

Minutes of Fairhope Airport Authority
October 12, 2021

The Fairhope Airport Authority met October 12, 2021, at 5:00PM in the City Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Don Lagarde, Chairman, Jack Burrell, Pel Henry, Vince Boothe, Chip Groner, Will Bruce and Amy Pearson. Also present was Josh Myrick, Attorney. Cynthia A Boothe took the minutes.

The Minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Pel Henry, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

Continental Aerospace Report: Nick VanHouten reported that traffic is up at the Airport as well as fuel sales. He also stated that the Net Jet Fundraiser was cancelled. Don Lagarde stated that he, Chip Groner and Mayor Sherry Sullivan met with Continental Officials about the Airports relations with Continental and the upcoming 2% surcharge. Don then gave Nick a copy of the letter that Continental's Attorney, Stephen Ginger, wrote to the Authority in response to the letter of lease deficiencies sent to Continental by the Authority stating that Continental could be prepared to leave the Airport by June 30, 2022. He also gave Nick a copy of the letter that Josh Myrick wrote in response to Mr Ginger's letter stating that the Airport Authority accepted their proposed leave date. He asked Nick to give Ms Karen Hong, interim CEO for Continental, the copies of these letters in case she was not aware of the details of the correspondence. Josh Myrick stated that the original letter to cure deficiencies was addressed to the President of Continental Aerospace and in Mr Ginger's letter he specifically states that Continental referred this issue to him for response. Josh stated that Mr Ginger's representation created the impression that Mr Ginger was expressly delegated with the authority on behalf of Continental to extend the offer in his letter.

Airport Operations: Chip Groner reported that all the runway lights are working except the north end taxiway lights and one papi light. Kyle is fixing the papi light and Moody's will be fixing the north end taxiway lights.

Sliding Gate Report: Pel Henry reported that the contractor was getting everything ready to start the project and needs the engineer to set the location for the posts.

Engineer's Report: Jordan Stringfellow stated that there is still a little discussion to be done for the power supply but the location for the posts will be at the north end of the apron. Hank Eubanks stated that after the Authority approved the new design for the Terminal Building and site plan, he reached out to GMC for pricing of the changes to be made to the Terminal Building and they came back with a cost of \$19,950.00. The cost for Volkert to make the changes to the site layout and infrastructure changes the cost will be \$8,461.00. After a group discussion a motion was made by Jack Burrell to approve the expenses of \$19,950.00 to GMC for building modifications and \$8,461.00 to Volkert for site layout and infrastructure changes, second by Pel Henry and unanimously passed.

Hank stated that the Authority's intention to build T-hangars had been put on hold and he was wanting to know if the Authority was still wanting to keep that on hold. After a group discussion it was decided to keep the building of T-hangars on hold for now due to the high cost of construction.

Hank reported that the Preapplication for the \$150,000.00 grant for 2022 has been submitted and the Mayor has approved it. He stated that they should receive a go letter by the end of the year.

Hank said that he has gotten several calls from private individuals about wanting copies the East Side layout plan. He is reluctant to do so as the layout has changed several times and has not been finalized to date. After a group discussion it was decided that Jack Burrell, Chip Groner and Don Lagarde would form a committee to finalize a layout plan for the East Side.

Treasurer's Report: Amy Pearson went over the revisions that were made to the proposed budget presented last month. After a short discussion a motion was made by Vince Boothe to approve the revised budget, second by Chip Groner and unanimously passed. Amy then went over the budget preliminary figures for the next four years.

Legal Report: Josh Myrick reported that a letter notifying the operators at the Airport that the 2% surcharge has taken effect had not gone out yet and feels the start date should be changed to give the operators sufficient time to plan for the charge. After a group discussion, a motion was made by Jack Burrell to waive the fees for October 2021 and November 2021 and to start the surcharge beginning December 1, 2021, second by Pel Henry. Don Lagarde, Pel Henry, Jack Burrell, Chip Groner, Will Bruce and Amy Pearson all voted 'Aye', Vince Boothe abstained.

Josh introduced Diana Rollins who works for Walt Bolton about wanting a ground lease to build a hangar. Ms Rollins stated that she works for B&B Group, LLC which is owned by Walt Bolton and stated that a request has been made to Josh Myrick and Don Lagarde for two different lease spaces for Mr Bolton and would like to move forward with the leases as soon as possible. Don Lagarde stated that the committee to finalize a final layout plan would meet as soon as possible and then the revisions would be made by Hank Eubanks before the Authority will have a corrected layout showing available lots.

Discussion of ACA Convention: Russ Kilgore of the Airport Authority Advisory Committee gave a brief overview of the upcoming convention and encouraged the Authority members to attend.

Other Business: Chip Groner stated that during the meeting he and Don had with Ms Hong that Continental is resistant to paying the 2% surcharge stating that they cannot afford it. Jack Burrell stated that the surcharge is a pass along charge to customers and that the Airport Authority should stand behind their decision to implement the surcharge. Don commented that there are two planes parked and tied down on the East Side for the last several months without paying tiedown rent. Jack made a motion for Don to work with Josh to help find a remedy for the situation, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

There being no further business a motion was made by Vince Boothe to adjourn, second by Pel Henry and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Don Lagarde, Chairman

Submitted By: Cynthia A Boothe

