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 Thursday, 12 March 2020.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell, Councilmembers: Jay Robinson, Jimmy Conyers, Robert Brown, and Kevin Boone (arrived at 4:54 p.m.), Mayor Karin Wilson, City Attorney Marcus E. McDowell, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks.

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

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The following topics were discussed:

• The Discussion of Coronavirus and City Events was first on the agenda. Mayor Wilson stated that there is going to be a press conference at 5:00 p.m. for the State's protocol. She said that the Arts and Crafts Festival is the second largest event for her business; and this is a tough decision to make. Mayor Wilson recommended that the City cancel the festival or postpone it until a future date.

Judge Lang Floyd addressed the City Council on behalf of the Arts and Crafts Festival Foundation and said they would like to find a common ground. He commented that large Cities, hospitals, and nursing homes have the most cases. He said if we cancel the festival it would be disheartening for the Foundation; and have an economic impact in the County. Judge Floyd said this is the first event this year for Baldwin County and could be a domino effect for others. He stated this is during Spring Break and will affect local merchants and food trucks; however, the health and safety of our citizens is our number one concern.

Judge Floyd said that postponing is not logistical due to artists traveling from location to location. He commented weather is another issue; so, we cancel for the year and not reschedule. Judge Floyd said we are making decisions with limited information. He stated the Foundation wants to work with the City as a partner.

Jenni Guerry with Baldwin County EMA addressed the City Council and said their role is to help put the word out for preventative measures to Community. She said we help with planning efforts and are the coordination piece.

Ms. White addressed the City Council and said she has been a downtown merchant for 20 years; and all are educated and know to wash their hands. She said the economic impact for merchants and her business is huge.

Bryant Whelan, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore Arts Center, addressed the City Council and said there will be an economic impact. She said this is the largest fundraiser we have and part of our budget; and we need it to keep our lights on.

Council President Burrell commented the City Council cannot cancel the festival because we have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation, so we need to mutually agree upon a decision with them.

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 Convers 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 be 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