

STATE OF ALABAMA)
 :
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)

The City Council met in a Work Session at 4:30 p.m.,
Delchamps Room, 161 North Section Street,
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532, on
Monday, 27 March 2017.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell, Councilmembers: Jimmy Conyers and Kevin Boone, Mayor Karin Wilson, City Attorney Marion E. Wynne, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks. Councilmembers Jay Robinson and Robert Brown were absent.

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The first item on the agenda is the Battles Wharf Area Discussion. Fred Killion, 19313 Scenic Highway 98, addressed the City Council regarding Breland and the possible filling in 10.5 acres of wetlands. He said his concern was the Supreme Court may have reversed decision. Mr. Killion outlined the history of the case, passed out a report and documents, and explained pictures in the report. He stated Baldwin County and the City of Fairhope objected to the filling of wetlands; and sent letter to the Corps of Engineers of this fact. Mr. Killion stated the permit issued must comply to the following: mitigation credits purchased and put 30 some acres under a Conservation Easement. The third condition was to get local permission from both the County and the City. Mr. Killion stated time is barred by the 2-year statute of limitations; and Breland has not met the conditions. Council President Burrell thanked Mr. Killion and said we want best for Fairhope. (A copy of the “Documents” are on file in the City Clerk’s office).
- Budget discussions was next on the agenda. Councilmember Conyers commented the Library being part of the City is not in this budget. He suggested getting the Personnel Board to approve the salaries and new jobs. Council President Burrell stated that new job descriptions are reviewed by the Personnel Board and a recommendation to the City Council is given. The City Council questioned the 34 new positions: 5 newly created vacancies, 29 new vacancies, 21 current vacancies, and 3 retirees. Council President Burrell stated we need to spend more time on this issue.

The other items with budget questions were the Airport Appropriation, Capital Upgrades for Utilities, MUNIS system; and the Library. Mayor Wilson said the Library is not in the budget and was just an idea for savings; and the budget, as a whole, must be looked at not just sections. Council President Burrell said the Library should remain as a separate entity. Councilmember Boone reiterated the Library should be kept a separate Board. Finance Jill Cabaniss commented on the percentages she prepared and gave examples. Mayor Wilson commented these could be changed and we were being conservative. Council President Burrell stated we project low on revenues and higher on expenses; and Capital Upgrades should be with a strategic plan spread over 5 to 6 years.

Council President Burrell commented he disagrees with the Operations Director to do all upgrades at one time. Councilmember Boone said it will take a year to get a transformer; and we should budget a portion for it this year and a portion for it next year. Councilmember Boone stated he requested our attorneys to notify the entities to get equipment off the tank to allow the City to paint. Council President Burrell requested a 5-year or 6-year plan put together by the Operations Director for the Utilities' needs.

Council President Burrell stated he would like to give the employees a 2 percent cost of living raise for full-time employees who have worked for the City more than 6 months.; and to offset the raise by an increase of .008 percent in Electrical, Water, and Sewer rates. Mayor Wilson replied a cost of living raise is for everyone, even the ones that do not earn this; and said a merit raise is more fair and paid better for performance and goals. Councilmember Boone commented he was not for doing a cost of living raise every year, but we should do this year because the employees were promised. Mayor Wilson said that the rate increases would be based on infrastructure needs. Councilmember Conyers commented you both have good ideas for employees; the cost of living raise was discussed 6 months ago, and he agrees with this now; and the merit based raise is good for long-term and more fair.

Council President Burrell brought up the Public Works Director position and job description; and he would like a recommendation from the Personnel Board. He said the previous position had a high end around \$94,000.00; and this new position has a minimum pay of \$120,000.00 to a maximum of \$184,000.00. Mayor Wilson commented the City Council will have to decide what range and if you want to continue with the Comp Study. She said the job description requires and Engineer Degree and storm water management experience.

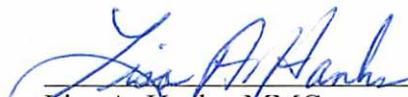
Council President Burrell brought up the medical insurance with savings being mentioned; and said the City Council and City Treasurer need to be in this decision.

Councilmember Conyers questioned if those two positions which require an Engineering Degree would eliminate needing engineers on staff. Mayor Wilson replied it will help with engineer needs and will eliminate need for staff engineer.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk