

STATE OF ALABAMA            )  
  :  
COUNTY OF BALDWIN        )(

The City Council met in a Work Session at 4:00 p.m.,  
Delchamps Room, 161 North Section Street,  
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532, on  
Thursday, 09 March 2017.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell, Councilmembers: Jimmy Conyers, Robert Brown, and Kevin Boone (arrived at 4:10 p.m.), Mayor Karin Wilson, City Attorney Marion E. Wynne, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks. Councilmember Jay Robinson was absent.

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- Mayor Wilson addressed the City Council and presented a Power Point Presentation for the Budget Review. She mentioned there will be quarterly reviews; each supervisor was engaged with preparation; each department will have its own financial; and there will be a report on two separate entities: City of Fairhope and Fairhope Utilities. See attached Power Point Presentation titles “City of Fairhope Budget Review.” Mayor Wilson also mentioned infrastructure needs: substations for the Electric Department and 16 miles of gas lines for the Gas Department. She mentioned the need for attorney and engineers on staff. Mayor Wilson presented her organizational chart; briefly explained health insurance and the compensation study. She stated a cost of living raise would not be budgeted, but would be put toward merit-based increases.
- Sherry-Lea Botop briefly went over the Office of Economic and Community Opportunity which will Strengthen Communities; Foster Local Talent; Preserve Our Heritage; Communication between City Government and our stakeholders; and Navigate and Connect.
- Mayor Wilson brought up the Hiring and Firing Freeze and stated it was unlawful; a roadblock; and the City cannot afford to take a time out. She commented communication goes both ways; and we need to do what is right for our City.
- Councilmember Boone commented he appreciated the budget being presented.

Councilmember Conyers stated the Library Board is opposed to being under the City.

Council President Burrell said there are options for the Electric upgrades and the Gas Department has approximately 20 years to put in the new piping. He mentioned there has been \$16 million dollars in debt reduction the past four years. Council President Burrell stated City Attorney Wynne, Attorney Marcus McDowell, and Attorney Matt McDonald all agreed that the hiring freeze was not an unlawful act. He said we need to review the budget and make changes pursuant to State law; and the City Council control finances.

Mayor Wilson replied 60 days is a long time; and we need to hire a Planning Tech and a Civil Engineer for Public Works with drainage knowledge.

Council President Burrell stated the authority lies with the Council to approve positions and to fund those positions.

Councilmember Brown questioned if the 43 positions were affected by the budget or the hiring freeze.

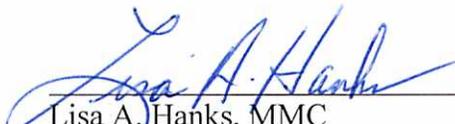
Council President Burrell thanked City staff for helping with the budget and for all they do for the City.

- Councilmember Boone mentioned the upcoming Harbor Meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017.
- Councilmember Brown said the Education Advisory Board's recommendation for the schools is on the agenda tonight to approve the appropriation for \$342,089.00.
- Councilmember Conyers stated that the Library board does not want to be brought into the City. He commented the Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board is recommending that the "Clean Marina" wording is put into the new marina lease.
- Council President Burrell stated the Airport Authority adopted a resolution for refinancing the bond; and an ordinance is on tonight's agenda for the City Council to vote on.
- Electric Superintendent Jimmy Cluster addressed the City Council regarding the tennis lights which have now been ordered.
- Water and Sewer Superintendent Dan McCrory addressed the City Council regarding Church Street and a sewer system found tied into our storm drain is being repaired.
- Gas Superintendent Robert Rohm addressed the City Council regarding the bulkhead and dredging project at the City's marina.
- Assistant Public Works Director Arthur Bosarge addressed the City Council regarding the planning of Arts and Crafts and City staffing.
- Human Resource Director Pandora Heathcoe addressed the City Council regarding the need for five positions that need filling.
- Chief Joe Petties addressed the City Council regarding the planning of Arts and Crafts and the departments responsibilities.
- Chief Chris Ellis addressed the City Council regarding the Fire Department having 82 calls for service last month.
- Mardi Gras and the KOER float that broke down which was quickly cleared. He mentioned the Mystic Mutts of Revelry which has become a large parade; and the need to possibly block off road most of the day.
- Economic and Community Affairs Director Sherry-Lea Botop addressed the City Council on the following items: Arts and Crafts; her new department; and Airport Authority land development.

- Planning Director Wayne Dyess addressed the City Council regarding the Town Hall meeting; and his staff working on amendments for the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations.
- Golf Director Bobby Hall addressed the City Council regarding the upcoming busy season for Quail Creek Golf Course; the Pro Shop being moved to a trailer and his office; and he thanked Jeff Williams for the great greens. He also stated a structural engineer and insurance adjuster met to assess the damage to the Pro Shop/Clubhouse. He also stated the Employee Golf Outting has been cancelled and moved to March 26, 2017; and he mentioned the upcoming FEEF Tournament.
- Purchasing Manager Dan Ames addressed the City Council regarding the Golf Course Pro Shop/Clubhouse and commented a report is expected back next week.
- Recreation Director Tom Kuhl addressed the City Council regarding the Ribbon Cutting at the Manley Road Soccer Complex next Saturday; and announced baseball and softball opening.
- Building Official Erik Cortinas addressed the City Council regarding his department being busy with inspections and permits.
- Operations Director Richard Peterson addressed the City Council and introduced himself; and thanked the City for hiring him.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Burrell, Council President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa A. Hanks, MMC  
City Clerk