



City of Foley, AL

407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, July 20, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room

Work Session

Call to Order

Council President called the Work Session meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

All Council members were present with the exception of Councilmember Quaites who had a business meeting at work and will be in a little late. Others present: Mayor John Koniar, Mike Thompson, Vickey Southern, Sandra Pate, Katy Taylor, Miriam Boutwell, David Thompson, David White, Otis Miller, Jeff Rouzie, LaDonna Hinesley, Leslie Gahagan, Chad Christian, Taylor Davis, Kate Embry, Joe Bouzan, Rachel Keith, Stephen Smith, Joey Darby, Jackie Evans, Aaron Brown, and Anthony Fleming - Air Methods, and press representatives Jay Sowers (The Foley Onlooker) and Marc D. Anderson (AL. Com/Press-Register).

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

[15-0437](#)

Building Resilience in Gulf Coast Communities through a Whole Community Partnership

Attachments: [Partnership Documents.pdf](#)

Mike Shelton reported this is a grant opportunity that there are several natural marine researchers like them who are partnering with the GEOS Institute, a consulting firm that helps communities address resilience issues, climate change issues, and they work throughout the U.S.A. and the world to help communities face extremes and challenges that have been made worse by a dynamic climate, i.e. sea levels rise issues in some coastal towns and some extreme weather and temperature issues that is similar to what Austin, Texas has been experiencing. The goal is, in three states (Alabama, Mississippi and Texas), to address about 7-8 different counties in going through the whole community adaptation process. The National GEOS site has a page for this process and it is getting Foley involved with a steering committee where you look at the communities for vulnerability and assess the vulnerability and for opportunities to change it. He has some support with other communities and Foley fits in because it is a larger, well positioned City and scored well on the Community Resilience Index a few years ago. Foley is not a community that faces an imminent challenge from the Gulf, a bay or a large river. It is an interesting community that has some challenges that can be addressed through this community adaptation process. If the grant is funded a total request for part of the grant is approximately \$600,000 over a three year period and across three states.

He asked the City to provide the following: 1) local data and expertise to the research process; 2) an active participant on the project advisory team, which Miriam and Leslie worked out to have Miriam participate; 3) coordinate and provide locations for local meetings; and 4) provide input or advice on critical to the project. He would need a support letter.

Mike Thompson asked what other communities are involved. Mr. Shelton stated that he spoke with Perdido Beach (a river community) and they will be considering it at their meeting today and the other is Magnolia Springs (a new community). Foley is not a river community or a new community and he thought it had a different kind of setting and would fit in very well as you are more prepared.

President Trawick reported he would like to know more about the organization before making a decision. Councilmen Ebert and Blackwell stated this as well. Mr. Thompson asked why he had not reached out to any of the beach communities. Mr. Shelton stated letters will go out to other communities and he was asking for a letter of support. He also knows Miriam and Leslie and wanted different settings, which was a fit for Foley.

There was a consensus to look into this a little more prior to issuing a letter of support.

Councilwoman Quaites arrived at this time.

[15-0439](#)

Presentation by Air Methods

Mr. Aaron Brown, Regional Business Development Manager for Air Methods, put together a presentation that tells who Air Methods is and what they do. They have some the ability to reorganize some helicopter bases across the Florida panhandle and southern Alabama system. They are looking at service in Baldwin County to become a part of the system.

Their headquarters are based in Denver, Colorado and is the world's largest air medical provider. Their equipment includes some fixed wings but are mostly rotary wing helicopters. LifeFlight is in the Florida panhandle and MedFlight is in Semmes, Alabama, which operate under the Air Methods corporation. Their are 286 bases within 48 states. Air Methods holds the sixth largest aircraft operating certificate in the United States. The company was founded in 1980 by Roy Morgan of St. Mary's in Grand Junction, Colorado. Since that time the company branched out and purchased five other companies bringing them up to Air Methods safety qualifications. In 2012 they acquired Sundance Helicopters in Las Vegas and in 2013 acquired Blue Hawaiian in Hawaii. Both of these are tourism based and have been very successful. These all operate under the umbrella of Air Methods. A couple names that Council might recognize are Mercy Medical Center and Baptist LifeFlight in Pensacola, Florida.

Councilman Blackwell asked if a need arose who would call Air Methods. Chief Darby reported an individual could call but in the field if there is person deemed to need air transport the EMS provider in the field will call and in Foley that would be MedStar. It would not be uncommon for the Fire Department, based on what they see when they arrive on the scene or information they are given, to make that call through the E-911 Center, who then calls their operation center. At the current time Air Methods is the only provider in Semmes, Alabama or the Florida Panhandle.

Mr. Brown reported Air Methods is a leader in safety as they provide Night Vision Goggles NVG; Helicopter Terrain Avoidance Warning System HTAWS; XM Satellite Weather; GPS Navigation; Satellite Tracking and Appareo Vision 1000 Flight Data Monitoring. They started the SMS program for the helicopter/air ambulance industry. They are the first helicopter and EMS Operator to earn the FAA's highest level - a Level 4 - of the FAA's Voluntary Safety Management System program. Other Level 4 examples are United/Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, American Airlines, and U.S. Airways.

Air Method's Operational Control Center is located in Denver, Colorado and is staffed 24/7. It is a great resource for pilots and crews regarding weather and safety issues. It is an FAA requirement and they provide a lot of information. Air Methods Communications system is located in Omaha, Nebraska. When Medstar dials their number for LifeFlight it rings in Omaha. They have a desk that specifically covers the southeast and one person assigned to the bases in this area so they are familiar with the area. Although they are located in Omaha they have to study and know all the challenges here and know all the different things available or who we have to work with, i.e. the hospitals, different services that they provide.

They also have their own billing system located in San Bernadino, California.

They do all insurance collections, communications with professionals that know everything there is to know about full service reimbursement and accounts receivable management service and has a multi-disciplinary team that does coding, billing, collections, legal, reimbursements and customer service. They accept all insurance and some are partners with Air Methods.

Air Methods is unique in that they offer quarterly training for their medical staff. They have simulators that are as real as you can get for being a simulator. It talks, breaths and they can set up some really awesome scenarios for them to do training. For Air Methods partners the best part is that they get to use the simulators. They do training also with the local EMT's and Fire Departments. These tools are a great resource if they need it.

They have a government relations division and they specifically work with the states on state rate collections and different types of set ups for re-imbursements. Collection is one of their huge challenges and some states have added \$5.00 to the ticket if the victim was not wearing a seatbelt. That fee goes toward air helicopter or air ambulance and at the end of the year it is split up with all the companies in the state. They did this with the State of Georgia about 1.5 years ago. It ended up funding two bases in Georgia that are run through that company by that fund that are in vary rural areas that had no access to helicopters in the past. It worked out to be a better deal than they ever expected.

Air Methods has different types of memberships and an insurance plan, which is a \$10,000 coverage for your bill. Councilman Hellmich asked how much an air ambulance service cost as he had someone tell him it was about \$4,000. Mr. Brown stated that it is probably a little more than depending on what the insurance covers and the flight itself.

Mr. Brown further stated in coming up with an offer for Foley they looked at the population in southern and northern Baldwin County and the dynamics and how they could best serve Baldwin County. They looked at Robertsedale, Orange Beach, Foley, and Fairhope; researched where they served in the past and came up with Foley as the best place.

Mr. Brown offered the following proposal. Air Methods would be based at the Foley Municipal Airport, operating 24/7 staffed with a pilot and medical crew consisting of a flight nurse and a flight medic. During the day the mechanic would be there to work Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. They would bring 13 full-time positions and two part-time positions. They will have some of these positions filled but long term that is what they would provide. It would also mean increased activity at and around the airport with possible expansion of services for the FBO, i.e. more need for fuel. Services they would provide include direct access to critical care service for citizens of Foley and Baldwin County. Even though they have LifeFlight service in Pensacola and Semmes it would put them in the middle of the hub with a professional helicopter service with critical care access. It could even be used at the airport as a LZ. They will have a local staff of professionals based here.

Councilman Hellmich asked about the air time savings by the time you get notified. Mr. Brown reported it takes approximately 15 minutes from Baptist Hospital to Foley, which would be 30 minutes round trip. Baldwin County is growing so rapidly, as well as other resources, and it does take away time from

Baldwin County.

Mr. Thompson reported he met with Joe Bouzan, Rachel Keith, and Joey Darby to walk through some of these items. Mr. Thompson explained to the Council Mr. Brown wants to know if the City Council is interested in pursuing this idea and if so, then staff will get with them and put together a proposal of how they can locate at Foley's Airport. The service cuts down on flight time to an accident scene, provides a potential revenue source through jet fuel for the FBO and they have talked about this with them. A location at the airport has not been discussed but they will be investing capital asset dollars in the facility too. Sixteen employees have to be based somewhere. His perspective is all pluses for the City of Foley and its citizens if they can work out an arrangement for locating at the airport and providing the City with a reasonable rate of return for giving them access.

Mr. Brown stated normal operations at an airport would include a commercial grade building, ie doublewide building for office that is appealing for commercial property, and then would like a hangar but it isn't required. They will need a helo pad space and fuel station area. They would put the facility on a slab or permanent foundation to meet codes and it would be a permanent operation facility. They need a helo pad and that is where the maintenance will be done. Depending on what they decide they may decide to construct two helo pads so that one helicopter can come in to fuel, especially if they have a maintenance issue it is nice to have that second pad to launch off.

Councilman Ebert asked how many flights do they anticipate on a daily basis. Mr. Brown reported on an average one per day; however, it could be 2-3 per day and then none for several days depending on the weather. It could be as many as 40-45 flights a month since they are so close to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center.

Councilman Blackwell asked how much noise the helicopters make. Mr. Brown responded as far as the sound they are comparable to the Navy Training Aircraft, which is a Bell 206. Air Methods operates a Bell 407, which is slightly larger because it has to hold the crew and the patient but in design it is very similar. The noise you hear is from the tail rotor because it is small and fast. Council's consensus was to move forward.

Discuss Council Meeting Agenda of July 20, 2015

There were no comments for File ID's 15-0436 Dr. Carl W. Gettig Proclamation; 15-0428 07-06-2015 Work Session Minutes; and 15-0429 07-06-2015 Council Meeting Minutes. These items remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0446 June 2015 Sales, Lodging and Rental Tax Reports - Mr. Thompson reported Rental Tax is treading water. Lodging tax continues to do very well. Sales tax continues to be up over last year. He pointed out that over the past three months the City has been at or slightly below what we put in the projected budget but year to date we were up 7% over last year and up over budget by 2 1/3 points.

There were no comments for File ID's 15-0440 Quarterly Marketing Report; and 15-0431 June CDD (Community Development Department) Report. These items remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0438 Project Update - Chad Christian presented a status report for all active or recently completed construction projects as follows:

- 1) County Road 20 Protected Left Turn Lane - This project has been completed. They got the protected turn lane in time for tourist season and it seems to be working well. ALDOT was the contractor for the job. Phase V of the TIGER grant has been completed. Chad will be coming back to Council with additional items for Phase VI.
- 2) Dog Park - Installation of Columns/Fence - This project was engineered in-house and they received bids several times, different ways and then decided to break it into packages to save some money and come within budget. The parking is in place with a sidewalk. The past week and a half work has begun on the columns and fence by Bengston/EJ Builders.
- 3) Graham Creek Nature Preserve Road Extension - This is the extension that will connect Wolf Bay Drive to the end of the now existing Philomene Holmes Blvd. Public Works has started work on this project and its at subgrade. It was engineered in-house. He will be coming back with some options on the bridge regarding what flood event would you like to cross the creek and not have water over the road.
- 4) The Justice Center Flume Repair - This was from the flood event. Volkert was the engineer and Ammons & Blackmon was the contractor. The flume was eroded and undermined and kept cutting back towards the Justice Center. This project is complete. It was checked after several heavy rains and it seems to be performing well.
- 5) Manning Alley Drainage Improvements - There was a problem with the level of the alley relative to the slabs of some of the businesses. HMR designed the drainage with a lower profile on the alley and added some inlets. It also seems to be performing well. They haven't had any negative feedback from any of the owners. This project has been completed. R&S Paving was the contractor.
- 6) Pecan Street Mitigation Repair - This is one of the mitigation projects the City hopes to get some reimbursement from FEMA. The rain from this past weekend did a little damage. The time suspended them as they wait for the culverts to be produced but once they start showing up they will be put in place. Volkert did the design and Blade Construction was the contractor. Councilman Hellmich asked when the anticipated date is for the project. Chad reported it will take a couple of months. The pipes are in place.

7) Philomene Holmes Road Base and Paving - This project was designed in-house and Public Works had based the road and got it ready for paving. Baldwin Roadbuilders were the contractors. The finished product looks very good.

8) Pride Drive ATRIP Drain and Basin - The project is still in progress, and he is beginning to get a lot of feedback from the public. He showed a photo looking south from CR20. The large pipe work is completed and they are coming up with the much more shallow drainage pipe and inlet boxes. As time goes by you can look at it and see work going on. A photo looking west on Juniper Street shows the broken tree line so people can now look from Southern Chevrolet and ask, "What is going on?". Volkert is the engineer on record and Mobile Asphalt Company (MAC) is the contractor.

9) West Section Avenue Drainage Improvements - In looking at the photos they show a before and after shot. What you can't see in the photo is an additional 10-11' that was gained away from the existing driveway from the pre-condition to what is it today. The portion that is in the easement they will need to put a fence in as a safety precaution as the driveway is narrower. Chad received a letter from an attorney expressing his concerns for safety. The headwall was directly on the driveway. HMR did the design work and Blade Construction was the low bidder.

10) Michigan Avenue Pipe and Headwall - Chad reported that he has been with the City for a year and he has worked with Dan, Don, Darrell and the rest of the men at Public Works and they are an asset to the City. This is just an example of their work. They were going to have Michigan resurfaced and looked at the metal pipe and it was rusted out so Taylor Davis did the design in-house; Public Works rented the equipment they needed and they jumped in and got the pipe replaced and the poured concrete so the headwall will be completed within a week. They will be able to backfill it and then have a completed project. They got quotes for the work and the lowest quote was \$34,800 and Darrell sent him the numbers and the actual cost was \$10,200, a cost savings of \$24,600.

11) Foley Beach Express Wingwall Repair - Chad reported this is another item damaged from the flood. They had Sawgrass do the design but when they looked at the engineer's estimate of \$101,000 they decided to see what it would cost by doing the work in-house. They worked it out so that Sawgrass would do the inspection and Public Works would do the work. The actual cost with Public Works doing the job was \$21,330, a cost savings of \$79,670. Public Works used broken up concrete below and came back with the expensive good looking material on top. They sodded it and used erosion control sodding.

There were no comments for File ID's 15-0445 Fire Department Monthly Report for June 2015, and 15-0432 June 2015 FPD Monthly Report. These items remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0382 A Resolution to reappoint Erick Crosby to the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals - Vickey Southern reported Mr. Crosby was willing to serve another term. President Trawick reported he is a good member of this Board. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda

15-0430 TIGER Phase 2 Bid Award - Chad reported this is awarding the base bid to meet the 60-day timeframe from the bid date for the award. After they tabulated the final cost of TIGER Phase 1 he will come back to the Council with recommendations on added alternates. They confirmed with FHWA that they can do that and it would be a change order to the contract. He recommended

awarding the base so they can get their insurance and bonds and get the job done. Depending on how the numbers fall out on TIGER Phase 1 they could add one or more alternates. Councilman Hellmich reported on the resolution the Council will need to amend the resolution for the base bid for the \$83,002 on the previous resolution. Chad responded in the affirmative. The projected savings from TIGER 1 is at least \$140,000. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda with the recommended change.

15-0433 Accept EPA Appropriations Grant with Amendments - Leslie Gahagan reported there was \$4,107 left on the project left over from 2003. After she submitted the proposal they initially said it sounded great but came back and said the City couldn't match it with in-kind services and all of the money needed to be spent on equipment. She recommended an amendment to approve purchasing stormwater facilities assessment equipment, i.e. snake camera to go into the pipes to see if they have collapsed, a turbidity probe to drop into areas to look at sediment analysis, and a laptop. Those pieces of equipment will total the funds. They can hire a part-time temporary person to do the assessment and that would be their only job and it would take up the match. Councilman Hellmich reported that if we want the grant we need to do this. Leslie reported they would also need to appropriate some money into part-time salaries to finish up the grant. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0434 Request to apply for FY2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant - Leslie reported Kate Embry went to the Recreational Trails Workshop with ADECA and they have decided in the past that we don't want an RWCF grant because of all the restrictions; however, this grant does not have that many restrictions and this grant is an 80/20 match. She would like to finish out the mountain biking trails to help purchase trail equipment, build a parking lot for the trailhead, and do some signage. The total project would be approximately \$50,000; they would give us \$35,000 and the remainder of the match will put the City in a more favorable position. She spoke with the Mountain Biking group, who has done all the labor on the trails, and they are interested in partnering with the City as well as doing most of the labor. The parking lot would be done in-house and the grant would pay for the materials for Don and Dan's crews to do the parking lot, which we were going to do anyway in Philomene Holmes Blvd. Phase 2. Staff labor can be part of the match. Councilman Ebert reported there is a person or a couple that has really done a lot. Leslie reported there have been some people from Mississippi and Florida to get these trails in place too. It will be the first ever Mountain Biking Trail in Baldwin County that is open to the public and the large one in Mobile is 14 miles and we currently have 8 cut. We have the potential by become the largest. This item remained on the Council agenda.

15-0435 Residential Sanitation Write Offs as Uncollectible in the amount of \$177.26 - There were no comments on this item and it remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0442 City Hope Church's Request to use the Max Griffin Park - David Thompson reported he was good with this event. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

15-0443 Aaronville Pool Park Improvements - David reported this has been an ongoing project and he and Councilwoman Quaites have been meeting with

community members of Aaronville for over a year. They spent a lot of time on the pool building and renovated it prior to this pool season. He still has money allocated in Capital Projects towards the Aaronville Pool renovation, building or splashpads. The first request is the bathrooms need to be renovated because they have not been maintained as they should and they have been vandalized. The building needs have some of the siding replaced, replace the plumbing and do some painting. He is requesting \$20,000 to get this done. Councilman Hellmich asked if this addresses the issues like ADA. David reported they will not get into ADA but they will be doing what they can and will put in the ADA bars and pull ups but the turn radius won't be compliant unless they tear down the building. They are stuck with how the building was constructed. They just want the building to be up and operational. They do have cameras in the park to ensure that there won't be vandalism in the park as before. The total of the funds in the budget is \$120,000 with the intent to get a grant, which he was unable to do. He is not requesting the full amount. The second request is for the actual replastering of the pool itself. The pool has not been plastered since he has been there and is in desperate need of replastering. They have constant complaints that the pool bottom is actually scratching feet of the patrons using the pool. We recommended the water shoes but again it needs to be repaired. They are averaging approximately 23 people per day and it has dropped off recently. The cost is \$55,000 and he is asking to move forward with going out to bid. He would like to go out to bid so that it can be done in the off season. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

There was a discussion regarding a new olympic pool but at this time it will have to wait until some of the existing projects are completed before discussing a new pool.

15-0444 Mel Roberts Park Well - David reported there is no irrigation system at Mel Roberts Park. There are three infields and one of the infields has a complete irrigation system. All the irrigation system is based off of City water. He would like to install a well and in the off season go in and install an irrigation system. Councilman Hellmich reported there is a well at Mel Roberts Park that the City obtained many, many years ago. It was gotten from a grant and they came back to the City a few years ago and said we have to keep it operational. They use the well to keep the Cypress Pond at a certain level. Is there any way to utilize this well and tie it into the irrigation system. David will look into it. It might save the City some money. The cost would be \$10,000 but David will look at it very close. Councilman Ebert recommended David have the well man look at the well to see if it could be upgraded and if it can't then just put one in. This item remained on the Council agenda. Councilman Blackwell thanked David and his crew on getting the fields ready for the tournaments with all these showers.

15-0447 A resolution amending resolution 15-2205 - (Craine Creek Farm) This is just a correction to the description. This item remained on the Council Agenda.

15-0448 A resolution to award the Graham Creek Nature Preserve Drainage Improvements - Chad reported this is to award the construction to the low bidder. The budget is \$181,500 and the low bid was approximately \$172,799.53. Sawgrass has recommended we move forward to finish the project.

Councilman Ebert reported that if the Council were to move forward with the

air medical item and once staff meets with them, in the interest of public safety, he would like to make sure that it will not only benefit Foley but the surrounding area as well.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Koniar reported he and Jeff met with the State Director of the Chamber of Main Street in regards to Historic Preservation because there are some people interested in revitalizing the downtown area. They also met with Steve McNair, Ph.D. who is an Historic Preservation Consultant. He is very knowledgeable on the subject and will try to come up with some grants for the downtown area.

Councilman Hellmich reported in 2006 Alabama did not have an active program and since Mary Hellmer came to Alabama she has been going gangbusters in revitalizing that program. We can always use some help. Mayor Koniar reported she was very impressive with what the City had done but basically the solution to her was that if someone woke up every morning with this on their mind then they might need to hire a director. The Chamber is taking the lead on this one.

Councilman Blackwell asked if the City would be doing anything in memory of Kenny Stabler. Mayor Koniar reported they had looked at that but there was so much coverage and so many articles written about it that it would be redundant for the City to do anything. Coach Ivan Jones told the Mayor that a lot people involved with Kenny were already doing something. He was open for ideas. Councilman Blackwell recommended doing a proclamation. Councilman Hellmich reported a proclamation on the same day as Foley High School is having a football and cheerleader reunion on October 18, 2015 would be good. A proclamation can be done for that day.

Visitor's Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Adjourn

Hearing no further comments the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.