April 12, 2011
Council Workshop
12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy.
Magnolia Springs, AL
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
Mayor Houser called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call
Councilmembers present – Mayor Charles Houser, Bob Holk, Rick Odess, Ken Underwood, Brett Gaar, and Kenny Laurendine. Also present: Town Clerk - Karen S. Biel – Town Attorney – Brad Hicks

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation and Pledge by Councilmember Laurendine.

4. Donna Watts – Potential Chamber Merge
Ms. Watts thanked the Council for allowing the Magnolia Run they had a record number of runners and hopes that the community enjoyed it. Ms. Watts went on to talk about the potential merge between the South Baldwin Chamber and the Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber. The Chamber has an independent firm giving them advice and right now they are in discussions on the procedure for voting; it will be a vote among the membership and what the requirements will be. There has been a lot of work completed by volunteers that have been working on tasks forces researching other mergers, the benefits and the negatives. She wanted to assure the Council that during all the talks and deliberations that it is very important to them to maintain a good working relationship with all the communities, and that is very high on her priority list. Ms. Watts did state that there will not be a lot of change if the merger happens and that they will maintain the same location and staff. One name that is being considered is the Coastal Baldwin Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also stated that with the economy and the oil spill the Chamber has lost some membership, but according to some businesses things are picking back up and this has been the best Spring in a long time.

5. Discussion of minutes – 03-08-01 Workshop and 03-22-11 Regular Meeting
There were no corrections to the minutes.

6. Discussion of financials and expenditures March
The Mayor reported: General Fund Balance 03/31/11 - $53,251.76 - Income - $15,825.08 – Expenses - $124,367.83, Mayor Houser stated that $90,000 of that expense was for the turn lane on Hwy. 98. The Council reviewed the six month budget vs actual. Mayor Houser stated that the income was down compared to budget, but the expenses were close. The mayor stated that sales tax was up from last year at this time but down compared to the proposed budget because Family Dollar did not open when the town expected it to. Councilmember Holk stated that ad valorem tax was down probably because property taxes went down some. Money Market - $102,252.25. CD - $52,288.80. Deepwater Horizon - $226,736.18. Special Revenue 4, 5 & 7¢ Gas Tax – Income - $358.11. Balance: $10,311.59. Councilmember Gaar asked the status on the grant application for the remaining BP monies. Mayor Houser stated that the Town has not received any approval or denial on the application submitted only that they are requesting another application be submitted and that it is to cover only expenses related to the oil spill. The council discussed other options for submitting and the Mayor will work on the application.

7. Public Comment
Carey Bentley - stated that the Kiwanis Club is holding a pancake breakfast and is asking that the Council wave the fee for the special event license. Mr. Bentley stated the club is non-profit and the money raised is to support three schools in the Magnolia area, which are Magnolia, Swift and Head Start Schools. Mayor Houser explained that the ordinance falls under a state statute which we can not change, the only thing we can change is the rates. Mayor Houser stated that the town requires the event holder to purchase a license, only if they have vendors that are selling goods instead of making each vendors purchase a license. Legal counsel, Brad Hicks explained that the ordinance states whether or not carried on for gain or profit, so it does not state anything about non-profit. Brad will research and report back to the Council.
8. Discussion – Appointments to the Planning Commission
Mayor Houser explained that the terms of Jennifer Haffner and Ed Stone expire on May 1st and the Planning Commission is recommending the reappointment of both. The Mayor also stated that we should think about changing members next time to get more people involved. **Will be on the agenda**

8. Discussion – Appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission
Mayor Houser stated that the terms of Ken Underwood, Burt Hinson and Rodney Hubble will terminate on May 1st and the Historic Commission is recommending the reappointment of all three. Councilmember Underwood added that members of the commission must have qualifications, such as experience or training in historic preservation and historic history. He added that every member must submit a resume to the Commission then Karen forwards that to the State Historic Commission, and that is how the Town keeps its CLG designation. **Will be on the agenda.**

9. Discussion – OAW Signage
Councilmember Odess stated that he requested an estimate from Rick Falzone and for a 96x36 redwood sandblasted sign it is $1800.00 each and that is delivered and installed. Originally the Council talked discussed aluminum signs and the prices Donna received were $2,200 – 2,800.00. Councilmember Underwood stated that while looking into historic signage, he noticed that most municipal signs were sandblasted wood. Mayor Houser also added that since the Town now has its official logo he would like to get a quote on four new town signs, simple with just “Welcome to, Town of Magnolia Springs, Established date and Incorporation Date”. Councilmember Odess and Mayor Houser will meet to discuss the placement of the OAW signs. Also discussed, which was suggested by Donna Estlinger that when using signage to designate water areas, the sign outline should be done in the blue that is in the logo and when designating land areas to use the green around the sign.

10. Committee reports
Finance: No report.
Public Safety: Councilmember Gaar received the data from the radar sign that was placed at different areas around town. He did state that the majority of speeders were north bound on Co. Rd. 49 near Village Green. Councilmember Gaar is going to research prices on a radar sign. Councilmember Holk asked about changing the speed limit and it was stated by legal counsel that the Council would probably have to pass an ordinance. The clerk will check with the League of Municipalities and have the information at the next workshop. Mayor Houser has provided the Council with a copy of a work schedule for Deputy Gandy that he has drafted, this way we will know when you’re working. The deputy will be given a choice of what days and times and will submit it to the clerk before that work week. The Mayor wants the Deputy to start this scheduling May 1st.
Parks & Recreation: Councilmember Laurenidine stated that his committee met with some of the Garden Club members about their landscape plans for the Springs. They also discussed the role of civic organizations and when they do all the planting, and who is responsible for the maintenance. The Garden Club members are going to go back to their members and discuss what and how much they want to do. They also wanted to know what the Town’s vision for the Springs is. Since the Garden Club is not having the Jazz Festival, their budget is down and they want to know what the roll of the Town would be. Councilmember Laurenidine stated that they discussed a low maintenance plan. He went on to say that the Garden Club has sold some memorial trees and Terry Underwood is going to meet a member of Councilmember Laurenidine’s committee who is a landscape architect to determine where the best place is to plant them. Mayor Houser did say that the sprinkler heads need to be lower and some of them need to be moved. The heads near the walkway need to be moved and pointed in a different direction. The committee decided that if the town is going to proceed with the plan that it should be done if phases.
Public Works: Councilmember Gaar stated that he has not had a chance to meet with a consultant about the sewer specs yet. He reported that the paving on Rock St., School St. and the bridge approaches should start within the next week. The Council also discussed a couple of areas with drainage problems.
Planning Commission: Councilmember Holk reported that the Commission is still working on the Subdivision Regulations and asked the Council to review and send any comments or suggestions to him.
Historic Preservation: Councilmember Underwood reported that a few of the members went to Eufaula for some training and during one of the sessions Magnolia Springs was complemented on by Mary Shell from the Historic Commission. He also mentioned that one of Bob Stoddard’s relatives have given him another photo album. He and Bob are going to take some pictures from the first album to see about getting them preserved. They are going to start on the oral histories soon.
Environmental Protection Committee: No report.

11. Council, legal counsel and staff comments
Legal counsel, Brad Hicks stated that County Bar Association is asking that the Council pass a proclamation proclaiming May 1st as Law Day. He will submit the proclamation to the clerk. He also informed the Council that Allan Chason, who represents the Fullers and Turners in the Rock Street lawsuit, has filed a brief in response to the brief that Brad submitted. Brad did speak to the judge and asked him not to rule, because he was submitting one more brief. It will only be 2-3 pages just on a few points that need to be clarified. He also stated that in the Eastern District of Louisiana, there is a limitations proceeding that Tran Ocean, owner of the oil rig, has filed, which is to limit its liability. It is a MDL, Multi District Litigation, which means a Federal Court has taken jurisdiction. There is a deadline of April 20th to file a claim in this proceeding. It doesn’t cost anything to file a claim, it is only a two page form that needs to be filed and Brad feels the Town needs to file a claim. He will prepare the paper work and file it for the Town.

Meeting ended at 7:15 pm

Approved this the 24th day of May, 2011

Charles S. Houser – Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen S. Bieł – Town Clerk