

STATE OF ALABAMA) (
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COUNTY OF BALDWIN) (
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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 Monday, 24 August 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 4:34 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The first item on the Agenda was the Discussion of the Trees in Downtown Fairhope. Public Works Director Richard Johnson explained the reason for the size of the trees purchased. He mentioned the water and electrical lines hit at Fairhope and Morphy while extracting a tree. Mr. Johnson explained the four options; and said that option #4 would require bidding out the project. He said the biggest problem trees are beginning to sprout.

Council President Burrell said Councilmember Boone questioned the height; and how far are these trees not from the root ball? Mr. Johnson replied with an explanation for the height and commented this is a great specimen. The City Council questioned leaving some of the trees until others mature; replacing problematic trees and 24 smaller trees; and life span of the Chinese Pistache. Mr. Johnson explained heritage trees and preservation; and also mentioned a nursery found by Patrick Waldrop, member of the Tree Committee, in Mobile that has trees in ground and will be ready for January. He commented we could leave Fairhope Avenue to Morphy Avenue intact; and replace all trees from Fairhope Avenue to Magnolia Avenue.

Councilmember Robinson asked Mr. Waldrop about these trees. Mr. Waldrop stated that August is the worse time to plant; and we need optimal root zone for trees. Mr. Waldrop said these trees have at least a 50 year life span; and once at 25 feet the City will not have to worry to replant for 30 to 40 years. Mr. Johnson said there is a 30 foot span at the top.

Councilmember Brown asked where you would place the rest of the trees. Mr. Johnson suggested the property line at County Road 32 and County Road 13 and Pier Island boat ramp. He said there are plenty of options. Councilmember Boone questioned the diameter of the trees; and said, “why when these came in were these trees unloaded and planted.” Mr. Johnson replied lesson learned; and we will make sure the trees have a 2-1/2 caliper. The consensus of the City Council was to remove the 24 smaller trees; and replace with a tree at least 12 feet in height.

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Mr. Johnson stated the following: (a) South of Johnson Avenue remain as is; (2) Fairhope Avenue and Magnolia Avenue replace all trees with true "Giants" with a 12 foot minimum; and (c) the four problematic trees will be replaced in January or February.

- Councilmember Conyers commented that the Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board would like to be on the next Work Session regarding the Dyas Triangle and its By-Laws.
- Council President Burrell said the Fairhope Airport Authority will put in 20 to 24 T-Hangars; and there will be a private hangar on the East Side with a Ground Lease. He commented we are trying to get the Airport off the City for appropriation.
- Operations Director Mike Allison addressed the City Council and commented both contracts for the Gas Department are in the works. He said the engineer for the Restore Act Funds for the Sewer Upgrade Project should be on the next City Council agenda. Mr. Allison mentioned the Water & Sewer Superintendent has been hired.

Council President Burrell questioned how we got behind for 3 years. Mr. Allison commented it was a personnel issue and that has been corrected. He said to catch up we needed the contract labor and help with the cathodic issues.

- Planning and Zoning Manager Hunter Simmons addressed the City Council regarding the request from Charlene Lee for signs for the Walking School Bus. He said we would have to have permission for the signs: Coastal Community College and the Homestead Village entrance. Councilmember Brown stated he was not in favor and mentioned sponsors on the signs; and we do not want to open the door for others.
- Lieutenant John Hamrick addressed the City Council and said there were two items on the City Council agenda tonight: ABC license and the window for the Police Station lobby.
- Public Works Director Richard Johnson addressed the City Council regarding the golf carts sold on GovDeals with an average price of \$3,225.33. (See attached handout) "Clock Corner" and the schedule for removing the tanks. He commented the ADEM permit has been obtained and they should begin work on the evening of August 3, 2020 through Wednesday evening.
- Human Resource Manager Sherice Rada addressed the City Council and explained the reason for the Ordinance for part-time employees to work 29 hours or less instead of 19 hours or less. She said the current ordinance puts a hardship on some departments; and it will be a good recruiting tool.

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There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Jack Burrell, Council President



Lisa A. Hanks, MMC
City Clerk