

2-A OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. June 30, 1977

## Pell City Seeks Center For Senior Citizens

BY BARBARA DUEMLER

In its regular meeting Monday night, the Pell City Council discussed the possibility of starting a senior citizen's center in Pell City.

Six Pell City residents now attend the Senior Citizen's meetings in Odenville. These people may be used as a catalyst to the development of a center in Pell City. Active centers are now located in Steele, Odenville, and Ragland. They provide companionship, arts and crafts and entertainment.

Members of the Council felt that a center here would be an asset and agreed to contact the Birmingham Regional Planning Board for more information.

In other business, the council:

--Discussed a bid of \$6,324 to install lights at the Farm League Field. It is \$214 less expensive than previous bids.

No action was taken.

--Discussed having Jamie Ethridge, President of the League of Municipalities, come to help set up Personnel policies free of charge. No action was taken.

--Discussed the need to have the gas leaks in town located and repaired.

--Agreed to pay Pell City's \$222 share of the renovation on the Senior Citizen's building in Odenville.

--Agreed on the need to hire boys, over 16 years of age, to work on a cleanup crew during the summer. The pay is \$2.30 per hour. Interested persons should apply at City Hall.

--Agreed to have City Ordinances printed up by the Municipal Code Corporation, of Tallahassee, Florida.

--Approved off premises beer licenses for Coosa Valley Grocery, The IBA Store, and J & H Grocery.

## Council approves senior citizen plan

The Pell City Council Monday night approved an agreement with Positive Maturity to begin a Senior Citizens Program in the Pell City area much like those already in operation in

Ashville and Ragland.

The council, after hearing a presentation by PM Executive Director Ralph Bradford, unanimously accepted the agreement which will provide a program for the senior citizens of the city.

"We already have programs of this type in operation in Ashville, Odenville and Ragland — in all, about 20 across the state — and they are doing a fine job," Bradford said. "We work with the Commission on Aging of the State of Ala. and provide a \$2,000 per year grant," he said.

Bradford said the only commitment of the city was to provide a place for the citizens to meet and have a coordinator for the program.

"This is about the only time I can remember someone coming in here and giving us something for nothing," Councilman Bam Cox said of the agreement. "I think this sounds really good," he added.

The council also agreed to draw up an agreement with Southern Railway so St. Clair County Lodg 50 of the Fraternal Order of Police could purchase the old depot building to use as a lodge. According to Chief Ruble Bowlin the building can

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be moved to a new site within 90 days.

In other business, the council appointed St. Clair County Hospital Director C.M. Jones to the area Mental Health Board which meets in Birmingham.

The council also accepted the bid of Fouts Tractor Co. for a lawnmower for the Parks and Recreation Dept. and agreed to put down a set of "ripples" to curb speeders on 4th Ave. N.

On a motion by Councilman Cox, the city agreed to endorse the "light a bike" program sponsored by the Dairy Queen and V.F.W. on Saturday, April 20, and invited area bike owners to get their bikes taped at the local DQ.

## Perry charges minutes of PC council changed

Pell City businessman James Perry, having recently approached the Pell City council regarding a portion of the city wrecker business, has charged that the minutes of the Pell City Council meeting of March 28 were "mistakenly put down or purposely changed."

Perry, in a statement to THE NEWS Tuesday, said what the council told him at the meeting and what appeared in a copy of the minutes published in another county newspaper were

"a horse of a different color." According to the minutes of the meeting, the council said "the study committee recommended that the people involved in any accident within the city limits be given the choice of which wrecker they wanted to use and if they had no preference, then the call should be given to various wreckers on a rotating basis and that the council went along with the recommendation." (See Perry Page 5-A)

Perry said the council told him "that when the police officer investigated an accident, he would tell the customer there were two wreckers available and he could have his choice. If the customer had no choice, then Gray and Goodgame would be called and, according to Mayor Nixon, that was the way it would stand."

"What I want to know is why the minutes were different from what was told to me in person at the council meeting," Perry said. "Were they mistakenly taken down or purposely changed?"

"If this, what was in the minutes, was the official stance of the council then why hasn't the Police Dept. put it into effect," Perry asked. "Why has Chief Ruble Bowlin told me that if the customer had no choice, he would call who they wanted

## City Adopts Senior Citizens Program

In its regular meeting Monday night, the Pell City City Council accepted a proposal from the Alabama Commission on Aging, Positive Maturity Program, which will give the City \$2,000 for the purchasing equipment to be used in a Senior Citizens program.

The only requirement made of the City, according to Duke Bradford of the Commission, is that a place be furnished for using and securing the equip-

ment.

The Council agreed to find someone to coordinate the program and determine how the equipment is to be used. Bradford told the Council that some cities are using the money for craft, exercise, etc. He said that some cities meet every day and that others meet only one day a week.

In other business, Mayor Dill Nixon reported that Southern Railway had agreed to allow the newly-formed Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No. 50, to move the old depot and use it, with a 90 day time limit on getting the building moved.

Sam Jones was appointed to the Mental Health Board and Mrs. Betty Jackson re-appointed after determining that she would be able to attend necessary meetings.

A low bid from the Union State Bank of 4½ pct. interest on a necessary loan of \$30,000 was approved and after a report from Ruble Bowlin, the Council agreed to make an effort to do something immediately about center-stripping or lighting the middle area on First Avenue, South, which the Police Chief described as "dangerous." Mayor Nixon said that he would contact Alabama Power Company about the situation.