their drugs at the corner of Egg and Butter Road and Nelson Walker Road.

Council member Whiting stated that in the past the City has ignored the problem areas. He also mentioned that he and his church pick up between 45 and 50 kids from this area every Wednesday night. “These kids want to do something different. They are scared to wait on the side of the road for the church van.” stated Council member Whiting.

Dale Lucas responded to a call on Egg and Butter Road and the resident met him at the door with a gun because she was scared of who would be coming to her door.

The City cannot do it alone and the Police can’t do it alone. This is going to have to be an effort of everyone in this community.” stated Mayor Handley. We don’t want to half-way do this. He asked all in attendance if they have any ideas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

There being no further business, Council member Whiting moved to adjourn and Council member Ruston seconded. The motion passed by vote of all members of the Council present. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

J. Mark Frey, City Clerk

Stancil Handley, Mayor