



City of Foley, AL

407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Meeting Minutes - Final-revised City Council

Monday, May 6, 2013

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session

Call to Order

Council President Wayne Trawick called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Ralph Hellmich, Charlie Ebert, Rick Blackwell, and Vera Quaite. Also present: Mayor John Koniar, City Administrator Mike Thompson, Sandra Pate, Katy Taylor, Vickey Southern, Jessica Middleton, Jeff Rouzie, Leslie Gahagan, Chad Brewer, David Wilson, Randy Bishop, Thurston Bullock, Steven Smith, LaDonna Hinesley, David Thompson, Butch Stokes, Randy Kurtts, Pam Harris, Meg Hellmich, Donna Watts, Steve James, Randy Cerlew, Michael Manus, Kristin Roberson, and press representative Cathy Higgins.

Discussion Items

[13-0609](#)

Discuss Festival of Flavor

Donna Watts described some changes they would like to make to the Festival of Flavor event. They would like to relocate the event to the downtown streets since Heritage Park is land locked. They have discussed this with the police and fire departments and they are good with the idea. They would like to introduce the Chef's Challenge, bring in family recipes and open it up to the public to participate. They would also like to highlight southern recipes, Alabama wines and beers, and partner with local businesses. Interactive educational exhibits like creating your own rain barrels would also be included. There will also be a Chicago Street Supper Club reception and hopefully they can coordinate everything to the timing of the new farmer's market opening. Donna ended by saying they will schedule this to not conflict with hometown football schedules. There was consensus by the Council to proceed and Council President Wayne Trawick requested Donna to bring back to Council a formal proposal with a map showing the downtown area that would be used for the event. This was a discussion item only and was not carried over to the Council meeting agenda.

[13-0648](#)

Update on ESCO Project

Pam Harris & Jessica Nelson gave an update on the ESCO Project. Pam distributed an overview of the work and indicated everything was moving along good as anticipated. Jessica reported that the fiber will be run above ground instead of below ground. Mike Thompson noted that Riviera Utilities reports they have more outages from cuts in the ground as compared to overhead utilities. Mike reported the irrigation is complete and the VoIP phone system is working well at the Police Department. When the VoIP is installed City wide, Mike said the estimated savings, although originally thought to be \$50,000, would likely be closer to \$64,000. Pam noted that the AC units at City Hall would be installed around the third week of September. In summary, the ESCO project is 60% completed. The next ESCO update to the Council will be provided by Schneider Electric. This was a discussion item only and was not carried over to the Council meeting agenda.

[13-0682](#)

Discuss Streetscape Project

Attachments: [Streetscape Updates.pdf](#)
 [Streetscape 7_25_12.pdf](#)
 [Streetscape Phase 5 - WAS Plans.pdf](#)

Mike Thompson presented an update on all five phases of the Streetscape Project. Phases one through three are complete. Phase IV is finishing up and the team is preparing to begin Phase V. Mike presented a cost estimate summary of Phase V and asked the Council to review it. The estimate includes a Rose Trail connector and a Dog Park. The estimate for this standard model is \$691,000. There is also an option for a plaza on Jessamine Avenue and if that was included the estimate would total \$923,000. Mike asked the Council to review the cost estimates and to give him some feedback on what their preference was on the options. This was a discussion item only and was not carried over to the Council meeting agenda.

[13-0687](#)

Consider Snook Youth Club Proposal

Attachments: [Snooth Youth Club Proposal.pdf](#)
 [Snooth Youth Club Proposal Pages 2-4.pdf](#)

Deborah Ferguson, Director of the Snook Youth Club of Foley, presented a budget to council for the summer programs. She is requesting an additional \$10,000 sponsorship from the City. Council President Wayne Trawick noted that the City is currently sponsoring the Youth Club in the amount of \$50,000. He added that under today's current budget constraints, he could not see how the City could provide an additional \$10,000. Ms. Ferguson commented she understood and that the City could help in another way and that is to talk to other people about the Youth Club and to help get the news out about how people can help by sponsoring the youth. The City is also helping to research grant opportunities and Ms. Ferguson thanked the council for all the support the City provides to the Youth Club. This was a discussion item only and was not carried over to the Council meeting agenda.

Additions/Removals

The Council reviewed the Council meeting agenda for May 6, had the following additions and removals: There were no additions to the Council meeting agenda. There were four removals from the Council meeting agenda as follows:

#13-0661 – Council President Wayne Trawick requested that staff thoroughly review this grant to ensure the City was not obligating itself to something unknowingly.

#13-0675 – Councilman Ebert inquired as to why the City gave up the old CVB Building downtown when it could have been used for office space as opposed to paying for leased space. He also asked about the small building next to BB&T that the City recently purchased and why that couldn't be used as office space. Jeff Rouzie replied that he thought the Council wanted to bring in business downtown so those buildings were being reserved for that purpose. Councilman Ebert suggested that more discussion needed to take place on the City leasing space.

#13-0679 – Vickey Southern noted that this property had been abated.

#13-0687 – Following Deborah Ferguson's presentation as noted above (under informational items) Council President Wayne Trawick noted that all budgets are tight right now. The City currently sponsors the Youth Club in the amount of \$50,000 and does not see a way to add another \$10,000 to that amount.

Discuss Council Meeting Agenda for May 6, 2013

#13-0651: There was Council consensus to hold the Work Session on Wednesday, May 15th at 2:30p.m. and the Council meeting at 4:00 p.m.

#13-0668: Meg Hellmich explained that retail dealers conducting sales of packaged liquors for consumption off premises are required to pay the same amount of local liquor tax as retailers serving liquor for consumption on premises. Daphne and Gulf Shores both charge one-half their tax for retailers of packaged liquor for consumption off premises. Michael Manus, who owns six other retail liquor locations, spoke and said he would like to locate a store in Foley, but the 10% tax is too much to pay and doesn't allow them to compete with the state. Meg recommended that the city reduce the local liquor tax to 3% for retail dealers conducting sales of packaged liquor for consumption off premises. There appeared to be consensus by the Council to reduce the amount to 3% based on Meg's recommendation.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Koniar reminded everyone that there would be an executive session this evening.

Staff/Visitor's Comments

There were no staff/visitor comments.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.