

Work Session

Monday, 18 December 2017

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Ashley Gordon discussed the STEAM Plan and said we need to engage the community. She said there will be a STEAM Director for all five schools and the plan will be modeled under "The Pelican's Nest." The K-1Center is the heart of Fairhope; and we can showcase our schools in different locations. She said this would be an incubator program that can be Beta tested.

- The next item on the agenda was the discussion for an Ordinance to establish an Entertainment District in Fairhope. Council President Burrell gave a brief history and background of the proposed Ordinance. He said we could introduce and consider the ordinance tonight at the City Council meeting. The ordinance would allow licensed establishments who have an ABC license for customers to take an open container from their business. Council President Burrell stated the proposed map could be more or less for the district; and we need to decide whether the Municipal Pier and Henry George Park should be part as well.

Chief Petties addressed the City Council and commented social drinking is okay, but can cause problems; and he does not want Fairhope to be like Bourbon Street and Mobile. Chief Petties commented if alcohol is close to the water there are issues.

Council President Burrell stated we need to look at Sections 3 and 6. Councilmember Conyers said he supports the ordinance, but limited to Special Events. Councilmember Brown stated we need to carve out the Central Business District ("CBD") allowing this to happen without owners being harassed or fined. Councilmember Robinson stated he was against having Entertainment District 365 days a year. He said the intention is good, but may not. Mayor Wilson said we need to do it for Special Events which usually end at 8:00 p.m. Councilmember Brown commented he was against the cups; and mentioned the Eastern Shore Art Center and the Fairhope Mercantile. Councilmember Boone commented he was not in favor of any of it; and said it will hurt the "Quality of Life" in Fairhope.

The consensus of the City Council was to make the Entertainment District concurrent with the CBD, remove the last sentence in Section 3, and only for Special Events. Councilmember Boone said this is not changing a thing for enforcement; and not in favor of alcohol in the streets of Fairhope. Councilmember Robinson said we need to identify each event. The following Special Events were identified: First Friday Art Walk, Mardi Gras, New Year's Eve, City Sponsored Parades, and upon special requests.

Doug Kerr, owner of Dragon Fly and Fly Bar, addressed the City Council regarding the Entertainment District. He commented the ABC has been targeting his business and others; and is passionate about the District. Mr. Kerr explained that he lost approximately \$560.00 when the ABC targeted his business and customers ran out without paying their bills.

The City Council's consensus for the times allowed for the Special Events was one hour before and one hour after the event.

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- Council President Burrell brought up Budget Discussions next on the agenda. Mayor Wilson said the numbers are skewed and handed out a revised spreadsheet. She mentioned working with Xavier Hartmann to help with the budget. Council President Burrell commented he and Councilmember Brown has met several times to work on the budget; and said the City Council can approve line items on separate agendas.

Mayor Wilson said she has made additional cuts; and the agenda was proposed back in September. Councilmember Conyers commented there are some items that are from the 2017 budget; like the Quick Attack Truck for the Fire Department. He also stated he would like to see the budget, if possible, adopted before the end of the year.

Councilmember Brown told Mayor Wilson he appreciated all of her work the last couple of weeks.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:59 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk