



**Vestavia Hills
City Council Minutes
August 3, 2026
4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The City Council of Vestavia Hills met in a special called work session on this date at 4:30 pm, 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 Councilor 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; Ryan Farrell, Deputy Fire Chief; Joel Gaston, Police Captain; Christopher Vines, Fire Marshal; Jack Wakefield, Senior City Planner; Patrick Patterson, City Planner; Jamie Lee, Director of Parks and Leisure Services; Lori Beth Kearley, Public Works Director; Ethan Fisher, City Engineer; Marvin Green, Fire Chief*; Tamara Forbes, Court Director*; Zachary Clifton, Finance Director; Daniel Tackett, Deputy Library Director;

*Attended via Zoom

**Arrived at 4:34 pm

Discussion Topics

3. Annexation Request - 4737 Cloud Lane

Mrs. Cook introduced a petition for annexation of 4737 Cloud Lane, which has already been heard by the Annexation Review Committee, of which she is chairwoman. After reviewing the information and hearing the discussion of the committee, she asked for further

information from public safety and the school system, because the property was not one of the areas designated as a desirable target for annexation by the 2006 Annexation Task Force, which policy has been the guiding force for annexation review for some time. The property would be the first of an entire new street to be annexed, and is on the very edge of the public safety service areas. The property is in the Rocky Ridge Fire District, and is contiguous to the city at only one point.

Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Farrell expressed concerns regarding response times; continuing reliance on automatic aid from the Rocky Ridge Fire District in the area, while withdrawing funding from that district; and the long-term effect additional annexations in the area could have on sustainability of the Rocky Ridge Fire District, service delivery, and the City's ISO rating.

Capt. Joel Gaston, Police Department, reported that the department can provide service to the area, while noting that response times would vary based on call conditions.

Mrs. Pilcher reported that the Vestavia Hills Board of Education does not anticipate any significant impact on school capacity and that the annexed property falls within the Cahaba Heights Elementary school zone, which is at 75% capacity.

Mrs. Cook reported that the estimated yield, using the city's average yield per household, from the number of properties on Cloud Lane (assuming all came into the city at a later time) would be in the range of 5 to 8 additional students dispersed across all grades.

Council discussion focused on whether the property represented an expansion of the City's boundaries rather than the connection of properties within existing municipal boundaries, as well as the long-term financial and service implications of future, continued annexations in the area. Mr. Boone confirmed that annexation decisions were legislative in nature and within the Council's discretion to determine what was in the best interest of the City.

4. Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (SHAC) Enhancements

Mr. Downes introduced a presentation on potential improvements to the Liberty Park ballfields, explaining that the concepts were developed to improve playability, reduce weather-related cancellations, increase field capacity, and support future growth of the City's athletic programs. Mr. Lee and representatives from HNP Landscape Architecture presented several concept plans that included drainage improvements, synthetic turf, additional playing fields, expanded parking, and phased implementation options.

The representatives discussed the advantages and costs of natural grass versus synthetic turf, noting that synthetic turf increases field availability, reduces rainouts, and better accommodates tournaments, while drainage improvements would enhance but not eliminate weather-related closures on natural grass fields. Representatives discussed proposed field reconfigurations, fencing improvements, and opportunities to add youth fields while maintaining flexibility for future improvements.

Council members discussed long-term planning, costs, participation trends, and the economic benefits of improving the complex. Mrs. Pilcher expressed support for additional investment in softball facilities, and Council members discussed completing improvements in a manner that would minimize future disruptions and maximize long-term use of the facilities.

16. Time of Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Weaver made a motion to adjourn. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:22 pm.



Ashley C. Curry, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:



Umang Patel, City Clerk