

Councilmember Robinson said this is a no win situation for all; and we cannot wait until the last moment. He commented this will have an economic impact on the City; but we want the health and safety for Community. He said the snowball has begun across the Country.

Councilmember Conyers stated that in the past 36 hours his decision has changed. We will have 100,000 to 200,000 people in our City. Councilmember Conyers said he has witnessed the Foundation working on this event firsthand. He commented if we delay, it will probably be worse; and if an outbreak occurs, the event will be blamed for it. He said the merchants will suffer from this.

Councilmember Brown commented one vendor has had a concern and one vendor quarantined in Italy. He said let the merchants and vendors decide; and families can decide whether to come or not.

Judge Floyd said they have hand sanitizers and handwashing stations to be proactive to ward off issues.

Councilmember Boone stated this is one of my favorite events and it would be irresponsible not to cancel.

Council President Burrell said he has anguished over this and woke up in favor of allowing it. He several events have shut down; and this is a difficult decision to make; especially if this is their livelihood. He said the risk factor is unknown; and we don't put money ahead of citizens health; and we should err on side of caution.

Councilmember Boone said if someone gets sick and dies; it would be horrible.

City Attorney McDowell commented the City, nor the Foundation would be in breach of the Memorandum of Understanding if this event is cancelled. Councilmember Robinson said there are concessions for both sides: Foundation is in charge of the Festival and the City owns the streets.

Judge Floyd stated the Foundation is 100 percent in agreement with the City and this would not be a breach. The Foundation will do whatever is needed for the safety of the City and its citizens.

Council President Burrell said this will cause a domino effect in the County and in the City. Councilmember Robinson said it is how many come here for the Festival is the biggest concern. Judge Floyd said all closed events have been cancelled and bigger crowds are a concern too.

Councilmember Conyers suggested a longer term Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Foundation. Mayor Wilson said that Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama State Health Officer, is suggesting cancelling events with 500 or more.

Council President Burrell took a poll for cancelling the City of Fairhope 68th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival: AYES – Robinson (or postpone), Boone, Conyers, and Burrell (or postpone). NAY – Brown.

Council President Burrell asked City Attorney McDowell if the Foundation needed Council action or not. City Attorney McDowell replied just notification.

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- Special Projects Manager Lynn Maser, Golf Pro Jeff Marks, and Recreation Director Pat White addressed the City Council regarding the Golf Course Presentation. (See attached Power Point Presentation). This would be a Par 3 Course with multiple uses; such as parties, groups, night golf, summer golf camp, and potential new players for golf. Ms. Maser said the land that would be used was for a nine hole golf course. Councilmember Conyers stated you are being optimistic in revenues.

Councilmember Brown commented we have other sports growing and need funds. He said a Par 3 is small for area. Mr. White stated the attraction for Top Golf is playing at night and the atmosphere. Councilmember Conyers said he liked the concept.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk