

STATE OF ALABAMA            )  
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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, 10 April 2017.

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

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The first item on the agenda was the Volanta Park Master Plan Discussion by Joe Comer of Espalier Landscape Architecture. Mr. Comer briefly went over the proposed master plan which will increase the number of fields; change the size of fields; stabilize erosion; connect park elements; use of bio swells and pervious pavers; will be handicap access; and will include a plaza in the middle. He said it should take approximately six months to a year to complete. Recreation Director Tom Kuhl commented the fields would be done during Fall season and we would possibly use Daphne's fields. Recreation Board member Charlie Langham explained the parking lot timing for construction, would use netting for protection; and the are well over 800 kids in the league now. The cost of the plan was questioned by Councilmember Conyers.
- Discussion of Budget Updates was next on the agenda and Ordinance No. 1520 was addressed. Councilmember Brown explained this would mean a \$2.0 million deficit and we would have to redirect funds. Council President Burrell and Councilmember Brown agreed that it would be around a \$1.6 million deficit if the budget remained as is; and that they already have between \$300,00.00 to \$400,000.00 possible cuts. Mayor Wilson questioned why there will be cuts. Council President Burrell explained some of these cuts are for spending that is not sustainable; and with another \$770,000.00 deficit projected for next year. Mayor Wilson said the revenue and expenses are conservative numbers; and this is a draft budget constantly changing. Councilmember Brown stated it is not sustainable to hire 34 new positions. Council President Burrell commented the Mayor submits recommendations for the budget and the City Council tweaks it; and he said the Council could actually prepare its own. He said there is usually a two percent contingency in the budget for unknowns. The consensus of the City Council was they were not ready to pass the budget at this time; and they want to wait until they have a full year as a framework.
- Councilmember Boone stated that the Harbor Board will be meeting Wednesday to discuss the seawall and leases. He said the Personnel Board will meet on the third Thursday at 7:15 a.m.
- Councilmember Brown stated the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee did not have a quorum; and the Education Advisory Committee met with principal regarding long-term plans.

- Councilmember Conyers stated that the Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board will meet this coming Friday.
- Councilmember Robinson said that the Recreation Board meets next week and missed the Recycling Committee meeting.

Council President Burrell mentioned the Soccer Complex and an issue with the entry. He suggested getting cost of the entry and/or value engineering.

- Council President Burrell said that the Industrial Development Board took a field trip to the Warehouse District; and wanted to make sure everyone knew this is not an entertainment district. He said the purpose of this district is to attract light industry to that area. The Industrial Development Board is trying to draw attention to this area.
- Economic and Community Development Director Sherry-Lea Botop addressed the City Council regarding the following items: presentation of revenue for the next Work Session; Easter Sunrise Service; April 26, 2017 Volunteer Dinner; April 22nd Earth Day; April 23rd Baldwin Pops; Farmers Market begins in May; Museum Walking Tours; and FEEF Tournament and Employees Golf Tournament both successful. She mentioned the State of the City is scheduled for May 9, 2017.
- Recreation Director Tom Kuhl addressed the City Council regarding the Special Olympics; new tennis courts are a big hit; and the concession stand at the Soccer Complex is near completion.

Council President Burrell said he received a complaint that lights at the Soccer Complex were on when no one was using the facility. Mr. Kuhl replied that there is a timer for lights to turn off around 8:30 p.m. He stated an App is also used to turn the lights off when notified everyone has left by the leagues.

- Planning Director Wayne Dyess addressed the City Council and stated there were only nine items on the Planning Commission's agenda; and his department has been working one moratorium objectives. He commented by the end of April the new planner should be hired.
- Operations Director Richard Peterson addressed the City Council and said he had been appointed to the Planning Commission by Mayor Wilson. He explained the need to approve the engineer to work on the electrical upgrade system map and our associated software model. He mentioned the substations needing to be upgraded or replaced. Mr. Peterson said they will look at new loads and circuits; infrared imagery for hot spots; waste water lift stations; pumps at water plant; but we will not own the software model. He also stated we need to look at our SCADA and mapping system. Mr. Peterson brought up the Baldwin County Sewer System contract ending in July; and mentioned a letter with option to get the system back and they want to work on negotiations to keep system.
- Council President Burrell commented that we have several needed Infrastructure Projects: substation upgrades, gas line replacement, water tank painted, and sewer capacity. He said the total for all of these would be approximately \$15.4 million and that he has been working on a spreadsheet and proposals on how to fund the projects.

Work Session  
Monday, 10 April 2017  
Page -3-

- Mechanic Supervisor Tim Bung addressed the City Council and stated they are repairing and maintaining equipment.
- Golf Director Bobby Hall addressed the City Council announced that Virginia Green, Fairhope High School Senior, shot a 61 during the First Round and a 63 in the Second Round of the Alabama State Tournament. He also said she was a Medalist in this tournament. Council President Burrell announced Ms. Green is ranked in the "Top 10" for golf in the world.
- Council President Burrell and Chief Petties brought up First Family Art Walk and the closing of De La Mare. Council President Burrell said the City Council needs to formally address this closing; and requested a resolution to approve this closure from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. City Clerk Lisa Hanks was asked to prepare a resolution for the next City Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

  
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Jack Burrell, Council President

  
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Lisa A. Hanks, MMC  
City Clerk