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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, 22 February 2021.

Present were Council President Jack Burrell (arrived at 4:34 p.m.), Councilmembers: Corey Martin, Jimmy Conyers, Robert Brown, and Kevin Boone, Mayor Sherry Sullivan, City Attorney Marcus E. McDowell, and City Clerk Lisa A. Hanks.

Council President Burrell called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- The first item on the Agenda was the Discussion for the FY 2021 Recreational Trails Program Grant. Mayor Sullivan said that Councilmembers Martin and Brown; and City Staff have met with group for discussions. Council President Burrell said we need to decide on conservation easement or park (dedicating as parklands); and said he was in favor going after the grant and for this land to be parklands in perpetuity. Councilmember Martin agreed with Council President Burrell; and said he was good to move forward with grant. Councilmember Conyers asked how specific we needed to be for grant. Public Works Director Richard Johnson stated the grant is for a 1.5 mile multiuse train on outside perimeter and leaves interior open. He said access would be on Veterans Drive; trailhead with parking; and sidewalk to continue to Eastern Shore Trail. Mayor Sullivan commented this is the first step using this land. Councilmember Boone questioned the 27 percent and not 20 percent for matching funds. Mr. Johnson replied if we keep engineering to 10 percent, it will hold our match at \$100,000.00.
- Council President Burrell brought up the discussion for Airport Authority Items; and mentioned the bond refinancing with only a 1.14% interest which would enable paying off note quicker. He discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to go after grants and manage the airport as well as write grants and other duties. Councilmember Martin said this is URG Consulting with 20 years' experience who would seek grants and possibly become manager. Council President Burrell said this would be a \$21,000.00 investment for 6 months; and if this works, it would help the airport become self-sufficient. Councilmember Martin mentioned a Command Center at the airport. Council President Burrell and Councilmember Martin as about the Cares Act funds that the airport sought; and asked City Treasurer Kim Creech to research. The consensus of the City Council was to put this on the March 8, 2021 agenda.
- Councilmember Martin mentioned the Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board appointments on the agenda; and gave an update for the Recreation Board.

- Councilmember Conyers commented that the Library Board asked him to reach out to the City Council regarding a 2 percent increase for their employees. He said they wanted the appropriation increased to pay this 2 percent increase. Council President Burrell questioned benefits; and Ms. Creech said they are a separate component; and they have another account with a sizeable amount in it. Council President Burrell said if they have a sizeable amount in another account, the 2 percent could come out of that. He said once you increase the appropriation, it remains permanent. Mayor Sullivan commented during COVID-19 they could have saved since they were not open; and could possibly use that savings. Council President Burrell said that our revenues were cut by 9 to 10 percent.
- Councilmember Boone said that the Harbor Board was looking for one more member.
- Mayor Sullivan introduced Traveis Cunningham, the City's new Human Resources Manager, to the City Council.
- Director of Community Affairs Paige Crawford addressed the City Council and gave an Arbor Day update.
- Public Works Director Richard Johnson addressed the City Council and explained the status of the following Projects: Road paving, Church Street, Twin Beech Road, Gayfer Road turn signals, Twin Beech turn signals, and Arts Alley. Mr. Johnson said he had a grievance with the movie "Map of Tiny Perfect Things" due to the Public Works Departments' equipment used was shown for only 3 seconds.

Councilmember Boone questioned the crosswalk lights. Mr. Johnson said the lights will be upgraded to a better system; and are scheduled to be looked at and repaired soon.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Jack Burrell, Council President

Lisa A Hanks, MMC

City Clerk