



Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Monday, April 6, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session/Council Meeting

Call to Order

Council President Pro Tempore Charles Ebert, III, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll Call

All Council Members were present with the exception of Council President Wayne Trawick. Also present: Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich, City Administrator Mike Thompson, City Clerk Christi Watkins, Stephanie Richardson, Taylor Davis, Daniela Wilkerson, Miranda Bell, Leslie Gahagan, Nick Williams, Darrelyn Dunmore, Jane Tyler, Cindy Brothers, Yvette Klumpp, Logan Eberly, Jonathan Cottis, David Thompson, Esther Milne, Melissa Allegri, Amber Carrier, Jeff Lee, Eric Jackson, Mark Taupeka, Guy Busby, Jamie Smith, Angela Sherman, Kelly Fraw, Juanita Houston, Cian Harrison, Wayne Dyess, Larry Dearing, Buford King, Thurston Bullock, Joey Darby, Raven Roberts, and Nelson Bauer.

Present: 4 - Tim Lower, Roderick Burkle, Larry Engel and Charles Ebert III

Absent: 1 - Wayne Trawick

Moment of Reflection

Pledge of Allegiance

Proclamation

[26-0148](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Attachments: [Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2026](#)

Mayor Hellmich presented the proclamation recognizing April, 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

[26-0169](#)

National Donate Life Month

Attachments: [National Donate Life Month](#)

Mayor Hellmich presented the proclamation recognizing April, 2026 as National Donate Life Month.

Work Session Discussion

[26-0158](#)

Discuss the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report

Attachments: [FY 2025 PAFR](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell presented the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report to Council.

Additions/Removals/Carry-Overs

There were no carry-overs to report.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, to remove Item 26-0153 from the agenda. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, to amend the agenda with the addition of a discussion item regarding upgrades to the audio-visual equipment in the City Council Chambers and posting City Council meeting videos online. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0179](#)

Discuss Upgrades to the City Council Chamber Audio-Visual Equipment and Posting City Council Meeting Videos Online

Council Member Tim Lower reported that he wanted to open this discussion to provide City staff the opportunity to present various options for both upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the City Council Chambers and posting video content from Council Meetings online.

Mayor Hellmich reported that staff has been conducting research, including reaching out to other municipalities to visit their council chambers and assess their audio-visual configurations. He reported that one concern is the upcoming deadline next April for the ADA compliance for all digital content. He reported that the level of detail Council desires for the recordings is a significant factor, contrasting a more technically advanced setup, where agenda items are displayed on-screen, with a simpler configuration, such as a single camera recording a fixed angle for the entirety of the meeting.

Council Member Roderick Burkle reported that by posting video content of Council Meetings online, it would provide the general public the opportunity to view the meetings, and this would add another level of transparency.

Mayor Hellmich reported that while Council considers the options moving forward, other factors to consider include staff time and associated costs.

City Administrator Mike Thompson suggested that the option Council chooses should adhere to the ADA ruling, to prevent the City from needing to replace or modify the audio-visual equipment again in the near future.

Consent Agenda

[26-0157](#)

Work Session/Council Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026

Attachments: [03-23-2026 Work Session Council Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, to approve the Work Session/Council Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

Ordinances

[26-0151](#)

(First Reading) ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 387-87 REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY JARVIS C. AND DEBORAH L. SESTER FROM R2 - RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY & DUPLEX TO PO - PREFERRED OFFICE

Attachments: [Rezoning Sesser Recom Documents.pdf](#)

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Ordinance be approved on first reading. The motion carried by a majority vote: Council Member Lower, aye; Council President Pro Tempore Ebert, aye; Council Member Engel, aye; Council Member Burkle, abstain.

Aye: 3 - Council Member Tim Lower, Council Member Larry Engel and Council Member Charles Ebert III

Abstain: 1 - Council Member Roderick Burkle

[26-0152](#)

(First Reading) ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 387-87 REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY RIVI APARTMENTS LLC FROM B1A - EXTENDED BUSINESS DISTRICT TO R3 RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY

Attachments: [Rivi Rezoning Recommendation Documents.pdf](#)

Executive Director of Infrastructure and Development Wayne Dyess reported that this property was lawfully developed, permitted, and constructed as a multi-family residential community, and this rezoning request is intended to align the zoning designation with the property's existing use and as-built configuration.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, that this Ordinance be approved on first reading. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0133](#)

An Ordinance Adopting a Technical Design Manual (TDM) Governing Design, Development, Permitting, and Construction Standards Within the City of Foley; Rescinding Certain Prior Ordinances

Attachments: [Technical-Design-Manual-Final-4_6_26_DRAFT](#)
[Red-Lined Technical Design Manual \(2\)](#)

City Engineer Taylor Davis reported that the Technical Design Manual Draft has been posted on the City of Foley's Engineering Department website for many weeks without any comments or concerns received from the public.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

Resolutions and Other Business

[26-0134](#)

A Resolution Amending Section 2 of Resolution 25-1300 A Resolution Adopting Fiscal Year 2026 Budgets.

Attachments: [25-1300 - A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Budgets](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell reported that the Finance Department is requesting to update the terminology used in the FY26 budget, as recommended by the auditors. She reported that revising this terminology will decrease the number of supplementary schedules required for the City's audited financial statements.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0135](#)

A Resolution Approving the Mid Year Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and 2026 Capital Planning Document

Attachments: [mid year clean up - Google Sheets](#)
[FY26 Projects - CPF - mid year 2026 adjustment](#)
[Economic Development](#)
[FY 2026 insurance](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell reported that this is a standard resolution prepared by the Finance Department to amend various operation and transfer accounts for unexpected events that occurred during the year, and to make necessary changes to the FY 2026 capital planning documents. She reported that the net effect of the amendments in this resolution is an increase of approximately \$889,000 to the general fund balance.

City Administrator Mike Thompson reported that these mid-year budgets allow the City to correct things that were estimates at the beginning of the fiscal year with their actual values.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0138](#)

A Resolution approving an increase to the Visa credit card limit and the issuance of one new card

Attachments: [2026 Credit Limits-04.2026](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell reported that the Finance Department is requesting permission to add one new credit card for \$5,000 to be utilized by the Economic Development Manager, who was hired after their annual increase request.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0146](#)

Resolution to Utilize Impact Fee Funding for the Iberville Square Turn Lane Project, Permission to Solicit Bids, Award Bid Within Budget, and Appropriate Funds.

Attachments: [25-1450RES](#)
[Daisha-Barnes-Engineering \(1\) \(1\)](#)

City Engineer Taylor Davis reported that this Resolution pertains to a left turn lane into Beignet Drive from Juniper Street that has been in the capital plan for a number of years. He reported that the design for this project is complete and ready to go to bid.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0147](#)

A Resolution Approving the 2026 Summer Season Fireworks Displays at OWA

Attachments: [City Council Fireworks Proposal SUMMER-2026](#)

Fire Chief Joey Darby reported that this is the annual request that OWA submits to Council for approval of their fireworks displays for Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. He reported that OWA has also requested Council authorize make-up days to be held up to seven days after each holiday in the event of rain.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0149](#)

A Resolution Setting A Public Hearing Declaring the Accumulation of Junk, Trash, and Litter To Be A Public Nuisance And Ordering Its Abatement at 400 Ninth Avenue.

Attachments: [council packet_400 Ninth Ave Public Nuisance March 2026](#)

Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan reported that the property owners are currently attempting to abate the nuisance; however, she requested the Council's approval to continue with the established procedures of this process until the property is completely abated.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0150](#)

A Resolution Accepting Costs for the Weed Abatement at S. Hickory St. at the Entrance of Crown Walk Subdivision and Authorizing a Copy to be Sent to the Baldwin County Tax Collector

Attachments: [S. Hickory Crown Walk Cost Sheet](#)

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0153](#)

Resolution Approving JADE Consulting's Professional Services Agreement for West Orange Avenue Streetscape Project from South Pine Street to South Alston Street.

Attachments: [JADE - Orange Avenue Streetscape Project](#)
 [Daisha-Barnes-Engineering](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, to remove Item 26-0153 from the agenda. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0159](#)

A Resolution to Rescind Resolution 25-1425 A Resolution to Utilize Impact Fee Funding for Allen Engineering and Science's (AllenES) Wilson Ave and Equestrian Street Professional Services Agreement Amendment #1.

Attachments: [25-1425RES](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell reported that staff has requested that funding for this project be transferred from the Impact Fee Funding account to a Capital Project account.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0160](#)

A Resolution to Rescind Resolution 25-1189 A Resolution to Utilize Impact Fee Funding for the Paving of the Pilgrim Street Extension Project.

Attachments: [25-1189-RES](#)

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an

unanimous vote.

[26-0161](#)

Resolution to Utilize Impact Fee Funding for the Fern Ave & Hwy 59 Intersection Improvements, Permission to Solicit Bids, Award Bid Within Budget, and Appropriate Funds.

Attachments: [22-1160 RES](#)
[Fern Ave - HWY 59 Turn Lanes Set](#)
[Daisha-Barnes-Engineering \(2\) \(1\)](#)

City Engineer Taylor Davis reported that the Engineering Department requests permission to go to bid, award within budget, and appropriate funding for the Fern Avenue & Hwy 59 Intersection improvements project.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0162](#)

A Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider Amending Ordinance No. 387-87 Rezoning Property Owned By Jarvis C. and Deborah L. Sester from R2 - Residential Single Family & Duplex to PO - Preferred Office

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by a majority vote: Council Member Lower, aye; Council President Pro Tempore Ebert, aye; Council Member Engel, aye; Council Member Burkle, abstain.

Aye: 3 - Council Member Tim Lower, Council Member Larry Engel and Council Member Charles Ebert III

Abstain: 1 - Council Member Roderick Burkle

[26-0163](#)

A Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider Amending Ordinance No. 387-87 Rezoning Property Owned By Rivi Apartments LLC From B1A - Extended Business District to R3 Residential Multi-Family

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Tim Lower, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0164](#)

A Resolution Approving the Application to ALDOT's FY27 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Logan Eberly reported that the Engineering Department requests permission to submit an application for ALDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) for FY 2027. She reported that the City's application will request funding for sidewalks on South Juniper Street from Pride Drive to US-98. She also reported that if awarded, this grant would cover approximately 44% of the costs for the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0165](#)

Resolution to Utilize Impact Fee Funding for the FY26 Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program II (ATRIP II) Grant Award for Miflin Road / SR 161 Intersection Improvements and to Amend Resolution 26-1086 A Resolution to Accept the FY26 Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program II (ATRIP II) Grant Award for Miflin Road / SR 161 Intersection Improvements

Attachments: [26-1086-RES](#)

Finance Director Miranda Bell reported that staff requests permission to utilize Impact Fee Funds for this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0166](#)

A Resolution Accepting Additional Funding for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management GOMESA Litter Trap Grant

Attachments: [2026-03-27 City of Foley GOMESA Amendment Approval Budget Increase Form](#)

Sustainability Coordinator Nick Williams reported that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has authorized a grant extension until August 31, 2026, and has granted an additional \$6,000 toward project costs. He reported that the Environmental Department requests permission to accept these funds and amend the budget accordingly.

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0168](#)

A Resolution to Waive the Fees for the Use of the Foley Civic Center for SHOW Baldwin Fundraiser

There was no discussion on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Tim Lower, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hellmich reported that the North Cedar Street Sidewalk Project is nearing completion, with some drainage repairs beginning soon as well.

He reported that the sign ordinance enforcement is going well, and commended staff for their efforts. He noted that the City is in the process of updating the ordinance and incorporating some of the modifications requested

by local businesses.

He announced that April is Historic Walking Tour Month in Foley, with guided tours taking place each Saturday morning, April 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Foley Welcome Center, and will highlight more than a century of local history.

Mayor Hellmich also reported that the City's drainage projects are going well, including improvements to the retention pond that were partially funded with grants obtained by Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan.

He reported that the Senior Center Project is moving along with the RFP process, using the committee approach that has worked well in the past with the new Library. He reported that this committee will consist of council members, staff, and other volunteers.

He also reported that there have been changes to the CRS at the federal level regarding flood insurance, but that the City is doing everything it can to keep flood insurance costs as low as possible.

Mayor Hellmich announced that the City of Foley has been named a NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, which is presented to organizations committed to strengthening community resilience through weather awareness and preparedness.

He reported that the Easter Egg Hunt held at OWA on Saturday, April 4, 2026, exceeded attendance projections significantly, with 1,000 visitors anticipated and 7,000 visitors attending.

Mayor Hellmich announced that the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival will be held at the OWA Festival Grounds on Thursday, April 30, 2026 and Friday, May 1, 2026 from 4:00pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10:00am to 9:30pm.

He also announced that Art in the Park will be held at the John B. Foley Park on Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, May 10, 2026 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

He reported that Foley's schools are performing well, and noted that for the first time all six Foley-area public schools earned a "B" rating on the state report card. He also reported that he plans to invite teachers of the year from each school, along with their principals, to a Council Meeting in the near future to honor them.

Visitor Comments

City Engineer Taylor Davis reported that the downtown bookstore parking lot repaving project will begin next week, and that staff will be reaching out to adjoining businesses to ensure there is minimal disruption and everyone is prepared.

Council Member Roderick Burkle commended the drainage repairs completed by City Engineer Taylor Davis and his staff at the Glenlakes Subdivision. He

also reported that he has received many compliments on the new crosswalk paintings downtown.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council Member Roderick Burkle, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06pm.