

August 27, 2024
 Regular Council Meeting
 12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy.
 Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555

1. Call to Order:
 Mayor Ross Houser called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama law.
2. Roll Call:
 Mayor Ross Houser; Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields;
 Councilmember Andrew Monaghan; Councilmember Steve Mobley;
 Councilmember Harold Sherman; Councilmember Bob Turner.
 Also, present: Town Clerk Hannah Driskell.
3. Invocation and Pledge:
 Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields led the invocation and pledge.
4. Proclamation:
 - Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2024 – Councilmember Bob Turner made motion to approve the Constitution Week Proclamation. Seconded by Councilmember Harold Sherman. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Council Minutes, July 2024:
 Mayor Ross Houser asked for approval of minutes for Council Workshop, July 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, July 23, 2024, and Special Council Meeting, July 30, 2024. Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve the July 2024 Council meeting minutes. Second, by Councilmember Bob Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Approval of Financials and Expenditures, July 2024:
 Mayor Ross Houser noted that the Profit and Loss Statement shows a deficit for July. Mayor Houser clarified that the Pecan Grove Street and Oak Street drainage project was paid in July, which is within budget for the year, but not for the month of July. Mayor Houser asked for approval of the June 2024 Financials & Expenditures. Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve the June 2024 Financials & Expenditures. Second, by Councilmember Harold Sherman. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Resolutions:
 - Resolution No. 2024-21 – Authorizing Donation to the South Baldwin Literacy Council – Councilmember Bob Turner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-21. Seconded by Councilmember Andrew Monaghan. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Resolution No. 2024-22 – Authorizing Purchase of Public Works Vehicle off State of Alabama Bid List – Councilmember Harold Sherman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-22. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Resolution No. 2024-23 – Appropriating Funds to the Magnolia Springs Garden Club for Arboretum Improvements – Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-23. Seconded by Councilmember Harold Sherman. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Resolution No. 2024-24 – Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC for Engineering and Consultation Services – Councilmember Harold Sherman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-24. Seconded by Councilmember Steve Mobley. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Resolution No. 2024-25 – Adopting Transportation Plan Pursuant to the Rebuild Alabama Act and Repeal of Resolution No. 2023-19 – Councilmember Andrew Monaghan made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-25. Seconded by Councilmember Bob Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Resolution No. 2024-26 – Authorizing the Town to Place Portions of the Park into An Easement for the Development of Sidewalks – Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-26. Seconded by Councilmember Bob Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.
8. Discussion:
 - Magnolia Springs Town Center Update – Mayor Ross Houser stated that the Town has completed the paperwork with United Bank to finance the property. Alabama Land Title is handling the closing. They are awaiting documents from the Wesleyan Church to complete the title work to schedule closing. Mayor Houser stated that closing on the Wesleyan Church property should happen in the next seven to ten days.

- ATRIP II Grant Application – Mayor Ross Houser discussed conversations with Skipper Consulting and Civil Southeast, LLC regarding improvements to the Magnolia Springs Highway and US Highway 98 intersection. The improvements would be eligible for grant funding through the ATRIP II Grant program. Mayor Houser stated that the proposed improvements would include adding a turn lane for northbound traffic to turn west off Magnolia Springs Highway, a turn lane eastbound on US Highway 98 to turn southbound on Magnolia Springs Highway, adding a pedestrian crossing to the traffic signal, and adding sidewalks within the rights-of-way. Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that the ATRIP II Grant program allocates two-million dollars per project. The grant has a twenty percent match that the Town would be responsible for, with the State of Alabama funding the other eighty percent. Ms. Driskell stated that Alan Killen with Civil Southeast, LLC will be making the application on behalf of the Town to ALDOT, and he will be coming to speak to Council about the grant application in September.
- Safe Streets and Roads Grant Application – Town Clerk Hannah Driskell discussed a grant opportunity called Safe Streets and Roads for All that Cara Stallman, the Town’s grant manager, suggested the Town apply for. The Safe Streets and Roads for all grant program has two types of funding: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants. The Town would be applying for a Planning and Demonstration Grant. The grant would pay for a traffic engineer to conduct a comprehensive safety action plan. Once the comprehensive safety action plan is completed, the Town could apply for an Implementation Grant to fund the projects identified in the action plan. Ms. Driskell stated that the grant application is due on August 30 and Ms. Stallman is applying for the grant on the Town’s behalf.

9. Public Comment:

- Eddie Sue Winter – Eddie Sue Winter, resident of Cougill Avenue, discussed a project that the Town of Mentone, Alabama, did through their arts council, to build a stage and entertainment area in their park. The back of the stage has a chalkboard where local artists are picked monthly to do their art on the board to publicly display. The community has a monthly gathering where musicians set up on the stage and food trucks come. The Art Council in Mentone takes photos of the art and prints postcards, calendars and other items with the artwork and sells them to raise funds for the arts council. Ms. Winter asked the Council to consider doing something similar in the Old School Park. Ms. Winter stated that she would be willing to volunteer her time to make the project happen.

10. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that a new domain name has been obtained for the Town; magnoliaspringsal.gov. The new domain is free through the federal government. The website and email address will be slowly changing over to the new domain name. Ms. Driskell noted that once the Town Hall moves to the new location and a new physical address is assigned to the Town, both changes will be made to all printed materials, so as not to have to order letterhead, business cards, etc. twice.

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that elected official’s wages are now required to be submitted to the Retirement Systems of Alabama starting in August 2024. The Council does not earn enough to meet the threshold for contributing toward RSA, so funds will not be taken out of their checks. Ms. Driskell noted that the Council may get communications from RSA.

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell noted that the 2025 General Election is a year away. Ms. Driskell advised Council that the Election Calendar has been emailed out and posted on the Town’s website. Ms. Driskell noted that the Council will start seeing items on the agenda related to the general election. The Council will need to consider Council salary increases, districting and appointing election officials by February 2025.

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that the Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee will meet on August 28, 2024, at 5 p.m. at Town Hall. The Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday. The Planning Commission will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3 at Town Hall. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Thursday, September 5 at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Ms. Driskell stated that there are many community events happening in October, including the Magnolia River Water Quality Town Meeting on October 17, Magnolia Springs Firefighter Festival on October 19, Blood Drive at the Magnolia Springs Fire Department on October 25, and Garden Club’s Arboretum Fundraiser on October 27.

Councilmember Harold Sherman discussed the issues with the clay pits off Charolais Road in Foley draining red clay into the headwaters of the Magnolia River. Councilmember Sherman noted that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Baldwin County’s Natural Resources Planner is involved in getting the property owner to comply with their regulations regarding the red clay running into the river. Councilmember Sherman noted that he is keeping up with the progress with ADEM and Baldwin County is making with the property owner fixing the drainage issues.

11. Any Other Business That Might Come Before the Meeting:

No other business that might come before the meeting.

12. Adjourn:

Mayor Ross Houser asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bob Turner made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Steve Mobley. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Approved this 24th day of September 2024.



Ross Houser, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk



