

STATE OF ALABAMA)(
:
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)(

The City Council met in a Work Session
at 4:30 p.m., Fairhope Municipal Complex Council Chamber,
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532,
on Monday, 26 August 2019.

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

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

The following topics were discussed:

- The Discussion the assessment of the Welcome Center was first on the agenda. Jessica Sawyer, Economic Development Director, addressed the City Council and introduced Ryan Baker with Walcott Adams Vurneulle Architects. Mr. Baker presented a Power Point Presentation and a handout for the findings of the assessment and made recommendations for repair as well as recommendations for best use of the property in a manner that would mesh with the Museum. Mayor Wilson was appreciative of the in depth assessment and recommendations. Councilmember Conyers made comment to the wide range of cost that was proposed. Council President Burrell believed the assessment was very thorough and definitely the baseline needs to be done. Councilmember Robinson and Coouncilman Boone questioned doing the baseline and then adding Phase I and Phase II at a later date.
- Next on the agenda was a discussion about a Historic Preservation Commission Ordinance. Jill Godard and Skip Jones addresssed the City Council in favor of creating a Historic Preservation Commission and the benefit the commission would provide the City. The ordinance Mr. Jones and Ms. Godard only establishes the Commission. The commission, once established would work with the City Council on what type of direction the City Council would like them to address. Ms. Godard mentioned additional funding that can come from a Historic Preservation Commission and Fairhope becoming a Certified Local Government. Mr. Jones and Ms. Godard answered questions asked by councilmembers. Erik Cortinas, Building Official went over requirements of bringing historical structures up to code as well as funding for refurbishments of historical structures. Councilmember Conyers complimented Ms. Godard for her hard work in revitalizing this commission. The proposed Ordinance came directly from the Alabama Historical Preservation Commission. Councilmember Brown stated he would like to see some type of incentivization for revitalizing historic structures.
- The third item on the agenda was Budget Discussions. Mayor Wilson gave a Power Point Presentation for the 2020 Budget Overview. Mayor Wilson commended Jill Cabaniss, Finance Director and Kim Creech, Treasurer on their hard work in providing a balanced budget. She stated that the City is no

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longer dependent on the utilities for city operations; the Utility profits are actually being shown in the Utility funds. The budget entry and requests have been completed within our software system to allow for easier management of funds and less errors. She stated that the Police Jurisdiction is not sustainable but a municipal gas tax could help off-set its cost. She would like to see the City move a paid Fire Department. Council President did not think a city operated fire department would sustainable. Mayor Wilson mentioned the growth of the City has not been mirrored by growth in employees. Mayor Wilson would like to have additional open meetings to review the budget in the the next month so the budget can be approved by October 1st. Councilmember Conyers suggested either a couple of long meetings or a bunch of short ones to accomplish this. Council President stated shorter meetings would work best.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


Jack Burrell, Council President


Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk