

STATE OF ALABAMA)(
 :
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)(

The City Council met in a Work Session
at 5:00 p.m., Fairhope Municipal Complex Council Chamber,
161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532,
on Monday, 23 March 2020.

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

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The Discussion of Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for April 6, 2020 was first on the agenda. Planning and Zoning Manager Hunter Simmons addressed the City Council and said the Open Meetings Act amendment by Governor Ivey does not address Public Hearings. He recommended for the City Council to cancel because we cannot hold meeting and not allow public to speak. Mr. Simmons said there is also a Work Session scheduled at 4:00 p.m. regarding family subdivision. He commented we may have to hold a Special Meeting to catch up.
- Operations Director Michael Allison addressed the City Council regarding Tree Trimming and Lineman Jobs. Mayor Wilson announced she would be giving her Mayor’s Report after the Council meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Allison told the City Council that the bid for the Tree Trimming came in high, so there are several options the City could do: (1) rebid and separate departments; (2) use our Electric crews; or (3) hire a Tree Trimming Crew. Mr. Allison said the cost for a Tree Trimming Crew would be around \$235,000.00 to \$236,000.00; and the budgeted amount was \$275,000.00 for Burford to trim. He said the crew would have a Crew Leader and two Equipment Operators and would be available to help other departments when needed.

Mr. Allison commented that the City has 62 miles to be trimmed which is not large enough for larger vendors to bid, so we ended up with a bid over a million dollars. The consensus of the City Council was to go forward with his proposal and bring back to them.

Mr. Allison and City Clerk Lisa Hanks briefly explained Agenda Number 8: a Resolution to rescind Resolution No. 3654-20 and award Bid No. 015-20 for Consecutive Replacement of Wells #1 and #8 for the Water Department to Griner Drilling Services, Inc. with a total bid proposal of \$159,960.00 for both Wells; and due to budget amounts the Water and Sewer Superintendent is requesting to use budget from “Three Million Gallon Tank-Outside Cleaning and Painting Repair (\$100,000.00).

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Council President Burrell commented we may have to cut Work Sessions. He said we do not know where we will be in two weeks.

- Mayor Wilson addressed the City Council with Discussion of Pandemic Measures taken by the City of Fairhope; and commented she is fine with not having a Work Session.

Council President Burrell said we should cut Sales Tax Projections in half; and then look at what we may have to cut from the budget. He commented that items already approved cannot be cut. Mayor Wilson said we need to postpone until further notice. Council President Burrell said you cannot unilaterally stop an item. He said the Council decides on expenditures.

The City Council discussed what measures needed to be taken for parks, beaches, the pier, etc. "What will be allowed and what will not be allowed." Council President Burrell said he heard a rumor we were closing Pier Street boat ramp.

Councilmember Robinson said to block parking and pier based on what Governor stated last week. He said playgrounds are not safe because we cannot disinfect. People are being left inside and should be able to play ball but disallow organized activities. He said walking trails should be left open.

Mayor Wilson commented it is virtually impossible to monitor parks and we need to keep citizens safe.

Councilmember Conyers said we need to close down pier, parks and playgrounds. Pedestrian friendly areas need to be left open. He said open air okay to foot traffic and maintain social distances.

Councilmember Brown said he agreed with Councilmember Robinson. He said we cannot tell someone what they should do. Councilmember Brown stated the boat ramp closure is going too far.

Councilmember Boone commented closing to traffic is okay, but open to foot traffic using social distancing from each other. He said when you are the only beach in town, please will come.

The consensus of the City Council was to leave boat ramp open; close all parks with playgrounds; blockade road to the Pier and the Pier; and leave open walking trails.

Councilmember Brown said he wanted to leave open parks and let people decide for themselves. Chief Hollinghead commented Saturday was okay, but Sunday was busy. Chief Hollinghead said her fear is there would be more foot traffic in the North Beach area; and we have one officer who monitors the barricade. Councilmember Robinson commented we need to shut down the entire area. Councilmember Boone said we are trying to keep the Community safe and this is a work in progress.

Council President Burrell commented we have run out of time and need to begin the City Council meeting. He said the City Council could discuss this more under "Council Comments."

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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