

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
January 5, 2021**

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. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Mayor David Mitchell called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk, Charlene Tucker, to call roll after the invocation and pledge.

Present:

Council Member Karen Lilly	Council Member Kim King
Council Member Vickie Mizzell	Mayor David Mitchell
Council Member Ricky Ruston	

Absent:

Council Member Ashley Phillips

The Mayor declared that a quorum was present.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes 12-15-20 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes 12-29-20 Council Work Session

Council Member Mizzell made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Council Member King and followed by a unanimous show of hands vote of all members present. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Department Head Reports

Fire – Johnny Howard, Jr. reported the following:

- There have been no lost time injuries for FY 2021 to date.
- Current budget is on track for FY 2021 to date.
- Department is down 10 personnel slots and applications are currently being accepted and reviewed. A new employee was added to the roster yesterday.
- Current facility was constructed in 1995 and continuous maintenance will need to be addressed. Due to population/housing increase, a second station is needed on the West side of the city. The city is looking at a couple of options for a second station location.
- Newest suppression apparatus is a 2009 year model with the second newest being a 2001 year model. National data suggests the average lifespan of a front line fire apparatus should not exceed 10 years. Currently, we are down 2 administrative vehicles.
- Due to the very nature of firefighting, tools and equipment need constant replacement. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) as well as PPE are on a rotating replacement plan. Approximately 10 SCBA's are due for replacement and 5 sets of PPE are purchased yearly to retire older/worn sets.

- This year's Santa ride was different. Normally, two engines are running at the time same but this year only one truck ran. During the route, a fire call came in and employees had to respond to the call.
- Most of the equipment from the Cares Act has been received.

Library – Mayor Mitchell reported the following:

- We have added dividers between computers and have sneeze guards at the front desk.
- Below budget for the month of November.
- All shifts are covered at this time.
- Our traffic is not increasing but it is not going down either.
- Mrs. Ouida Mayfield had name tags put on the Thomas Kinkade picture and dolls that were donated by Mrs. Ann Davis.
- The change will come when the Covid cases start getting better and people feel safer getting out.

Environmental – Dale Lucas reported the following:

- No injuries during this fiscal year.
- Our current budget is on track.
- We are currently at full staff.
- All the office buildings are in good shape. We have in the budget to build an equipment storage building.
- We are currently working on upgrading some of our collection system.
- There is some equipment we have scheduled for repair at the treatment plant.
- We are still working on continuing education hours.
- We have a grade IC certified collection system operator now. Chris Lee passed the test on December 29th.
- Our staff has the opportunities to move up as they acquire a higher grade certification from ADEM.
- Updating the collection system- the collection system dates back to the 1930's, therefore each year we start with the worse section and add this section to the budget for rehab.

Senior Center – Ali Payne reported the following:

- Delivering 50 Meals a day.
- Suspended Coffee Talks and Picnics until Shelby County COVID numbers are down.
- Ireland Trip still set for July.
- We will partner with SCAC to have movies in the Black Box Theater once Shelby County COVID numbers are down.
- CPR/ First Aide recertification for all employees is set for February.
- Entry Doors need to be sanded and stained at facility.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION
January 2021**

WHEREAS, Alabama's Human Trafficking Awareness Month was established in January 2011 in observance of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, to proclaim the equality and

freedom of all people, to advocate for legislation, to educate leaders and to encourage public awareness to the various forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when an adult or child is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the United States government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 individuals are trafficked across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor and forced sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking states that the United States is the number one consumer of commercial sex worldwide; and,

WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that 100,000 – 300,000 children are at risk for being trafficked in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the University of Alabama identified 1,167 human trafficking victims within the state of Alabama with 57% of those being minors; and

WHEREAS, Polaris estimates that the national age of entry into the sex trade is 17 years old, here in Alabama, Homeland Security has identified victims as young as 9 years old; and,

WHEREAS, the first step in eliminating **human trafficking** is to educate the community. We must work to ensure that all residents are aware of this problem, how to spot it, and how to report it. We must work together as a community to bring victims to safety and to punish human traffickers; and,

WHEREAS, we ask all residents of this community to join us in raising the visibility of this crime whose victims are all too often invisible. Together, we can become more informed and work to combat its injustices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Mitchell, Mayor of the City of Columbiana do hereby proclaim January 2021, as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in Columbiana, Alabama.

Mayor Mitchell Introduced:

**RESOLUTION 01-21-01
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
WAYNE'S PEST CONTROL**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Columbiana as follows:

1. That the City enters into a contract with Wayne's Pest Control, to provide pest control for all city buildings, which contract is before this Council;

- That the contract be executed in the name of the City, for and on behalf of the City, by its Mayor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the completion of the execution of the contract by all parties, that a copy of such agreement be kept on file by the City Clerk.

Council Member King moved and Council Member Ruston seconded the motion that said resolution be given vote, and said resolution passed by vote of all members of the Council present, and the Mayor declared the same passed.

	Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay
Council Member Lilly	<u>X</u>	___	Council Member King	<u>X</u>	___
Council Member Mizzell	<u>X</u>	___	Council Member Phillips	<u>absent</u>	___
Council Member Ruston	<u>X</u>	___	Mayor Mitchell	<u>X</u>	___

Mayor Mitchell Introduced:

**RESOLUTION 01-21-02
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
CIVIC PLUS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Columbiana as follows:

- That the City enters into a contract with Civic Plus, to design and host the City's web-site, which contract is before this Council;
- The first year cost will be \$11,500.00 and the annual fees will be \$2500.00;
- The cost will include graphic design, content development, staff training, secure hosting and ongoing customer support;
- That the contract be executed in the name of the City, for and on behalf of the City, by its Mayor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the completion of the execution of the contract by all parties, that a copy of such agreement be kept on file by the City Clerk.

Council Member Ruston moved and Council Member King seconded the motion that said resolution be given vote, and said resolution passed by vote of all members of the Council present, and the Mayor declared the same passed.

	Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay
Council Member Lilly	<u>X</u>	___	Council Member King	<u>X</u>	___
Council Member Mizzell	<u>X</u>	___	Council Member Phillips	<u>absent</u>	___
Council Member Ruston	<u>X</u>	___	Mayor Mitchell	<u>X</u>	___

Board Reports

Incorporated Boards of the City are independent boards and meet as needed, with the exception of the Water Board, who meets regularly. Incorporated Boards of the City are: Water Board, Housing Authority, Industrial Development Board, Public Park and Recreation Board and the Cultural Facilities Cooperative District.

Unincorporated Boards of the City who meet regularly are the Beautification Board, Library Board, Recreation Board and the Planning Commission. Unincorporated Boards of the City who meet as needed are the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

City Committees meet as needed and are the Finance Committee, Public Safety Committee and the Personnel and Policy Committee.

Discussion – EMS District Vote

Citizens in unincorporated Shelby County will vote on the EMS District on January 26 at the Exhibition Center in Columbiana. Mayor Mitchell will engage in discussions with Southeast Shelby County Emergency Medical and others regarding services in the city.

Discussion – Other City Business

Debt Refinance – The city has the opportunity to reduce our debt service by \$40,000.00 a year. The city auditors have looked at the refinance option and agree that the city should move forward

Sanitation Truck – The city is in need of a second garbage truck. Ingram Heavy Equipment has trade-ins that are 2015 or 2016 models with 90,000 – 100,000 miles on them. They will do required repairs on any issues they find on inspection of the vehicles and are installing back-up cameras. These will be sold for \$89,000.00 - \$100,000.00. We are waiting on the final cost for the trucks and once that is received, council will vote on the purchase.

Mayor's Report

Update on the Mayor's 100 Day Plan:

The following items have been completed:

- Department Head Meeting
- Create/publish recurring financial reports
- Fill Vacant Board Appointments
- Interview/Appoint Police Chief
- Christmas Parade/Tree Lighting
- Host Shelby County Mayor's Association at Old Mill Square
- City Employee All Hands Meeting
- Host 58 Inc., Economic Development Conference at Old Mill Square

The following items are in process:

- Review/adjust city budget
- Review City Policies and Procedures
- Update City Policies and Procedures
- Refinance/Restructure City Debt
- Enhance City Website
- City Organization Review

The following items have not started:

- Individual Department Head Meetings
- Visioning & Strategic Planning
- Town Hall Meeting

Announcements

- January 7 – 9 Alabama Bass Trail
- January 9 – Forging Families Fun Run at Old Mill Square Park
- January 21 – 23 Shelby County Extreme Bull Riding at Exhibition Center
- February 26th and 27th Cattlemen's Rodeo
- February 27th Cowboy Day
- The Senior Center is delivering 50 meals each week day to the homebound in Columbiana. They have stopped Coffee on the Patio and Picnics on Friday for now because Shelby County is red on the COVID map.
- The fire department is currently taking applications for volunteer firefighter positions. Two firefighters have been recruited so far.

Public Comments

Susan Conn asked how much of the city's debt would be refinanced. Mayor Mitchell responded that the city would be refinancing \$13 million. The payment and terms would remain the same but the interest rate will be lower and the interest savings would be around \$40,000.00 a year.

Council Member Ruston asked about the progress at Springs Crossing. Dale Lucas reported that Smith Douglas is working on the 3rd Sector and everything is on schedule.

There being no further business, Council Member King moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Council Member Mizzell. The motion passed by vote of all members of the Council present. Mayor Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Charlene Tucker, City Clerk



David Mitchell, Mayor

