

**CITY OF LEEDS, ALABAMA
PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Leeds, Alabama met for a Public Hearing and a Regular Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Leeds Civic Center Meeting Room, 1000 Park Drive, Leeds, Alabama 35094.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor David Miller called the meeting to order at 6:04 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

Regarding Properties Identified As Having Certain Conditions To Be An Annoyance And Public Nuisance In Violation of Chapter 32 Of The City of Leeds Code of Ordinances.

The Mayor read the list of the 25 properties and opened the floor for those present. The following spoke about their property:

1251 Katie Lane: Paula Hardwick lives at 7359 Ann Avenue and Ms. Lane indicates that the landowner, Mr Keith Hall, is not mowing the yard. Ms. Hardwick indicates that she has been unable to contact Mr. Hall after several attempts. Ms. Hardwick has had to take off work to be able attempt to speak to Mr. Hall.

8403 Thomas Avenue, John Sanford spoke about this property. Mr. Sampler indicates the trash and car have been removed. The Mayor indicated that the inspector will look into this tomorrow morning. Mr. Sampler indicates that the garbage company leaves half the garbage on the ground, which he has to pickup after the garbage truck leaves.

115 Willow Street: Mr. Matt and Danny Morgan, spoke about working hard and making progress on the issues. Mayor Miller indicated that the inspections will reinspect tomorrow morning.

8449 Dunnivant Road: Ms. Neatherins indicates there are still two cars in the process to move. This is an followup extension of previous compliance. Attorney Barnett spoke of if vehicles have a current registration would bring the matter into compliance. Ms. Neatherins indicates the cars have been in the family a long time and her brother would remove the truck and the car is being junked. She asked for another week. Washington indicates that he has asked council for extended time and it has been over four weeks now. Ms. Neatherins indicated once again that they can have the truck removed by this weekend but needs a little more time for the car. Mayor indicated an extension could be considered by council.

142 Willow Street, Matt and Danny Morgan: the Morgans spoke about this matter and indicated that there is one more load to haul off the property. Inspections informed council that this property has had previous extensions. Magistrate indicates the municipal court has given them 60 days to comply by the City prosecutor. Washington suggest that the council give until October 5th. Inspections Department will inspect on Oct 5th.

7445 Elliott Lane: Mr. Destafino indiates the property is 99% complete and a remaining vehicle should be leaving shortly. Mr. Destafino is requesting a little extra time to finish the matters. Inspections reports that significant progress has been made. Mayor indicates that a time extension could be allotted to the next council meeting to give time to repair the van.

600 Peach Street; resident stated that she cut the grass but failed to notify the city. The city cut it anyway. Mayor indicated that the matter will be looked into.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:50PM.

REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor called the regular meeting to order.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE COUNCIL MINUTES: minutes from the August 17, 2015 Council Public Hearing and Meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Ragland; motion passed with all present voting yes.

4. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

a) Administration, Mayor Miller. Mayor recognized Mr. David Barber who is running a Child Advocacy Center called the Prescott House. Mr. Barber informed the Council and audience that Prescott House is a private non profit organization located in a house by Ramsey High School. Prescott House addresses the needs of children in an abusive situation, because of the poor job the system often does. The Prescott House provides a service which is not being done by anyone else. Mr. Barber spoke of handling 450 cases last year and indicated that Prescott House has interviewed 18 children in Leeds in the last 3.5 years. The center needs financial help and is contacting all the municipalities to ask for help. Mayor Miller recommended that the City include the Prescott House when working on the FY 2016 budget. Police Chief Jackson commented on using the organization three times this year and has found it to be very effective.

b) Fire Department, Chief Parsons. Report included in packet. Mr. Parsons reported that the department's website is operational (www.leedsfire.org) and also maintains Facebook and Twitter accounts. Chief Parsons reported that all personnel are trained and certified for Children's Car Seat installation. The Department is initiating the Explorer program; any person between the age of 14 and 21 and have completed the eighth grade is eligible. Breast Cancer Awareness program will begin October 1, and t-shirts are available to be purchased. The Pink Fire truck will be in town also to recognize a Breast Cancer Survivor but will provide the date at a later time. All Proceeds from the t shirt sales go to AL Breast Cancer Foundation.

c) Police Department, Chief Jackson. No Report.

d) Library, Director Williams: the Library has reopened following the new carpet installation. High School Honor students are tutoring Monday and Thursday from 3:30Pm to 7:00PM.

e) Inspection Department, Superintendent Watson. No Report.

f) Parks and Recreation Department, Supervisor Keating: Update on the repair of the Sidearm equipment and Mr. Keating is hopeful the parts will be installed this week. The machine had to be sent to Montgomery to be repaired.

g) Streets and Sanitation Department, Supervisor Keating: no additional report.

h) Municipal Court, Magistrate Roberts. Report included in Packet.

4. 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.

Mr. Watson spoke of an update cover supplied at this evening's meeting. Watson distributed a brochure of aerial shots of the progress of the building site. In mid-October, the site will be well defined as a school. The project is a little ahead of the targeted time line for construction. The change order has come in with a new budget of 12.4 million. Watson spoke of the pay request from the contractor, which is good to pay and is financially on track. The architect has requested payment for expenses to date. There was discussion about additional fees which involved a consultant for the kitchen. This is a contract between the Contractor and the consultant, so the funds are due to be paid from the construction funds.

Based upon the agreed upon price at the signing of the contract, all is in tracking on line. Washington asked about the credit change order which were value engineering when the contract was accepted. The line item was to be deducted by line item once the State approved the changes. Councilmember Washington asked about the \$129,000 was a line item place holder and now the actual cost is approximately \$56,000; this was a side agreement outside of the construction funds with a repayment by the BOE (Board of Education) and LWWB (Leeds Water Works Board) effective 2017 for the outside improvements to get water to the site. This allowance was a line item placeholder which did not have to be spent thus creating a \$129,535.00 credit, "value engineered" savings.

Motion to approve the recommended submittals by the Consulting engineer by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth, motion passed with all present voting yes.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 2015-09-01 Acknowledge Receipt of Tourism Funds. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-01 by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Ragland; motion passed with all present voting yes.

b) Resolution 2015-09-02 Amend Solid Waste Franchise Agreement. After a brief update from the mayor about this matter, a motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-02 by Councilmember Dutton with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; motion passed with all present voting yes.

c) Resolution 2015-09-03 Solid Waste Exemption Request. By suggestion of Inspections Superintendent Watson, there was a motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-03 by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Washington; motion passed with all present voting yes.

d) Resolution 2015-09-04 Sidewalk Project at Middle School. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-04 by Councilmember Washington with a second by Councilmember Ragland; motion passed with all present voting yes.

e) Resolution 2015-09-05 Regarding Properties Identified As Having Certain Conditions To Be An Annoyance And Public Nuisance In Violation of Chapter 32 Of The City of Leeds Code of Ordinances. Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Dutton gave the following Motion to approve resolution Resolution 2015-09-05 with the following exceptions:
8403 Thomas Avenue, 8449 Dunnavant Road, 7445 Elliott Lane which will be reinspected and update given at the September 21, 2015 Council Meeting.
Table Exceptions from Exhibit "A" are 115 Willow Street and 142 Willow Street which will be reinspected and update given at the October 5th City Council Meeting;
motion passed with all present voting yes.

f) Resolution 2015-09-06 Approving Professional Services Contract. City Attorney Barnett spoke in some detail about this matter. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-06 was given by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

g) Resolution 2015-09-07 Solid Waste Exemption Request. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-07 by Councilmember Ragland with a second by Councilmember Turner; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

h) Resolution 2015-09-08 Master Services Agreement. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-08 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Ragland; motion passed with all present voting yes.

I) Resolution 2015-09-09 Appointment of Members To The Leeds Construction Variance Board. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09-09 by Councilmember Dutton with a second by Councilmember Turner; motion passed with Councilmember Washington voting no.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Burt asked when the CPR and First Aid classes will be taught and also the Explorer classes. The classes will start Saturday, September 19, at 9AM.

Members of the public commended the Fire Department concerning the child seat.

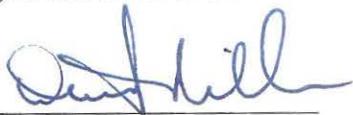
Ms. Kathye Drake spoke of the BZA not usurping the Council and works very hard dealing with the issues brought to the board.

Tracy, 1552 St. Paul, stated she moved into her home mid-September last year and filed a compliant because there is no street sign. She asked to have a street sign installed so people visiting can find the street. Street Superintendent indicated it would take a week.

Mayor Miller indicated the new school would be open for the 2016 school year. An audience member complained of there is beeping and people talking at 5:00 AM, violating the noise ordinance. The Mayor indicated that there would not be much that could be done as the construction time frame is very tight. Consultant indicated that this will change due to the daylight hours changing.

Councilmember Washington spoke of the neighborhood complaining of the trucks using the "jake brake" and the mayor indicates the City could do something about that issue. Councilmember Washington also asked Chief Jackson about cats and dogs loose in the City and a complaint about barking dogs. Chief Jackson asked Councilmember Washington to supply him areas of concern and he will pass it along to the animal control.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilmember Turner to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.



David Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kevin Fouts, City Clerk