

STATE OF ALABAMA)
 :
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)

The City Council met in a Budget Meeting
at 3:00 p.m., Delchamps Room, 161 North Section Street,
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532, on
Monday, 22 September 2014.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell, Councilmembers: Rich Mueller, Diana Brewer, Michael A. Ford, and Kevin Boone, Mayor Timothy M. Kant, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks. City Attorney Marion E. Wynne was absent.

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The City Council reviewed amendments to ordinance regarding Sales Tax allocation and debt reduction. Medical changes regarding out of network versus in network; and the stop loss policy amount was changed to \$70,000.00. City Treasurer Nancy Wilson explained

Council President Burrell stated that the radio contract with Baldwin County has not been signed and will not be signed until negotiations are complete. Councilmember Brewer questioned whether or not any major items requested by Department Heads were not on the list. Mayor Kant replied garbage trucks and trucks from Public Works; and a pumper for the Fire Department.

The lights for the soccer fields were questioned and Mayor Kant responded that these would be paid from the capital upgrades from Sales Tax Reserve Account and Impact Fees for Recreation. Mayor Kant mentioned the proposed 2 percent cost of living and merit raises; and personnel requested (an a/c and building person and an engineer on retainer). He also stated that police officers would begin at the low end of the pay grade and only bumped up a small percentage after the first year.

Council President Burrell then went over the main changes to the budget and asked for questions from the other Councilmembers. More funds for sidewalks and budgeted amount for Fisherman's Wharf Maintenance were discussed. The Gas and Electric Funds had no major differences in them; and nothing out of the ordinary for the Waste Water Department. The Water Fund's main difference was debt services.

Capital Projects Fund was discussed next and Mayor Kant said there will be transfers from Impact Fees for tennis courts and lighting for the soccer fields; \$300,000.00 each. Mayor Kant also explained the need to rebid the splash pad at Fairhoper's Community Park.

Mayor Kant mentioned bidding out labor on the sidewalks and the City would purchase the material. He suggested using the Pedestrian Committee to come up with a master plan.

Council President Burrell brought up drainage improvements and the need to budget for these items; and gave the example of the Woodlands Project with our share being \$85,000.00. The fire station for the Fire Department was discussed and the land questioned as to being in the wrong place. Mayor Kant said Regency sold the land to the bank and it was not where the station was meant to be.

Community Development Budget was addressed next. Mayor Kant said that labor for the different departments in in their budget; then, it gets transferred into the Community Development Budget. The following items were brought up by the City Council: Sister Cities Committee needs \$5,000.00 for national conference and membership; Blue Print for Tomorrow is not being funded; Council President recommended funding Shop Local who requested \$1,500.00; and Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance was left off and need to add back \$10,000.00.

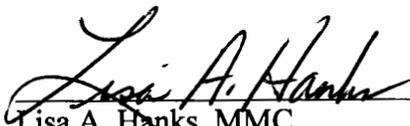
Council President Burrell brought up the Thomas Hospital requests for \$500,000.00 for the new birthing center; and said he was not in favor of giving \$100,000.00 per year, but was willing to contribute \$40,000.00 per year. Councilmember Ford replied we should support our leading industry and give the requested amount. Councilmember Brewer said the total project would be around \$9.0 million with Infirmary Health putting in around \$6.0 million. They are looking at our contribution as being a kick off for their project. Councilmember Boone commented we should help one of our industries; and the nursing schools are here that would then help those students. Councilmember Mueller questioned if not giving this would hurt our hospital and services to the community. Councilmember Brewer said that the number one thing that people look at in a community is "healthcare and education."

Mayor Kant said this is being a partnership with Thomas Hospital and it is our number one utility customer. He said seventy percent of the employees live in Fairhope. After further discussion, the consensus of the City Council was to approve \$50,000.00 per year for Thomas Hospital.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk