

**CITY OF LEEDS, ALABAMA
PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 02, 2016**

The Council of the City of Leeds, Alabama met for a Public Hearing and Regular Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, May 02, 2016 at 6:00PM in 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 6:06PM with Councilmembers Johnny Dutton, Devoris Roscha Ragland, Eric Turner, Craig Wadsworth, and Kenneth Washington present.
- 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** the invocation was given by Councilmember Eric Turner.

**PUBLIC HEARING
Amending The Official Zoning Regulations, As Last Amended,
By Adding Article VI – Establishments of Districts, Section 19, Form Based Code.**

The Mayor introduced Mr. Dan Voketz, the presenter and consultant for the Planning and Commission. Mr. Eddie Cook, Chairman of the Planning & Commission, gave a description and proposal of the Form Based Code. Cook explained that this amendment is for the downtown district of Leeds. Cook spoke of a “consolidated review committee” which would review and approve applicant proposals.

Mr. Voketz gave a slide presentation to the Council and audience in attendance which started at 6:11PM and continued through 6:35 PM. Upon completion of the presentation, Mr. Voketz answered questions from the audience and Councilmembers.

The Mayor announced that people could come to the lectern and state their concerns and opinions regarding this matter:

Rev. Earnest Mitchell, 1480 Dakota Street, questioned the Council about the 2010 Master Plan and what the changes are from the presentation tonight in comparison to the 2010 plan. Mr. Mitchell is concerned about the CRC being the approving body of plans presented because that would not allow for public input on the plan through a public hearing.

The public hearing was closed at 6:46PM.

- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:** Minutes for the April 18, 2016 Public Hearing and City Council Meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with Councilmember Washington abstaining.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) City Of Leeds Board of Education Board Member Appointment.** Mayor Miller stated that the nominations will be presented as they were received in order. The Mayor gave the list of applicants in the order received.
Ms. Stacey Tawbush was the first applicant name stated.

Councilmember Ragland questioned whether the Attorney General gave an opinion on this matter. City Attorney Barnett clarified the matter stating the opinion was related to an proposed ordinance.

Motion to appoint Stacey Tawbush by Councilmember Ragland with a second by Councilmember Washington; Councilmember Washington and Councilmember Ragland voted yes and Councilmembers Turner, Dutton, Wadsworth and mayor voted no; the motion failed.

Motion to appoint Wayne Forbes by Councilmember Washington and Councilmember Ragland second. The vote was taken with Councilmembers Washington and Ragland voting yes and Councilmembers Turner, Dutton, Wadsworth and the Mayor voting no. The motion failed.

Motion to appoint Kathy Dutton by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Dutton. Discussion by Councilmember Ragland asking about the Attorney's opinion of a conflict of interest. City Attorney Brunson confirmed that there is an Attorney General's opinion about this subject and this is proper procedure. Councilmember Washington stated that he will abstain from voting for a person outside of the district. Councilmember Washington stated it would be fair for the people to have representation from each district. Councilmember Washington stated that he does not think that there is a requirement to put an ordinance together. Councilmember Turner stated that the Council has reviewed all applicants submitted to the City after the position was advertised. Councilmember Turner stated that he is voting according to the applicants with the best credentials. Vote taken with Councilmembers Turner, Dutton, Wadsworth voting yes and Councilmembers Washington and Ragland voting no; the motion passed.

5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

a) **Administration, Mayor Miller.** The Mayor informed everyone present of the tragic fire at the Oak Trail apartments caused by lighting. Mayor indicated there were 20 families displaced. Mayor thanked the citizens of Leeds for the response to the needs of the families. Mayor also thanked the neighboring communities that came to assist the City's response team. The Mayor praised the Leeds Fire and Rescue Department and the Leeds Police Department. In addition, the city is grateful for assistance offered through the Moody Fire Department, the Irondale Fire Department and the Red Cross. Citizens brought clothes, food gift cards; Chick-Fil-A and Old Smoky brought food. All items will be needed to rehouse these families: groceries, men's shoes, pillows, towels, and later, furniture. The Mayor discussed that the building did not have fire breaks due to not being required when the building was built.

Councilman Turner left the bench at 7:06PM and returned at 7:08PM.

b) **Fire Department, Chief Parsons.:** No Report.

c) **Police Department, Chief Jackson.** No Report.

d) **Library, Director Williams.** Director Williams spoke of the regular TOT Time Tuesday at 10:00AM. It is called Spring Time-Story Time with crafts associated with the program. Ms. Williams announced the Scholastic Book Fair from May 9th to May 16th. Ms. Kathye Drake asked if there was a mailing of a notification to the various civic clubs in Leeds of the summer programs at the Library. Ms. Williams states that the Library will be undergoing a computer update next Friday, May 13, 2016.

e) **Inspection Department, Superintendent Watson.** No Report.

f) **Parks and Recreation Department, Supervisor Keating.** Mr. Keating announced that the Creek Bank Festival will be held May 14th the Splash Pad will open Memorial Weekend.

At this point, Mayor Miller expressed additional appreciation to Mr. Keating and the Park and Recreation Department, the Civic Center Staff and to volunteers for assistance in accommodating donations of clothes for victims of the fire and arranging space in the Civic Center.

g) **Streets and Sanitation Department, Supervisor Keating.** Mr. Keating reported that the sidearm truck is being repaired by another company; hopefully the machine can be repaired this week.

h) **Municipal Court, Magistrate Roberts.** No Report.

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.** Mr. Watson was absent. Mayor Miller read the report and asked for approval for payment of the Terracon, Blalock and GMC invoices totaling \$1,129,290.64. Motion to approve payment by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Turner. Discussion from Councilmember Washington asking about the Council tour of the facility. The Mayor indicated the building will be finished enough for the tour in two weeks. The motion passed with unanimous vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Resolution 2016-05-01 Consider Alcohol License.:** After discussion with Councilmembers and the Mayor, there was a motion to approve Resolution 2016-05-01 by Councilmember Washington with a second by Councilmember Dutton; upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

b) **Resolution 2016-05-02 Consider Tax Compromise Agreement.** Mayor supplied information regarding this matter. Motion to approve Resolution 2016-05-02 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Dutton; upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

c) **Resolution 2016-05-03 Consider A Budget Amendment And Related Expenses.:** The Mayor supplied information regarding this matter. A motion to approve Resolution 2016-05-03 by Councilmember Dutton with a second by Councilmember Turner. Discussion regarding the line items which will be supplied from Councilmember Washington; on vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d) **Ordinance 2016-05-01 Consider Amending The Official Zoning Regulations, As Last Amended, By Adding Article VI – Establishments of Districts, Section 19, Form Based Code.**

Motion to suspend the rules to consider the Ordinance by unanimous consent by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Turner. The motion to suspend the rules passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-05-01 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; upon vote motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Washington stated that he would like the City to continue to find ways to build a new library. The Mayor identified the block in downtown Leeds of the future City Hall site which would incorporate the library. The Mayor commented on the future possibility of entertainment districts in certain areas, and the renovating of the old City Hall to ease need for space in the Inspections Department and the Magistrate Office.

e) **Ordinance 2016-05-02 Consider Setting Service Charges For Unpaid and Dishonored Checks And ACH Debits.**

Motion for unanimous consent to consider this Ordinance by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Turner; the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-05-02 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

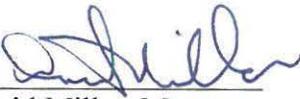
Mr. Hobart Thomas, 8576 Dover Drive. Mr. Thomas stated Ms. Pierce read an ordinance two prior times and was not considered and stated he felt a new ordinance was not required. Thomas stated this is a matter of being right or wrong. Mayor clarified a statement made by Mr. Thomas at the last meeting.

Ms. Misty West Thomas raised an issue about a sign matter. Ms. Thomas stated that she voted for the mayor and there was an exchange of words.

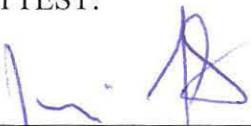
Councilmember Washington asked the Mayor for clarification about statements made.

Mr. John England, 1633 Motion Avenue. Mr. England asked about having a cleanup day in the city, since in years past there was one. Councilmember Turner stated there was such an event about three weeks ago in all districts. Mr. England stated that he does not live in Leeds but owns property here. England questioned why the signs are not mowed around with a weed-eater after the bush-hog mows the roadside.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilmember Washington to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:53PM.


David Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kevin Fouts, City Clerk