

August 11, 2015
Council Workshop
12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy
Magnolia Springs, AL
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Underwood called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members present – Mayor Underwood - Council Members: Dotty Johnson, Jim May, Bob Holk, Donna Esslinger and Ben Dykema. Also present: Town Clerk - Karen S. Biel and Legal Counsel – Laura Strachan

3. Invocation and Pledge – led by Mayor Underwood

4. Discussion of Minutes – July

Special Council Meeting – 07/07/15

Workshop – 07/14/15

Regular Council Meeting – 07/28/15

Councilmember Dykema inquired about the settlement that was signed by the Mayor pertaining to the Special Council Meeting. The clerk informed the council that she had received information from legal counsel that a settlement letter would be forthcoming to the town.

5. Discussion of Financials and Expenditure – July

The Mayor reported: Balances as of 7/31/2015 - General Fund - \$89,488.66. Income - \$18,291.25. Expenses - \$64,258.14. Money Market – \$26,300.73. CD - \$54,096.29. Special Revenue 4, 5, & 7¢ Gas Tax – Income \$347.89. Balance - \$17,904.83.

The clerk stated that three estimates on the sidewalk grant totaling \$159,947.86 were submitted to ALDOT for reimbursement. The town received a check from ALDOT for its 80% reimbursement which is \$127,958.29 and it will be deposited back into the Money Market account.

6. Deputy Smith's Monthly Report

Deputy Smith reported:

156 traffic stops – 31 citations – 42 warnings – 83 verbal warnings.

1 arrest for attempting to elude and that person also received citations for speeding and a suspended license.

7. Public Comment

Rick Odess – presented the council with some information on the library from its inception to the present. He talked about the library's budget in comparison to the town's budget and how it went from 1.5% to 7.1% in five years. Mr. Odess added that this is an annual growth rate of 49% in five years. He said that you want to make a reasonable determination on what is reasonable for the library. He researched what other municipalities give to their libraries and their percentage is much lower. Councilmember May stated that the town is two times better than the highest one around. Councilmember Dykema said that he doesn't think that it is comparing apples to apples because some of the towns own the building that the library is in, whereas we have a large expense for the rent. Mr. Odess wanted to provide this information so the council can consider what is reasonable for a part-time library. Councilmember Dykema stated that he told the library board that what the town was offering to the library for a budget was a good deal. Councilmember Johnson added that Rick's point is that the town's budget does not grow. Councilmember Esslinger stated that there is an agreement in place with the budget request for this coming year, but this is good information for the next budget.

8. Discussion – Historic Preservation Commission Appointment

The commission needs to appoint a replacement for John Cobb. Mayor Underwood stated that they have a candidate in mind but he has not been able to contact her yet.

9. Discussion – Library Board Reappointments

Mayor Underwood stated that the recommended reappointments are Frances Cleverdon and Mary Emmett

10. Discussion – Board of Adjustments Reappointment

Mayor Underwood stated that the reappointment is Brett Garr

11. Committee/Commission Reports

a) **Finance** – Mayor Underwood stated that the committee has drafted a preliminary budget that will be sent to the council. It will be discussed at the September workshop and adopted at the September meeting.

b) **Public Works & Safety** – Councilmember Holk reported that he and the Mayor did a walk through with Volkert and the contractor on the sidewalk project. There are a few things that need to be cleaned up. The contractor was asked to add more reflectors on the north and south side of the bridge which they did agree to do. Councilmember Holk is still working on estimates to pressure wash the bridge and painting the sidewalk across the bridge. Councilmember Holk stated that he is going to get an estimate from the county on grading Bay Street. He and the Mayor have looked at it and they feel that grading the road will benefit the draining in that area. Councilmember Holk added that he is getting ready to start cleaning out the ditches there also.

c) **Public Lands** – Mayor Underwood gave an update on the progress of the Springs cleanup grant. Volkert is working on the plans to remove the sand with minimal impact on the Springs.

12. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments

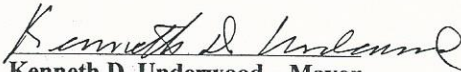
Councilmember Johnson asked the Mayor if he sent the letter to the Marine Police. Mayor Underwood stated that he hadn't but had the drafts on his computer to the Marine Police and the Department of Conservation.

Councilmember Esslinger stated that people are asking her about low hanging tree limbs and wanted to inquire about the process to have them removed. Councilmember Holk asked her to make a list and turn it into the town clerk and we can get them taken care of.

Motion by Councilmember Johnson, 2nd by Councilmember Esslinger to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 5:39 pm

Approved this the 22nd day of September, 2015


Kenneth D. Underwood – Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen S. Biel – Town Clerk