

The City Council, City of Fairhope, met in special emergency session at 8:00 a.m. via Teleconference for COVID-19 related Items, 161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532, on Thursday, 30 April 2020.

Council President Burrell announced that the Special Emergency Meeting was called to discuss the reopening City Facilities and Parks pursuant to COVID-19 social distancing orders. He told the City Council they either adopt all of the proposed plan or part of it. Council President Burrell stated he was okay with the recommendations for City Hall, Drive up Window, Public Works, Recycling Center, Nix Center, Recreation Center, Museum of History, Pool, Parks, Ball fields, and Tennis. The City Council agreed with him.

Council President stated Quail Creek Golf Course will open pursuant to the Resolution adopted on April 27, 2020 which states the golf course will open at 7:00 a.m. to members and public; and commented carts were also approved subject to social distancing protocols and gathering limitations. He said North Beach and Pier should open on Saturday, May 2, 2020 for the public compliant with State Orders. The consensus of the City Council was to open with the playground equipment to be fenced. They chose not to charge an entrance fee to non-residents because of retail stores opening and to encourage support for those stores.

Council President Burrell asked the Council about City Parks, specifically Fairhoper's Community Park. The consensus was to open City Parks with the exception of Fels Toddler Park. The parks will open with a proper plan in place subject to preventing the use of playground equipment.

Councilmember Boone introduced in writing, and moved for the adoption of the following resolution, a resolution that the following actions shall be taken pursuant to the revised Orders of Governor Ivey and adopts the Mayor's recommendations along with the following changes. On May 2, 2020, the following Public facilities shall be opened: Fairhope Municipal Pier, North Beach shall be opened to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at no charge, Fairhope Dog Park, Fairhope Welcome Center, City Parks with the exception of Fels Toddler Park, and Baseball fields. Playground equipment shall be fenced off until further notice. Quail Creek shall open pursuant to Council Resolution adopted on April 27, 2020. All activities shall comply with standing state social distancing protocols and gathering limitations. On May 4, 2020, the following public facilities and services shall be opened: Public works recycling services shall resume, Fairhope landfill shall resume operations, Mike Ford Tennis Center, and City Hall drive up window open for cash payments. Contingent on further Orders of the Governor, the following shall open on May 18, 2020: City Hall, Public Works Lobby, Fairhope Recreation Center, James P. Nix Center, and Fairhope Museum of History. Seconded by Councilmember Robinson, motion passed by the following voice votes: AYE – Burrell, Robinson, Conyers, Brown, and Boone. NAY – None.

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Councilmember Brown commented he was approached by a citizen who has a senior and asked if the seniors could have a parade since they have missed out on so many things during this COVID-19 Pandemic. He said she is requesting a vehicle parade on May 18, 2020 beginning in Volanta Park, drive down Greeno Road to Fairhope High School with a police escort.

Councilmember Brown introduced in writing, and moved for the adoption of the following resolution, a resolution that the Mayor is hereby authorized to provide funding for the Police Department to conduct escort and other services related to a graduation parade to be held on May 18, 2020 subject to compliance of State COVID-19 Orders that may be in place at that time. The parade organizers and Police Department shall coordinate on an appropriate route and time for the event. Seconded by Councilmember Boone, motion passed by the following voice votes: AYE – Burrell, Robinson, Conyers, Brown, and Boone. NAY – None.

Councilmember Brown said he was disappointed by the Governor not opening up restaurants; and suggested the Council to write a letter urging her to accept the Task Force's recommendations.

Councilmember Council introduced in writing, and moved for the adoption of the following resolution, a resolution that the City Council urges Governor Kay Ivey to adopt the reopening recommendations and proposals set forth in the report by Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth and the Alabama Small Business Commission's Emergency Task Force. The Council further authorizes Council President to submit a formal letter to Governor Ivey regarding this resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Boone. Councilmember Robinson commented he was not comfortable with not seeing all of the recommendations. After further discussion, motion passed by the following voice votes: AYE – Burrell, Conyers, Brown, and Boone. NAY – Robinson.

Councilmember Conyers told the City Council that the Library has a phased plan to reopen; and he briefly explained. He requested for the City Council to approve their plan since the building is owned by the City.

Councilmember Conyers move to adopt and approve the Fairhope Public Library's separate plan to open on the dates adopted in said plan. Seconded by Councilmember Robinson, motion passed by the following voice votes: AYE – Burrell, Robinson, Brown, and Boone. NAY – None.

Councilmember Boone moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Brown, motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:52 a.m.