



City of Foley, AL

407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Monday, December 16, 2013

4:00 PM

Conference Room

Work Session

Call to Order

Council President Wayne Trawick called work session to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Others present: City Administrator Mike Thompson, Vickey Southern, Katy Taylor, LaDonna Hinesley, Suzanne Kellams, Miriam Boutwell, Rachel Keith, Steven Smith, Joey Darby, Jeff Rouzie, Sue Steigerwald, Butch Stokes, Britton Bonner, Marc D. Anderson, Jody Morgan, Maggie Boudreaux, Micah Jones, Andrew James, Mark Welytok and Cathy Higgins (The Onlooker).

Present: 5 - President Wayne Trawick, Council Member Vera Quaites, Council Member Ralph Hellmich, Council Member Rick Blackwell and Council Member Charles Ebert III

Discussion Items

13-1213 Discussion of Forestry Workshop and potential Graham Creek Nature Preserve Demonstration Forest and Research Facility

Attachments: [Graham Creek Nature Preserve Demonstration Forest and Research Facility](#)
[Workshop Project Template and Criteria](#)

Leslie Gahagan reported the overall goal of the Graham Creek Nature Preserve Demonstration Forest and Research Facility is the habitat management for watershed health and resiliency in a coastal Alabama forested watershed as well as the public education of data collected from research efforts. This project is part of the Restore Act and an Endowment for Forestry Projects. It would include a partnership with the Alabama Forestry Commission, Auburn University, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch, and Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. The City of Foley and Auburn University would impliment the project, which would take five years to complete with an anticipated cost of \$1.6 million. The initial cost is \$935,000 and the City's match for the initial year would be \$145,000. The funds are already in the budget for a prescribed burn, and the eradication and control of invasive species within the Preserve. These are two of the five goals of the program. The remaining goals are: forest restoration, the assessment of water resources in forested areas, and education through forest and training facility located at the Preserve. The funds for each of the programs are broken down in the attached documents and include construction of a Demonstration Forest Educational Training Facility that will consist of two classrooms, three offices, an auditorium, interpretive area, laboratory and small dorm facility for students. Matches consist of inkind salaries, using monitoring equipment, and cash. This project will be the only community that has such a project if approved. There will be another submittal of the project to be included in the Alabama Forestry's project and it could change. They will be attending a workshop and will bring more information back to the Council.

13-1217 Planning Commission Recommendations Of Public Projects

Attachments: [PUBLIC PROJECTS](#)

The Council reviewed the projects and accepted the recommendations for moving forward.

13-1219 Review the pedestrian bridge design proposals

Attachments: [Bridge SCHEMATICS.pdf](#)

Council President Wayne Trawick turned the meeting over to Vice President Ralph Hellmich. City Administrator Mike Thompson handed out schematics from various architects to review in hopes that at the January 6th Council meeting they will hire one of the firms to design the foot bridge. In reviewing the schematics they can determine which firm is thinking along the same lines as the City Council in obtaining their goals. The final design and location of the bridge will come after the firm has been chosen and finalized. Mr. Andrew James, Volkert, reported they gave them a set of criteria that included a \$1 million budget for the total package with \$500,000 in the structure and the remainder for aesthetics. There was no action required today and the meeting was turned back over to Council President Trawick.

13-1224 Discuss The Designation of Council Members As Liaisons To Various City Boards.

Attachments: [Council serving on Boards 11-18-2013 \(2\)](#)

City Administrator Mike Thompson pointed out that there are various Council members serving on various boards as liaisons, and now is the time to discuss options if they want to swap out. The Chamber is also requesting a representative to serve on their Board. Currently Rick Blackwell is a Council representative with the Chamber. After a brief discussion Council's consensus was to leave things status quo.

Discuss Council Meeting Agenda for December 16, 2013

In reviewing the Council Agenda the following items were noted:

13-1204 A Resolution approving use of Caboose Club Donations for the Foley Train Show - SWARM has been holding their shows in Daphne but now they have no where to go. They want to use the Foley Civic Center in hopes that it may grow over time. The Caboose Club wants to use \$2,000 of the funds they have collected for expenses and the expenses will be reimbursed through \$2 admission and should net \$700. They anticipate a broader audience at the show. Bonnie Donaldson, LaDonna Hinesley and Pam Harris are working on this project. This item remained on the agenda for a not to exceed amount of \$2,000.

13-1210 Addressing Ordinance - City Attorney Casey Pipes has reviewed this ordinance. City Planner Miriam Boutwell reported they coordinate with E-911 and did not have an Standard Operating Procedure on addressing. This ordinance does not change any steps that they do now but just puts what they are doing in writing as a formal SOP. When they polled other cities they found most cities do not have anything in writing. This item remained on the Council agenda.

13-1212 Foley Dog Park and Overflow Parking for Downtown Foley - This request to initiate construction of the project will include 85 parking spaces with the capability of adding additional spaces. The Capital Project amount requested is \$290,500. The Capital Project Plan included \$138,000 for the Dog Park and \$152,500 for the Rose Trail, which makes up the total amount requested. They would like the parking done prior to the Rose Trail Parking being reduced. They also want up to \$11,700 to be designated for hiring WAS Designs as architect for the project. This item remained on the agenda.

13-1214 - Street Light Account Transfer - This item remained on the agenda. Councilman Hellmich reported he was approached by Riviera Utilities regarding putting up a street light at the intersection of County Road 20 and Hickory Street because it was so dark at this intersection. They will provide the materials and installation. There was a consensus to proceed. There was also a brief discussion regarding the light at the north side of the Library. Mr. Thompson reported Mrs. Pam Harris is working on the getting this repaired.

13-1218 A resolution approving request to hold a Soup-Off Competition Fundraiser at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market. The letter stated February 8, 2013 instead of February 8, 2014. This item remained on the Council agenda for the February 8, 2014 approval date.

13-1220 Underwood Property Survey - This resolution would approve hiring Hutchinson, Moore and Rauch to survey Rita Watt's approximately ten acres and divide it into two parcels so that the City can purchase the northernmost parcel adjacent to the Foley Sports Complex as agreed. The closing is tentatively set for Friday morning. This item remained on the Council agenda.

13-1223 Interior remodel to Fire Station #1 Office Area - Chief Darby reported there is a need to add additional office space, which is budgeted in the amount of \$5,000 that includes the purchase of equipment. They will do the work themselves. This item remained on the Council agenda.

When asked about the "Safe Room" Chief Darby reported they have a pre-bid meeting set for January 8th and a bid opening set up for January 28th. They've also met with the architect prior to Thanksgiving on the new fire station at Glen Lakes and they should be able to go to bid the first of January.

13-1225 Amend PSP to create the Executive Director, COF Multi-Use Community Sports Facility position - City Administrator Mike Thompson reported this new position was included in the FY14 budget and they have received the report back from Archer. He asked permission to proceed with the ads. When Council moves forward with the construction of the facilities they will be ready to hire the new person. There were concerns about leaving a qualified person on hold until the facility was built. Mr. Thompson explained that they could advertise the position, review the applications and be able to hire someone in January. It will take time for them to get events scheduled and this can be done pre-construction. Mr. Rouzie and others have been working on the project to keep the City on target. This item remained on the Council agenda.

ADD ON'S:

13-1232 BCBS Self Insured Fund - This item was on the agenda but failed to show up in Legistar so it was treated as an add on to the agenda. Mr. Thompson reported these are with the same companies that we have been doing business with: i.e., Blue Cross, American Behavioural and Optum. These are used to insure any claims that exceed a \$50,000 threshold. The renewal cost rose to up to \$62K and they budgeted for the increase but didn't recognize the savings from the Clinic. The \$62K is not a real material number. The amount is based on claims we have each year and last year we had some employees that had some heavy medical issues. We also have some discounts if the claims are not as high. At the present the services provided are good. This item was added to the Council agenda.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Koniar wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Visitor's Comments

None to report.

Adjourn

Hearing no further comments the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.