



Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council

Monday, June 1, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session/Council Meeting

Call to Order

President Trawick called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll Call

All Council Members were present. Also present: Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich, City Administrator Mike Thompson, City Clerk Christi Watkins, Stephanie Richardson, Leslie Gahagan, Guy Busby, Lee Johnson, Hunter Robinson, Mark Ingram, Taylor Davis, Carol Distefano, Jim Distefano, Jane Tyler, Anita Arguella, Bobbi Kelly, Kate Ray, Roni Criswell, Evan Freeman, Jackson Freeman, Jackie McGonigal, Logan Eberly, Jeff Lee, Connie Robertson, Jonathan Cottis, Roxanne Heath, Angela Sherman, Darrelyn Dunmore, Jamie Smith, LaTrice Jones, Karlie Jones, Kevin Carnley, Thurston Bullock, Larry Dearing, Brandon Mothershed, Buford King, Wayne Dyess, Shawn Mitchell, Lindsey Hart, Suzanne Kellams, Frances Holk-Jones, Joseph Dean, and Robin Page.

Present: 5 - Tim Lower, Roderick Burkle, Larry Engel, Wayne Trawick and Charles Ebert III

Moment of Reflection

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointment and Swearing In Ceremony

[26-0269](#)

Appointment of the City of Foley Planning Director

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

[26-0283](#)

Oath of Office for City of Foley Planning Director

The Honorable Michael Dasigner called Terri Shawn Mitchell to step forward to be sworn in.

Presentation

[26-0238](#)

SEEDS Check Presentation

Representatives from the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama presented the City of Foley with a grant of \$3,327,500 through the State of Alabama's Site Evaluation Economic Development Strategy program.

[26-0251](#)

Introduction of the 2026 City Interns

Human Resources Director Suzanne Kellams introduced Karlie Jones, Jax Freeman, Riley Johnson, and Zoya Krasilnikov as the 2026 City Interns.

[26-0279](#)

Salute to America and Her Veterans by Joseph Dean

Attachments: [IMG_7703](#)

Joseph Dean gave a presentation on the Salute to America and Her Veterans production, to be held at the OWA Theater on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 7:00pm, Friday, July 3, 2026 at 7:00pm, and Saturday, July 4, 2026 at 2:30pm and 7:00pm.

Work Session Discussion

Additions/Removals/Carry-Overs

There were no additions, removals, or carry-overs to report.

Consent Agenda

[26-0253](#)

Work Session/Council Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2026

Attachments: [05-18-2026 Work Session Council Meeting Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Roderick Burkle, seconded by Council Member Larry Engel, to approve the Work Session/Council Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2026. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

Ordinances

[26-0259](#)

(First Reading) ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 387-87 REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY HAROLD MOTTER FROM R-1A - RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY TO B-3 - LOCAL BUSINESS

Attachments: [Recommendation Documents](#)

Planning Director Shawn Mitchell reported that these parcels are located at the corner of Brinks Willis Road and James Road. She reported that this would

rezone the property from residential single family to local business district, and that this change will not allow for a gas station on the premises.

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

[26-0260](#)

(First Reading) ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 387-87 REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY VULCAN INC. FROM M-1 - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO B-3 - LOCAL BUSINESS

Attachments: [Vulcan rezoning docs](#)

Planning Director Shawn Mitchell reported that this property is located on East Berry Avenue, and the rezoning will allow a church to use the existing building. She also reported that this building has never been used for industrial purposes.

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

[26-0270](#)

(First Reading) ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF FOLEY ZONING ORDINANCE

Attachments: [Zoning Amendments Signage Exhibits A & B](#)

Planning Director Shawn Mitchell reported that this Ordinance would change some definitions for clarification purposes, remove any content specific language in order to be in compliance with a recent court ruling, and allow for increased sandwich board use for local businesses.

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

Resolutions and Other Business

[26-0229](#)

A Resolution Authorizing Retiree Bonus (ACT 2026-608)

Attachments: [2026 20RSA 20Retiree 20Bonus 20Letter](#)

Benefits Specialist Kate Ray reported that the State Legislature adopted Act 2026-608, which authorizes cities participating in the Employee's Retirement Systems (ERS) of Alabama to fund a one-time bonus to retired members and beneficiaries of deceased retirees who retired prior to October 1, 2025 and are entitled to receive a monthly retirement benefit from ERS on September 30, 2026. She reported that the estimated cost for the City of Foley to fund this one-time bonus is \$24,587.

A motion was made by Council Member Larry Engel, seconded by Council

Member Charles Ebert, III, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

[26-0252](#)

A Resolution Approving Sponsorship for the Foley Sister Cities Oktoberfest Golf Tournament

Attachments: [Sister Cities Coverletter](#)
[Golf Jamboree \(13\) UPDATED DUE DATE](#)

Economic Development Manager Frank Shepard reported that this sponsorship supports the Foley Sister Cities program and its mission to promote cultural, educational, and international exchange opportunities, including student exchange programs and community enrichment initiatives. He reported that the requested \$600 sponsorship includes the participation of a four-person team in the fundraising event to be held October 23, 2026.

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.

[26-0255](#)

A Resolution requesting Allocation of Funds in the Nature Parks Department

Attachments: [Leslie-Gahagan-05-15-2026](#)

Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan reported that the FY26 Capital Projects Plan included \$35,000 for trail signage at Graham Creek Nature Preserve. She reported that this project should have been placed under the Nature Parks Operational Signage Account, and is requesting Council's approval to transfer \$30,000 to the proper account in order to begin the project.

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

[26-0256](#)

A Resolution Allocating the Funds for the Design of the South Entrance Restroom and Pavilion at Graham Creek Nature Preserve

Attachments: [South Entrance Restroom Nature Parks 2026](#)
[BATHROOM - PAVILION PROPOSAL](#)

Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan reported that the Nature Parks Department is requesting to allocate funds to the South Entrance Restroom and Pavilion capital project in the amount of \$48,800. She reported that this will be for the design and engineering of the site work for a modular restroom and pavilion at the southern side of Graham Creek Nature Preserve, north of Russian Road.

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.

[26-0258](#)

A Resolution to Amend 25-1319-RES A Resolution to Apply for ADECA's Recreational Trails Program Grant

Attachments: [25-1319-RES](#)

Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan reported that the figures included in this grant application were estimates, but ADECA has requested that the previous resolution be amended to match the updated projected cost as the application moves forward in the approval process. She reported that the total project cost is \$204,525, and if awarded, the grant will cover \$163,620 and the City would be responsible for \$40,905.

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

[26-0262](#)

Resolution Approving Construction Engineering & Inspection Professional Services for the Fern Avenue / AL 59 and Iberville Square Turn Lane Improvements Projects

Attachments: [Iberville and Fern CEI Fee \(1\)](#)

City Engineer Taylor Davis reported that Neel-Schafer submitted a professional services proposal for construction, engineering, and inspection for the Fern Avenue / Hwy 59 and Iberville Square Turn Lane Improvements projects. He reported that these projects will run simultaneously in order to be efficient as possible in regards to construction timing and capital budget impact.

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.

[26-0264](#)

A Resolution Approving the Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood, LLC Professional Services Proposal Addendum for the Schreiber Trail Project and Allocate the Funds

Attachments: [Leslie-Gahagan-Nature-Parks \(7\)](#)
[Schreiber 20LID 20Trail 20Addendum](#)

Sustainability and Natural Resources Director Leslie Gahagan reported that the Nature Parks Department is developing the Schreiber Trail project along the south side of Wolf Creek between the Antique Rose Trail and Poplar Street. She reported that an ADEM 319 project grant is being requested to cover some low impact development and green infrastructure demonstrations in the project and this has added to the design costs. She reported that the addendum is to increase the Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood, LLC contract up to an additional \$68,000 to cover the designs, pollutant reduction estimates, construction oversight and bid assistance.

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

[26-0266](#)

A Resolution to Accept the FY2025 (BJA) Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Award

Attachments: [Vests](#)

Purchasing Agent and Grants and Agreements Administrator Logan Eberly reported that the Police Department requests permission to accept the FY 2025 (BJA) Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant award in the amount of \$8,295.20, which is approximately 50% reimbursement of the cost of replacement vests over the next two years. She reported that the new vests are budgeted to be purchased in FY26 & FY27 budget.

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.

[26-0268](#)

Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Foley, Alabama to Add Provisions Pertaining to the Licensing of the Sale of Consumable Hemp Products in the Corporate Limits and Police Jurisdiction of the City of Foley

City Administrator Mike Thompson reported that this Ordinance would allow the City to both enforce and add further requirements to existing consumable hemp product regulations.

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

[26-0272](#)

A Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 387-87 Rezoning Property Owned by Harold Motter from R-1A - Residential Single Family to B-3 - Local Business

There was no discussion on this item.

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

[26-0273](#)

A Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 387-87 Rezoning Property Owned by Vulcan Inc. from M-1 - Light Industrial to B-3 - Local Business

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.

[26-0274](#)

A Resolution to Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Amending the City of Foley Zoning Ordinance

There was no discussion on this item.

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

[26-0278](#)

Resolution Amending The Pay Classification Plan In Planning And Development Services

Human Resources Director Suzanne Kellams reported that this is a budget neutral and headcount neutral request to amend the Pay Classification Plan within the Planning Division of the Planning and Development Services Department. She reported that this reorganization is to better align the department with the City's continued growth and increasing development complexity, and will transition the division from a primarily administrative, process-driven structure to a professional planning model focused on technical analysis, long-range planning, and development review. She also reported that the changes include eliminating the Planning/Zoning Coordinator classification and transitioning it to the existing Planner I classification, establish a Planner II classification, and will reclassify the Planning Manager to Senior Planner in order to emphasize advanced planning analysis and policy support rather than managerial hierarchy. Mrs. Kellams reported that these adjustments create a clear professional planning progression (Planner I, Planner II, Senior Planner) while strengthening the Division's ability to evaluate development projects, infrastructure impacts, and long-term growth patterns.

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.

[26-0281](#)

A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Funding for Downtown Foley Arts & Entertainment District Thermal Street Markers

Attachments: [2026 Request from council for thermal markers entertainment dist Jotform -05-27-2026 \(1\)](#)

Council Member Charles Ebert, III, reported that the existing street markers in the Downtown Foley Arts & Entertainment District were stenciled and are not holding up well. He reported that the Foley Main Street organization is requesting the City make the investment to purchase the pre-printed markers, which will be more durable and will not pose a hazard on the sidewalks.

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.

[26-0282](#)

A Resolution Setting A Public Hearing Declaring the Accumulation of Junk, Trash, and Litter To Be A Public Nuisance And Ordering Its Abatement at 635 E Gate Circle

Attachments: [635 E Gate Cir June 2026 council packet Public Nuisance](#)

Environmental Manager Jackie McGonigal reported that she completed an

inspection immediately prior to the Council Meeting and that the property has not been abated. She also reported that this property has been in violation multiple times over the past six months.

Executive Director of Public Safety Thurston Bullock reported that due to this being a repeat offender, the Police Department and Code Enforcement have issued citations for both of the property owner's properties that are in violation of city ordinance.

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

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hellmich reported that the 23rd Annual Foley Police Explorers Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 6, 2026 at GlenLakes Golf Club. He reported that this event raises funds for Foley's Explorer Program.

He also reported that the Baldwin Pops Concert was held at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 31, 2026, as part of the City of Foley's 250th Celebration.

Mayor Hellmich also reported that there are several projects beginning soon, including the Iberville Square and Fern Avenue turn lanes, sidewalks, and the downtown crosswalk program.

He reported that the 10th Annual Corn Festival will be held Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market.

Visitor Comments

Council Member Roderick Burkle reported concerns regarding recurring traffic congestion at the County Road 12/Foley Beach Express intersection from 7:30am to 9:30am.

Mayor Hellmich reported that he has discussed the matter with City Engineer Taylor Davis, and that once the final upgrades for the adaptive signals are completed, ALDOT will be able to change the signal times and hopefully correct the issue.

Council Member Burkle also reported concerns regarding accident debris being left on the Foley Beach Express.

Mayor Hellmich reported that the towing company is responsible for collecting all debris, but the Police Department will be made aware of the issue so they can monitor the situation.

Council Member Burkle also provided an update regarding the lift station at County Road 12 and Wolf Bay Drive. He reported that improvements have been made, but that after a recent increase in odor, a container with hoses has been installed, which is unsightly.

Mayor Hellmich reported that the sewer company believes it is a grease issue and they will possibly install a peroxide station in the future to address the problem.

Visitor Carol Distefano, of 911 Gibson Court, addressed Council to express her concerns regarding the number of stray dogs throughout the city. She reported that the County Animal Shelter recently added kennels, but that they were immediately filled. Mrs. Distefano requested that the City consider providing additional resources or a bigger animal shelter to address the issue.

Mayor Hellmich reported that the City is in the process of expanding the temporary holding facility to a Class A facility, and that it is currently in the design process. He reported that the City is also trying to partner with NGOs in the area to help find homes for the stray dogs once they have been picked up.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.