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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, 28 May 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 4:30 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

• The Discussion of Outside Dining by Community Affairs Director Jessica Walker was first on the agenda. Ms. Walker addressed the City Council and presented the Power Point Presentation titled "Fairhope Open for Business." Ms. Walker said The Economic and Community Development Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department met last week to come up with a plan we could all agree on that would meet the dining outdoors desire and also meet the Mayor's desire to project a festive image that would make people want to come – and stay – downtown, not only for meals but also to shop.

There was a concern with dining spaces in parking spots due to the safety issues that mixing pedestrian and vehicular traffic cause. We could not resolve that public safety threat to a level that all departments were comfortable with.

During the time that COVID-19 shut down our City, we were in the middle of the "Fairhope is Open for Business" campaign which was designed to get people out and shopping and eating downtown during the filming of the "Map of Tiny Perfect Things."

That is a message we think resonates now more than then. Fairhope IS open for business, and we want to revive that campaign to get people downtown to help infuse life once again in our beautiful City.

We want to foster the spirit of community and give people something to celebrate even as they practice social distancing.

As part of this campaign, you will see picnic tables, tents, patio umbrellas, and flags go up in public spaces throughout town. We are working to create a festive atmosphere that will encourage people to have spaces to take breaks, to get takeout from their favorite restaurants and eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner before visiting our shops, museum, galleries and more.

The cost to produce this is under \$10,000 with the majority of the purchases able to be re-used in park spaces, Farmers Market, and future special events.

We would like you to consider allowing each restaurant in the CBD one dedicated parking space to be used strictly for take-out orders. These spaces will be marked as such and will be up to the restaurants to monitor for proper usage.

We know a rising tide lifts all boats and giving people the option of dining outdoors keeps them in our central business district, ready to experience everything Fairhope has to offer. (See attached Power Point Presentation)

The consensus of the City Council was to go forward and add a resolution on the City Council agenda for tonight.

- The Discussion of Fourth of July Event was also presented by Ms. Walker and she explained the issues the City may have if we go forward with event. Councilmembers Robinson and Conyers both said we may not be able to have fireworks, could mark off for groups, and take the wait and see approach for Governor's Orders. Councilmember Brown and Boone said we should have the fireworks, celebrate our Nations Birthday, and use social distancing protocols. Councilmember Brown also stated they are drafting legislation that Cities are not liable for COVID-19. Council President Burrell commented to keep planning the event, submit application, and wait and see what the Governor's Orders will be.
- The Discussion of the Playground Equipment was next of the agenda. The consensus of the City Council was to reopen the playgrounds; and to have a resolution drafted to add to the City Council agenda tonight. Public Works Director Richard Johnson commented we will use pump sprayers with disinfectant on all equipment on a regular basis; and said this will not be a burden for his department.
- Mayor Wilson presented the Budget Review for the past seven months, October 1, 2010 through April 30, 2020. (See attached Power Point Presentation)
- Council President Burrell gave an update for the Airport Authority regarding hangars on the East Side.
- Councilmember Boone requested an update on the substation work. Operations Manager Michael Allison replied we are on track and there may be a push back on the Morphy site.
- Community Affairs Director Jessica Walker addressed the City Council and stated she just received a response from the Alabama Department of Public Health who said social distancing would be an issue during the Fourth of July Event. She said they suggested marking viewing spots and enforce social distancing.
- Public Works Director Richard Johnson addressed the City Council regarding the following projects: (1) ATRIP II Grant and possible amendment to the scope of work for widening road with turn lane; (2) Metropolitan Planning Organization and Gayfer Avenue; and (3) Landfill Renewal Permit will now be a 10 year permit. The Geese Issue was questioned by Councilmember Brown. Mr. Johnson replied the Wildlife Solution services should be on the next agenda. The donated anchor and placement were also questioned by Councilmember Brown. Mr. Johnson replied it would be handled.

- Water and Sewer Superintendent Jay Whitman addressed the City Council and commented we are now at 90 percent capacity with water; and next week should be at 100 percent capacity. He said that Section Street is now passable; and will be paved in the near future and then be at 100 percent complete. Mr. Whitman thanked the City Council and Mayor for their help with the water issue.
- Recreation Director Pat White addressed the City Council regarding graduation on June 2, 2020 at the stadium; and said it would be livestreamed on Pirate Nation. Mr. White said during down time, they took advantage to add parking at the Tennis Center and landscaping.
- Finance Director Jill Cabaniss addressed the City Council and commented the budget process has begun for the next fiscal year.
- Special Projects Manager Lynn Maser addressed the City Council regarding the Quail Creek Golf Course: clubhouse renovations and golf carts in and ready. Council President Burrell questioned the old golf carts and if someone could purchase. City Clerk Lisa Hanks replied that these must be done via sealed bids. Public Works Director Richard Johnson said we could sell as one or groups of five; and we could host a sealed bid auction and sell to the highest bidder.

Ms. Maser gave an update on the Fairhope Docks: bulkhead complete, hangout good, kitchen items have been delayed, electrical work still going on, and fuel sales are phenomenal. Council President Burrell commented the marina is booming and fuel sales are off the chart. He brought up an ice machine that is used and the City could sell bulk ice; and now is an excellent time to invest for one. He said it would pay for itself. Councilmember Brown asked about the cover over pumps.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Jack Burrell Council President

City Clerk