



**Vestavia Hills
City Council Minutes
July 6, 2026
5:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The City Council of Vestavia Hills met in regular session on this date at 5:30pm, following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama law. A number of staff and members of the general public also attended virtually, via Zoom.com, following publication pursuant to Alabama law. The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll with the following:

2. Roll Call

Roll call was as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ashley Curry, Mayor Pro-Tem Rusty Weaver*, City Councilors Kimberly Cook, Ali Pilcher and Mike Vercher

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Jeff Downes, City Manager; Patrick H. Boone, City Attorney; Cinnamon McCulley, Asst. City Manager; Umang Patel, City Clerk; Zachary Clifton, Finance Director; Shane Ware, Police Chief; Jenny Gray, Principal Accountant; Marvin Green, Fire Chief; Keith Blanton, Building Safety Director*; Lori Beth Kearley, Public Works Director

*Attended via Zoom.

3. Invocation - Butch Williams, Vestavia Hills Chaplain

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of the Agenda

The Mayor opened the floor for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Approve the agenda as presented. Motion By: Mike Vercher. Seconded By: Kimberly Cook.

VOTE: Roll call vote as follows: Yes: Ashley Curry, Rusty Weaver, Kimberly Cook, Ali Pilcher, Mike Vercher.

No: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

6. Announcements, Candidates and Guest Recognition

Mrs. Cook welcomed Vestavia Hills Library Foundation Board Treasurer Dave Melvin; Vestavia Hills Library Board of Trustees Emeritus Jimmy Bartlett; and Republican Candidate for District 48 Lloyd Peeples.

Mayor Curry welcomed Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce Board Members, Elizabeth McDonald and Taylor Burton.

7. City Manager's Report

Mr. Downes stated attendance at "I Love America Night" event increased, over the past three years, from 6,000 to approximately 7,700 -- the largest turnout to date, with about 3,000 attendees from within the City and the remainder from surrounding communities. The event strengthens residents' connection to the City and supports local businesses. He expressed appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce, sponsors, the business community, and City staff for an excellent and widely attended event.

Mrs. Cook stated that Wald Park clearly reflects the benefits of the City's investment in parks, noting the attendees' heavy use of playgrounds, Grand Lawn, and stage. The beautiful and functional design of Wald Park gives the City a wonderful place to host events such as "I Love America Night," and was a worthwhile investment of tax dollars.

8. Councilors' Reports

Mr. Vercher commended the Vestavia Hills Police Department for its management of crowds and traffic during the Fourth of July fireworks viewing along Shades Mountain and described the officers as excellent ambassadors for the City.

Mrs. Cook offered the following remarks in memory of Mr. Raymond David Gotlieb:

It is with great sadness that I would like to take a few moments to mark the death, last week, of a friend and businessman in our city -- Raymond David Gotlieb. Raymond is perhaps best known to the Vestavia Hills community as the owner of The Heights Village shopping center on Pump House Road. When I was first elected in 2016, Raymond took the time to educate me on the role of local government in supporting small businesses by providing necessary infrastructure. We talked for a couple of hours before I even realized how much time had passed. Later, Raymond was the individual who paid for the materials for my son's Eagle project, a pavilion for Meadowlawn Park. After its completion, my son wanted to honor his key donation with a placard, but Raymond would not allow it. He said, just put "Materials donated by Heights Village Shopping Center." Raymond was the good sense and wisdom behind so many community initiatives, including many of the Cahaba Heights Merchants Association festivals we enjoy today.

Raymond's legacy lives on in the family he cherished, the community he helped build, and the countless lives he touched through his kindness, leadership, and friendship. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and appreciated him. That includes me and so many others in the City of Vestavia Hills. Our city is a better place through the life and generosity of Raymond Gotlieb.

Mrs. Pilcher reported that the Vestavia Hills Board of Education met the prior Monday and welcomed new Board Member Trey Woodruff.

Mayor Curry reported on the "Vet Fest 250" event at the Civic Center, noting participation by the Veterans Administration and numerous agencies, who provided services to more than 140 veterans, and accepted new applications to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He commended Parks and Recreation staff for managing the event. He announced that the Watercolor Society of Alabama will host a reception at the Civic Center, on Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., to celebrate the opening of their exhibit at City Hall, which will continue into October. He encourages residents to enjoy the art work at City Hall when they visit to renew tags or do other business.

9. Financial Reports - Zachary Clifton, Finance Director

Finance Director Zachary Clifton presented the May 2026 financial statements.

10. Approval of Minutes - May 4, 2026 Work Session, May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting and June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Mayor presented the minutes of the May 4, 2026, Work Session, the May 4, 2026, Regular Meeting, and the June 15, 2026, Regular Meeting for approval. He opened the floor for a motion.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026 Work Session, May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting and June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion By: Kimberly Cook. Seconded By: Ali Pilcher.

VOTE: Roll call vote as follows: Yes: Ashley Curry, Rusty Weaver, Kimberly Cook, Ali Pilcher, Mike Vercher.

No: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

Old Business (Public Hearing)

New Business

11. Resolution Number 5649 - A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for the fiscal year 2026 Homeland Security Grant

MOTION: Approve Resolution 5649 as presented. Motion By: Kimberly Cook. Seconded By: Mike Vercher.

Mr. Downes explained that Resolution 5649 is a resolution authorizing the City to apply for a Department of Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$150,000 for police equipment. This is a recurring grant opportunity for which the City has applied in prior years. If the grant is awarded, staff will return to the Council to appropriate grant funds.

VOTE: Roll call vote as follows: Yes: Ashley Curry, Rusty Weaver, Kimberly Cook, Ali

Pilcher, Mike Vercher.

No: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

12. Resolution Number 5653 - A Resolution accepting the financial audit for FY2025

MOTION: Approve Resolution 5653 as presented. Motion By: Kimberly Cook. Seconded By: Ali Pilcher.

Mr. Downes explained that Resolution 5653 is a resolution accepting the Fiscal Year 2025 financial audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This extensive ACFR report includes information that goes above and beyond standard audit report requirements, and fully informs residents about the financial state of the city. He complimented the Finance Department for attaining a "Certification of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the national Government Finance Officers Association.

Ms. Gray stated that the independent auditors issued an unmodified opinion that the City's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and results of operations of the City. She reported that the City's overall financial position improved during Fiscal Year 2025, that the General Fund ended the year with a strong fund balance and emergency reserve, and that a required single audit of federal funds identified no compliance findings or internal control deficiencies.

The Mayor noted that the City continues to hold AAA bond ratings from both Moody's and Fitch, and this report supports those ratings.

Mrs. Cook asked for the page number that expresses the auditor's "unmodified" opinion, and emphasized this is what she always looks for when reviewing the City's audit.

VOTE: Roll call vote as follows: Yes: Ashley Curry, Rusty Weaver, Kimberly Cook, Ali Pilcher, Mike Vercher.

No: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

13. Resolution Number 5654 - A Resolution replacing paying agent with respect to the City's general obligation warrants and to appoint Regions Bank as paying agent with respect to the warrants

MOTION: Approve Resolution 5654 as presented. Motion By: Kimberly Cook. Seconded By: Mike Vercher.

Mr. Downes explained that Resolution 5654 is a resolution appointing Regions Bank as paying agent for the City's general obligation warrants. The previous paying agent, Bank of New York Mellon, has moved its customer service operations overseas, making administration more difficult, so the City now conducts most of its banking with Regions Bank, which has improved our administration processes.

VOTE: Roll call vote as follows: Yes: Ashley Curry, Rusty Weaver, Kimberly Cook, Ali Pilcher, Mike Vercher.

No: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed.

New Business Requesting Unanimous Consent (Public Hearing)

First Reading (No Action To Be Taken At This Meeting)

14. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5643 - Annexation – 90 Day – 4616
Old Looney Mill Road; Owner, William Jones**
15. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3342 - Annexation – Overnight – 4616
Old Looney Mill Road, Owner, William Jones**
16. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5644 - Annexation – 90 Day – 4737
Cloud Ln; Lot 3; Owner, Audrey & Andrew Bone**
17. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3343 - Annexation – Overnight – 4737
Cloud Ln; Lot 3, Owner, Audrey & Andrew Bone**
18. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5645 - Annexation – 90 Day – 2949
Dolly Ridge Trail; Lot 29, Owner, Samuel & Leigh Barall**
19. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3344 - Annexation – Overnight – 2949
Dolly Ridge Trail; Lot 29; Owner, Samuel & Leigh Barall**
20. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5646 - Annexation – 90 Day – 2421
Rocky Ridge Road; Lot 4, Owner, Luis Chavez Garcia**
21. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3345 - Annexation – Overnight – 2421
Rocky Ridge Road; Lot 4; Owner, Luis Chavez Garcia**
22. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5647 - Annexation – 90 Day – 2504
Skyland Drive; Lot 7, Owner, Hannah & Addison Stokes**
23. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3346 - Annexation – Overnight – 2504
Skyland Drive; Lot 7; Owner, Hannah & Addison Stokes**
24. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5648 - Annexation – 90 Day – 1715
Collinwood Court; a part of Lot 3; Owner, Kelly Loyd & TB Office LLC**
25. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3347 - Annexation – Overnight – 1715
Collinwood Court; a part of Lot 3; Owner, Kelly Loyd & TB Office LLC**
26. **Public Hearing - Ordinance Number 3348 - An Ordinance establishing an
electronic signature policy for the City of Vestavia Hills**
27. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5650 - A Resolution authorizing a one-
time bonus for retirees and beneficiaries of retirees for FY27 pursuant to
Act 2026-608**
28. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5651 - A Resolution accepting a bid for
Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex Infrastructure structural fill stockpile and**

tree clearing, and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute any and all documents related to said bid

29. **Public Hearing - Resolution Number 5652 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all documents and expend funds not to exceed \$55,000 for the demolition of the building or structure located at 2750 Smyer Road**

30. **Citizens Comments**

None

31. **Time Of Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mrs. Cook made a motion to adjourn. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.



Ashley C. Curry, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:



Umang Patel, City Clerk