

**CITY OF LEEDS, ALABAMA  
PUBLIC HEARING AND  
REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 02, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Leeds, Alabama met for a Public Hearing and a Regular Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Leeds Civic Center Meeting Room, 1000 Park Drive, Leeds, Alabama 35094.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM with Councilmembers Johnny Dutton, Devoris Roscha Ragland, Eric Turner, Craig Wadsworth and Kenneth Washington present.
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** The Invocation was led by Councilmember Turner.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Unsafe Structure Located at 7501 Popular Avenue, Leeds, AL**

The Mayor called the public hearing to order at 6:05PM and gave a brief background about this matter.

The Mayor asked if anyone was present to respond to this matter. Superintendent Watson informed council regarding the timeline of the process and informed council that this property satisfies the requirements for an unsafe structure. No one was present to speak about this matter. Mayor closed Public Hearing at 6:08PM

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVE COUNCIL MINUTES:** minutes from the Council Meeting on February 16, 2015 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Councilmember Dutton with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with Councilmember Washington abstaining.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** there was no old business to come before the Council.
5. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**
  - a) **Administration, Mayor Miller.** The Mayor introduced Ms. Miriam Turner, Director of the Leeds High School FCCLA Organization (Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America). Ms. Turner explained the purpose of the organization and described its "Star Events". Student representatives were present: Elise, VP of Star Events, who talked about organ donation and how to become an organ donor; Sidney and Karah spoke about safe driving habits and particularly about distracted driving. Ms. Turner spoke in more detail of the various programs that are available in the FCCLA program at the school.  
  
Mayor Miller commented on the need to handle various city notifications. Mayor informed council that the new editor at the *News Aegis* will now have a section dedicated for Leeds information.
  - b) **Fire Department, Chief Pierce:** Report supplied and ISO (Insurance Services Office) will be in May 7th to re-evaluate the city. The ISO is an independent rating corporation for insurance underwriters. Councilmember Turner asked if the chief thinks the rating would go down and the chief thought the department has several things in its favor.
  - c) **Police Department, Chief Jackson:** No Report.
  - d) **Library, Director Williams:** A library event scheduled for Thursday may be cancelled due to threat of bad weather.
  - e) **Inspection Department, Superintendent Watson:** Building department has also been notified of a pending visit by ISO.

**f) Parks and Recreation Department, Supervisor Keating:** The City Baseball Program is underway. Mr. Keating also reported that the old football concession is being readied to be dismantled.

**g) Streets and Sanitation Department, Supervisor Keating:** No Report.

**h) Municipal Court, Magistrate Roberts:** Amnesty Court will be held Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. Ms. Roberts asked that those present would please pass the word,

**6. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a) Finance Chairperson, Eric Turner:** No Report.

**b) Public Safety Committee, Devoris Roscha Ragland:** No Report.

**c) Parks & Recreation Committee, Craig Wadsworth.** No Report.

**d) Primary School Construction Review Committee, Mr. Ben Watson, P.E.:** the advertisement to pre-qualify contractors to bid on the project was released on Feb 20, 2015. The State has returned a preliminary approval of the submitted plans with minor comments. Watson presented an invoice from the Geo-Tech firm Terracon for work performed. Watson also informed council that the sewer line from the site to main line will need to be upgraded from a 6" to 8" pipe and the water line will need to be upgraded from HWY 78 to the site. Watson advised council that site costs are growing and the building size might need to be re-evaluated to keep the project within budget. Mr. Watson indicated that a structure can be built to eliminate the current classroom trailers in use at the elementary school.

Motion to pay the Terracon invoice as submitted by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) Resolution 2015-03-01 UAB Football Program:** Mr. Timothy Alexander spoke to the council and audience requesting reconsideration of the cancellation of athletic programs at UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham). Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-01 by Councilmember Ragland with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

**b) Resolution 2015-03-02 Determine If Structure At 7501 Popular Avenue Is Unsafe.** Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-02 by Councilmember Washington with a second by Councilmember Ragland; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

**c) Resolution 2015-03-03 Regarding Park Facilities Use Permit For Leeds Youth Sports.** Mr. Philip Hyche explained the need for this Resolution. Hyche indicated that the LYS Football has moved out of the current facility which is slated to be demolished for the new Primary School. Hyche informed council that the School Superintendent has given space to store the equipment at the HS Football stadium. Hyche also informed council of the other various matters encountered in making the transition. Mr. Hyche spoke about needing help to get electrical and water to the new location at the school.

Mr. Hyche spoke about the current matter and expressed his thanks to City Attorney Barnett and Councilmember Wadsworth for all the dedicated work it took to get this agreement to be ready to bring to council. Hyche spoke that all the other sports boards are all rolled into one account to benefit all LYS sports programs to benefit the kids. Hyche spoke about the new bylaws that have been adopted by the LYS program.

Mayor Miller thanked Mr. Hyche for all the work that he has done with the football program. Mayor also thanked Heather Jones for all the work that she has done with the baseball program. Ms. Jones commented on the growth of the program, from 176 participants 7 years ago to a current number of 313.

Councilmember Washington inquired about how the various boards and their individual programs would be funded proportionately by having all funds being deposited into one main account. Hyche spoke of the increased accountability measures that have been implemented in their new bylaws and with the proposed agreement with the City.

Councilmember Wadsworth spoke of the time involved for Ms. Jones and Mr. Hyche to present this agreement. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-03 by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Dutton, motion passed with all present voting yes.

**d) Resolution 2015-03-04 Tax Abatement Request For M & B Metals.** Mayor Miller explained this request and the struggles the company is having with international matters in this industry. Mr. Jeff Traywick from Birmingham Business Alliance and Mr. Mack Magnus of M&B Hangers also addressed this matter. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-04 by Councilmember Washington with second from Councilmember Ragland; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

**e) Resolution 2015-03-05 Animal Control Contract With Greater Birmingham Humane Society.** Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-05 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

**f) Resolution 2015-03-06 Acknowledge Receipt Of Funds For Way-Finding Grant.** Motion to approve Resolution 2015-03-06 by Councilmember Dutton with second from Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

Attorney Brunson requested that the Council adjourn into executive session to discuss a subject matter which involves impending legal litigation and meets the criteria of the State of Alabama Open Meetings Act. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:30PM and returned to council chambers at 8:14PM.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Travis Kendrick, 1326 Beech Street,** reported two holes in the street for the past two months. Mayor is aware of this problem and weather is preventing the repair of the street. Mayor indicated the City's engineer has indicated that the the repair is waiting for the weather to become warmer to complete the repair and targeting mid April.

**Farest Hartsfield, 7402 Mt. View Lane,** inquired about the City's limb pickup service. The Mayor indicated that the City has an employee monitoring the contractor and bringing deficiencies to the attention of the contractor. Mayor indicated the contractor has purchased a new larger truck and expects it to be in service next week.

**Hartsfield** asked why the city went into the garbage collection business. Mayor indicated that it was a cost savings measure.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilmember Ragland to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14PM.

  
David Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Kevin Fouts, City Clerk