

Council Minutes
September 20, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

The Pinson City Council met in regular session at the Pinson City Hall on Thursday, September 20, 2007. Mayor Sanders led the invocation and Councilor Tanner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call: Marie Turner, City Clerk, called roll of Pinson City Council with the following council members present:

Mayor Sanders
Councilor Tanner
Councilor Cochran
Councilor Shelnutt
Councilor Churchwell
Councilor McCain

Minutes: Councilor Shelnutt made a motion to waive the reading of the August 24, 2007, minutes. Councilor Cochran duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for all opposed to say “no”, all in favor say “aye.” Councilor Cochran made a motion to accept the minutes as written of the August 24, 2007, meeting. Councilor McCain duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for any discussion. Mayor Sanders called for all opposed to say “no”, all in favor say “aye.”

Mayor Sanders said “Let the record reflect that both motions passed unanimously.”

Councilor Shelnutt made a motion to waive the reading of the September 6 & 7, 2007, minutes. Councilor Cochran duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for all opposed to say “no”, all in favor say “aye.” Councilor Cochran made a motion to accept the minutes as written of the September 6 & 7, 2007, meeting. Councilor Churchwell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for any discussion. Mayor Sanders called for all opposed to say “no”, all in favor say “aye.”

Mayor Sanders said “Let the record reflect that both motions passed unanimously.”

Committee Reports:

Finance: Councilor Tanner made a motion to pay miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$2,983.06. Alabama Power for \$563.08; Regions Platinum for \$899.20; Birmingham Water Works for \$20.58; United Flagpole, Inc. for \$415.20; BJC Animal Control for \$735.00; B/W & Sons Lawn Maintenance for \$350.00. Councilor Cochran duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for any discussion. As there was no discussion Mayor Sanders called for all opposed say “no”, all in favor say “aye.” Mayor Sanders said “Let the record reflect that the motion passed unanimously.”

Mayor Sanders mentioned that the Planning Committee Meeting will be Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall.

Mayor Sanders stated that Pam King, Historian, will be at the October 18, 2007 meeting.

Councilor Cochran made a motion to close Main Street, August 29, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., and reopen Main Street, August 30, 2008, at midnight, for the Butterbean Festival activities. Councilor McCain duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for any discussion. As there was no discussion Mayor Sanders called for all opposed say "no", all in favor say "aye." Mayor Sanders said "Let the record reflect that the motion passed unanimously."

Special Guests:

Mayor Sanders recognized Dr. Phil Hammonds, Jefferson County Board of Education.

Dr. Hammonds briefly discussed the Bid Opening for the new additions and renovations at Pinson Valley High School. The budget of \$12 million dollars will allow for a new Science Building with 8 classrooms; Chemistry Lab and Biology Lab. A new Fine Arts Center to include a 650 seat auditorium with orchestra pit, sound and control booth; Choral and Band rooms. Also planned are renovations to the Spectator Gym, air conditioning; expanded seating and a new elevator. Renovations to the Auxiliary Gym, air conditioning; expanded seating and renovations to the downstairs classrooms making them Handicap Accessible. Dr. Hammonds added that the renovations to Pinson Elementary will not start until next summer, due to the types of renovations planned for that facility.

Dr. Hammonds mentioned that another reason he was in attendance of the Council Meeting was due to the Staph Infection Incident at Pinson Valley High School. Dr. Hammonds stated that he had provided Council with a packet of factual information from the Health Department and the company contracted to clean and disinfect the school. (Mayor Sanders asked his assistant, Anje May, to pass copies of this information out to those present.)

Mayor Sanders recognized Jim Mangum, Jefferson County Health Department.

Mr. Mangum stated that he was made aware of the Staph Infection at Pinson Valley High School around the end of August. The Health Department worked closely with school officials and the school nurse making recommendations for this situation. Mr. Mangum reported that 20 to 30% of people are colonized with Staph Infection. Staph is treatable. MRSA Staph is resistant to one group of drugs but is treatable. It is important to educate the students and coaches about good hygiene in order to reduce the spread of the infection.

Mayor Sanders called for questions from Council.

Councilor Cochran asked, what is an outbreak?

Mr. Mangum stated that at any given time you may have one person with a Staph infection, but if you start seeing an unusual number of students with lesions then it would be considered to be an outbreak.

Councilor Tanner stated that her daughter had contracted Staph from swimming in a lake and has had two outbreaks over the summer. Councilor Tanner added that to her understanding Staph is very common.

Mr. Mangum agreed with Councilor Tanner, stating that it can cause concern, but it can be treated. If you have an immune system condition then you would have to monitor the situation more closely.

Councilor Churchwell asked if there are any guidelines for the School Administrators on how to handle any type of outbreak?

Mr. Mangum stated that there are guidelines. First of all call the Health Department for recommendations on how to handle a particular situation.

Mayor Sanders suspended the rules for questions from the public.

Question: How long can Staph live off of the body?

Answer: 1 to 4 hours thriving in a warm moist area. Colonizing mostly in the nose.

Question: Was this an outbreak of Furunculosis?

Answer: Mr. Mangum stated that he had not seen where a physician stated that this was Furunculosis.

Question: Were we dealing with MRSA?

Answer: Mr. Mangum stated that he had not seen a culture stating that this was MRSA.

Question: What is an outbreak?

Answer: Mr. Mangum stated that it depends on the organism you are talking about.

Mayor Sanders asked can you tell us what's gone on at other institutions in the County over the past year?

Mr. Mangum stated that Staph issues are in other schools and in the jails. Just because you have some cases of Staph doesn't mean that you have done anything wrong or that you failed to do something.

Question: If you have 3 or 4 people in the school that have Staph infection, and the Principal knows of students with an immune deficiency, should they be notified.

Answer: In those cases, it might be a good idea to send a notice home with the student.

Dr. Hammonds spoke to the timeline issue, stating that in each incident from August 27th each child was referred to their physician and had physician approval to return to school. The building was disinfected over the Labor Day weekend.

Mayor Sanders called for questions for Dr. Hammonds.

Question: Why not have a policy that the school must report within 24 hours to the parents that have kids with health issues. Are you going to change your policy and have better reporting from now on?

Answer: This provides us a good opportunity to go back and review how we want to report this, and how we should address this. To our knowledge there has not been any other report of additional Staph infection.

Question: Councilor Shelnutt asked if the air conditioning for the elementary was for the gym.

Answer: We are going to try to explore ways that we can air condition the gyms.

Public Comment:

1.) Lisa Underwood, Elm Avenue. Commented that she is excited about the building purchase and would love to see a Welcome Center for new people to the community.

2.) Traci Chesser, Cumberland. Comment to Dr. Hammonds. Looking at the student body numbers and for this end of the county we're about the 4th largest. Why is Pinson not receiving a new school complex? Dr. Hammonds replied that Pinson Valley High School was built in the early 70's. If you continue to grow, at some point in the future we may have to look at Pinson Valley High School becoming a Middle School and building a High School. Dr. Hammonds stated that he will look at the numbers for this year, then he will meet with a group of citizens to discuss what can be done for this situation.

3.) Population is about to explode in this area.

4.) Is there some percentage of growth that is taken into consideration to determine what size school is needed? Dr. Hammonds stated that you try to look over a period of 5-6 years to determine what size school you need.

Councilor Cochran moved to adjourn. Councilor Tanner duly seconded the motion. Mayor Sanders called for all opposed to say "no", all in favor say "aye". Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Turner, City Clerk

September 20, 2007 Minutes Adopted _____