



City of Foley, AL

407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Monday, July 21, 2014

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session

Call To Order

Council President Wayne Trawick called the Work Session to order at 4:03 p.m.

Roll Call

All Council members were present. Others present: Mayor John Koniar, Mike Thompson, Vickey Southern, Sandra Pate, Katy Taylor, Thurston Bullock, David Wilson, David White, Taylor Davis, Chad Christian, Dana Overton, Leslie Gahagan, Miriam Boutwell, Rachel Keith, Heather Pritchard, Suzanne Kellams, Randy Bishop, Steve Smith, Joey Darby, John Jackson, Beth Taylor, DVM FHS, Micah Jones (Volkert), Chad Watkins, Heyward Hosch, Esq., John and Cindy Stephens (Krewe of Mystic Pirates), Marita Johnson, Jean Anne Lyons, and press representatives Cathy Higgins (Foley Onlooker) and Marc D. Anderson (Press-Register/AL.Com).

President Trawick stated that there were a lot of items on the agendas and requested that everyone presenting be brief in order to cover all the items.

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

14-0462

Beth Taylor, DVM Presentation on Foley High School Ag Education

Attachments: [FHS AG ED \(1\).pdf](#)

Dr. Beth Taylor reported that she is a veterinarian who decided to give up her private practice to work at Foley High School in their new Agriculture Education Department. There are three staff members in the Department. Foley High School has 20 acres of land, 10 of which is usable and has been cleared. Their goals are to promote agriculture through hands-on learning and to teach students about opportunities in agriculture and to prepare them for potential careers. If they decide not to make it a career then she hopes they will at least respect the roots of this community and farming in Baldwin County. This past year they had a garden, a tunnel house (one of ten in the state and the Tuskegee Institute donated it and installed it), learned how to raise a lamb, chickens and trained a dog as a service dog. They participated in Farm Safety Day as a Community Service event. The 2014-2015 program consists of Ag Science, Animal Science (Pre-requisite for Veterinary Science), Veterinary Science, Engine Technology, Intro to Metal Fabrication, Fish & Wildlife, Construction and Framing, Construction/Finishing Interior Systems, Residential and Commercial Power Equipment. This past year they did not have many students but the 2014-2015 year 630 students are enrolled in the program. This year they plan to have three acres for a cow/calf operation, a dairy goat herd so that students learn how to produce soap, cheese, etc., poultry (egg production), and row crops, such as cotton, sunflowers and hemp. "We want the students to be career ready with good work ethics." They will also be partnering with the community for Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) and the Baldwin County Animal Control Center. They will be adopting dogs that are due to be euthanized and training them as good citizens. Dr. Taylor asked the Council to be supportive of their efforts, if not monetarily, but by passing the information along to others. Other ways to help are through donations of materials/supplies, speakers, donations, jobs for students, and support their fundraisers. She invited the Council and/or staff to spend some time with them to see how the program works. She thanked the Council for their time.

Councilman Ebert reported he happened to be driving by the day they were clearing the land and stated some of the students were driving the tractor for the very first time. They really were enjoying it. City Administrator Mike Thompson requested that she work with Heather Pritchard on some things in connection with the Farmers Market. She stated that she would.

14-0484

Thank You Note from Play House In The Park

Attachments: [Thank You Note](#)

The Playhouse in the Park sent a thank you note to the Council for the donation of the lighting equipment.

14-0485 Consider funds assistance request for operating expenses from Foley Performing Arts Association

Attachments: [Foley Performing Arts Assoc.](#)

President Trawick reported he met with some of the Performing Arts Association members. They have a building much bigger than they need and have requested Council to continue their financial support, to allow them to use the Claude Peteet building, to allow City staff to assist with their move, and to give them an additional \$2,000 from September through January until they get to be self-sufficient. They have had major expenses in redoing their existing building that they are renting and the utilities have also been very expensive. They are asking the arts and crafts people to come pick up their items in preparation of the move so that they can begin to prepare for their biggest fundraiser "Trim-A-Tree". He reported they are good in downtown Foley and was sorry to hear that their current location wasn't working out. At the new location they may be able to hold arts and crafts in the Park. Mr. Thompson reported the pedestrian bridge would be put in at a time when they won't be busy and he wasn't sure of the timing on the paving of the parking lot. Once it is paved they can have arts and crafts shows but now they are going to concentrate on the arts since it doesn't take up much space. There was a discussion regarding water and sewer, which is located under the building, and the fixtures will need to be purchased and installed. There was a consensus to proceed.

14-0498 Discuss Truck Traffic on Fern Avenue

President Trawick reported he requested this item be on the Council agenda for discussion because he has received complaints about the truck traffic on Fern Avenue. These trucks are going to one of the City's largest industry's and the City needs to find a good way to move the traffic from Fern Avenue to County Road 24. There was a discussion regarding various ways to remedy the problem, such as meeting with some of the UTC managers and let them know of the problem, adding signs on Hwy. 59, and adding additional four-way stop signs on East Fern Avenue at Pine Street and possibly some other intersections. Mr. Thompson reported Butch Stokes had spoken with ALDOT on this before and they should be agreeable to the signage. When he first spoke to ALDOT regarding the signage they were thinking that the signage would be more like a restaurant sign, i.e. McDonald's. Chief Wilson reported that in the past they had an issue with the trucks speeding on Fern Avenue and they gave fliers out so that the truckers would know traffic citations would be issued and it slowed traffic down and it worked. Prior to the next meeting Chad Christian, Taylor Davis and Mike Thompson will meet to determine the best way to correct the problem. Carried over until August 4th Work Session.

14-0522

Discuss Second Mardi Gras Parade By Krew of Mystic Pirates

Attachments: [Extracted pages from Parade Ordinance-2](#)

Chief Wilson reported since the City adopted a new parade procedure the Krew of the Mystic Pirates has requested holding a Mardi Gras Parade on the same day as the Foley Mardi Gras parade. Lt. Bullock reported they are requesting the route be longer but the PD wants it to be the same route. They would like to begin at 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. so that they are finished before it gets dark. The reason this is coming back to Council is that this second parade will call for more manpower. It will cost \$1200 for employee time for the second parade. Mr. Thompson reported that most of the work would be done by the Police Department since the other Department's will have already put out the baracades. The Council's consensus was that it would be cheaper to hold the second parade the same day rather than another day and that it would be ok to proceed with the second parade.

14-0527

Discuss Aggregation Center for the Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermens Market

Attachments: [AGGREGATION CENTER.pdf](#)

Heather Pritchard gave an informational presentation on the Aggregation Center. The purpose of the Center is to offer farm services for food to be sorted, sized, graded, washed, prepared and boxed/packaged for distribution for a local supply chain to schools, hospitals, restaurants and other markets. The farms vary in sizes and will be shipped to the Peavy building next to Gulf Coast Produce. Mr. Larry Lovell has experience in large scale vegetable crops, recruiting producers and developing producer networks, developing farm labor sources, plans to implement farm services, and negotiations with buyers to secure a fair return for the producers. Mr. Lovell has the experience necessary to work with the farmers to get their produce distributed in the local marketplace. He has already been at the farms promoting this idea. The farmers have 60 bushels of zipper peas, pink eye peas, 2,000 watermelons and cantalope, twenty cases of tomatoes and peppers. This shows that some of the farmers are preparing to produce more fruits and vegetables and supply.

The benefits of having an Aggregation Center increases development of sustainable local food sources, promotes and develops improved agricultural practices in our climate for success, economic boost of keeping our food dollars local, implements farm to school programs, health benefits from consuming fresh vegetables, and creates direct and indirect jobs. Job creation in the first three years would be three to five permanent jobs and five to eight seasonal jobs. If there were five farms it would create 28 jobs and with eight more farms it would create up to 65 jobs.

Gulf Coast Produce has already had large refrigerators installed in preparation of the Aggregation Center. The build out for the Aggregation Center estimates to be \$200,000 and can be funded by the USDA Supply grant. They have also identified other funding options available to a 501C3 entity (CAFFM, Inc.). The Center should have been ready in mid-July. They have had interest for the produce at Winn Dixie, Rouse's, the Baldwin County Board of Education and other markets.

Related File ID 14-0533 Requesting permission to go to bid for aggregation equipment remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0529

Discuss Forming A Committee For Graham Creek Nature Preserve

President Trawick asked the Council members to think about how the committee needs to be structured with term limits. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Councilman Ebert asked if there would be a moderator. President Trawick reported that a moderator had not been selected; however, Leslie Gahagan and Don Staley will be doing a PowerPoint presentation and talking about the plans for the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. The committee or board should be set up as an advisory board. This will be discussed further.

Councilman Blackwell recommended a representative be selected from each District.

14-0512

Ms. Kollyn Blackwell, Healthy Woman Coordinator & Marketing Assistant, South Baldwin Regional Medical Center - Healthy Woman 6th Anniversary Celebration Sponsorship

Attachments: [2014 Sponsorship Packet](#)
[Council Agenda Request Form](#)

Ms. Blackwell was not in attendance so this item was not discussed.

Discuss Council Meeting Agenda for July 21, 2014

14-0530 An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and making provision for the payment of \$16,805,000 General Obligation Warrants, Series 2014 - The City Clerk reported the rules needed to be suspended for the immediate adoption of the ordinance. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0260 - Approval to purchase Christmas Decorations - Suzanne Kellams reported 45 wreath pole decorations that were placed between Pride Drive and County Road 12 needed to be replaced and the poles were already wired for LED lighting. When Councilman Ebert asked if the tree and wreath pole decorations consisted of all white lights Suzanne responded that the tree lights were multi-colored and the wreaths were all white lights. President Trawick reported that they wanted the lights up prior to Thanksgiving and would they be in prior to time to be installed. Suzanne reported the lights would be here in time and they will be up the second week of November.

14-0452 Consider Appointment to the Library Advisory Board - There were three very good candidates to choose from and Councilman Blackwell recommended Mrs. Sara Thompson. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0478 Consider Reappointment to the Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals - President Trawick reported that Randy Arp's name needed to be added to this resolution since the terms were the same. Both Otis Gatlin and Randy Arp are willing to serve another term. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

At this point in the meeting President Trawick turned the meeting over to President Pro-temp Ralph Hellmich to discuss the following items:

14-0486 A Resolution setting a public hearing to consider Planning Commission's recommendation for re-zoning for property owned by Magnolia Land Company - Councilman Hellmich reported the Planning Commission recommended B-3 zoning. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0499 Request to update Graham Creek Nature Preserve Master Plan - Leslie Gahagan reported they would like to have the Park's master plan updated to reflect the items that are currently existing in the Park. Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood has won awards for their uses of resources and have been recognized by the State of Alabama. They are currently working with the City on the Stream Restoration Project and the Design of the Interpretive Center. The last plan was done in 2008. If the Council approves moving forward \$10,000 will need to be allocated to this project. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0516 Volkert's contract for Resurfacing PH V - Volkert's contract covers engineering design services and construction observation for Phase V of the project. The cost of resurfacing includes striping. Volkert will work on the plans and will hopefully begin early to mid fall. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0518 Reimbursal of Baldwin EMC for Relocation of Certain Utility Facilities - This item mirrors the agreement with the next item. The City will pay 100% of the costs to relocate the lights and will be a better height relative to the Pride Drive Extension and widening Juniper Street from County Road 20 to Tammany Blvd. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0519 Reimbursable Agreement for Relocation of Utility Facilities for the Pride Drive Extension - The resolution authorizes the Mayor to execute the agreement regarding the Pride Drive Extension discussed above. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

President Pro-temp Hellmich turned the meeting back over to President Trawick.

14-0489 - A resolution to rescind Resolution 14-0254 reappointing Vernie Heard Jr. to the BAA - President Trawick reported Mr. Heard had been reappointed in December but the information did not get logged into the records. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0504 Purchase of ATV Rescue Cart for the Fire Department - Chief Darby reported the ATV Rescue Cart will be used for remote areas such as Graham Creek Nature Preserve. It is a trailer type cart that folds up and has a suspension system that will be good for carrying a stretcher, which is included in the price from NAFECO. This is a budgeted item in the Fire Department's Ad Valorem Fund. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0505 Retiree Bonus Authorization (Act 2014-429) - Sandra Pate reported the Act 2014-429 of the Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature provides our agency with the opportunity to grant a one-time lump sum payment to retired members and beneficiaries of deceased retirees who retired prior to October 1, 2013. If granted, these retirees would then be entitled to receive a monthly retirement benefit from RSA on September 30, 2014. The Act provides for the retiree to receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$2.00 per month for each year of service credited to the retiree's account or \$300.00, whichever is greater. If the City of Foley elects to grant the 2014 one-time lump sum payment, the estimated cost is \$15,103.00 which will require 0.14% to be added to the employer contribution rate effective for the one year period from October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016. The bonuses are not done very often. One was done in 2006 and the other in 2012. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0506 Transfer of Airport Funds - Rachel Keith reported the road that goes through the long term parking through to the T-Hangar units gets washed out each time we have a heavy rain. She requested to move funds for paving and storm water drainage work to be done by Southgate. No additional funds are needed. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0507 Request to construct mountain biking trails at Graham Creek Nature Preserve - Leslie reported she had a meeting with the regional and local mountain biking associations. They would like to construct about 12 miles of mountain biking trails north of Russian Road in Graham Creek Preserve using contracted and rental equipment at a cost of up to \$10,000. Local mountain bikers plan to volunteer to assist with the construction. There will be an outer beginners loop with interior areas marked for advanced riders. Access to the trail will be off of Philomene Holmes Blvd. just east of the entry to the Preserve. This area of the Preserve does not have any invasive species. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0509 Award Bid for Clubhouse Drive Culvert Repairs - Taylor Davis reported bids were opened and Sawgrass, LLC recommended R&S Paving & Grading's, who was the lowest responsible bidder, whose bid was in the amount of

\$57,911 for base and alternative bid. The washout was due to the April rain event. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0510 Sod Purchase for Glenlakes Sidewalk, PH II - The bid was awarded to EJ Builders but the sod has to be a direct purchase. The City will need a truck load, and a half truck load has been donated. The sod is going along CR20. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0513 Right of Way and Easement Donations for Pride Drive Extension - Chad Christian reported Volkert has been working on getting the easements and right of way donations to extend Pride Drive. The documents are in and Council needs to consider accepting the donations. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0515 Resolution to retain the services of Global Marketing, Inc. for upgrades to the VisitFoley.org website - Mike Thompson reported LaDonna Hinesley wants to use funds in the Marketing budget to update the Foley website. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0523 Approves Roof addition and repainting the clock tower - Suzanne Kellams reported Chad Watkins is present to answer questions; however, the company will need to disassemble the clock tower to paint it with outdoor paint to match Foley's color specs that exist on the fixtures located in downtown Foley. Mike Thompson reported the clock tower was used inside and thus the need to repaint. This is an ideal time since they are taking the tower apart to paint, otherwise it will cost more money. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

14-0532 Authorizing Waiver of Certain Fees for the CAFFM, Inc.'s Retail Center - This request is to waive all but the minimum fees for Phase II of the Farmers Market. This item remained on the Council meeting agenda.

Add On's - Removals

President Trawick reported File 14-0501 is a duplicate of File 14-0471 and File 14-0502 is a duplicate of File 14-0470. Files 14-0501 and 14-0502 need to be removed. On File 14-0478 needs to be revised to include Randy Arp's name for reappointment to the BAA.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Koniar reported when he was at the airshow in London this past week UTC's President reported that Foley was one of their best plants. They were made aware of the additional acreage that they have for expansion. They were very complimentary to Foley.

Visitor's Comments

None to report.

Adjourn

Hearing no further comments the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.