April 14, 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, 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 – March
Workshop Meeting – 3/10/2015
Regular Council Meeting – 3/24/2015

5. Discussion of Financials and Expenditures - March

6. Deputy Smith’s Monthly Report
Deputy Smith reported:
6 arrests - 105 traffic stops – 19 citations – 23 warnings – 63 verbal warnings.

7. Public Comment
Janet Paarlberg – questioned the council about the blue roofs (tarps) on a couple of houses.
Nick Klarman – inquired if a change order could be made on the sidewalk project to include a speed table on the south side of the bridge. Councilmember Holk will research the possibility of a change order.
Harry Dwyer – addressed the council about the drainage ditch being dug in front of his property.
Frances Cleverdon – inquired about the digging around the oak trees and their roots.

Councilmember Holk explained that the council has been talking about the drainage situation for a few years. He added that during the last six months the council has discussed what they were going to do. Councilmember Holk met with a county engineer and they came up with a plan to dig the ditches down to the existing culverts and clean the culverts out. Councilmember Holk added that he brought the plan to the council and they all agreed that it needed to be done, so the town contracted with the county to do the work. Councilmember Holk said that the county has dug out the ditches and we are now in the process of cleaning out the culverts. Once the culverts are finished being cleaned out and everything has settled then sod will be added to the ditch area, just as the Public Works committee discussed. Mayor Underwood added that storm drainage is a complex problem but it can be addressed. He added that it takes serious money. There could be “no slope culverts” that are self cleaning but where you have your problems is at the entrance of culverts under the road. The Mayor said that if we could afford to do it we probably would solve the problem. He said that he does not like the looks of a deep ditch but that’s the best that we could do at this particular time.

8. Discussion – Resolution – Event on Town Property
Mayor Underwood stated that the council has discussed this resolution several times. He asked the council if they had any issues with the way it was written. Councilmember Esslinger had concerns about the usage fees. Councilmember Holk suggested there be a fee schedule for specific events and time limits. Mayor Underwood stated that with road closures the town would need time limitations. Councilmember Dykema questioned how the notification to residents was to be handled. All agreed that “written notice” would cover by mail or flyer. Resolution will be discussed at the workshop in May.

9. Discussion – D.R. Horton Request
Mayor Underwood explained that D.R. Horton submitted a request for a zoning change on Phase Two of Magnolia Farm Estates (Pecan Grove). Councilmember Holk reported that the Planning Commission held a public hearing and discussion on the zoning change. He added
that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council to approve the rezoning. Mayor Underwood stated that it would be changing from RA with a minimum lot size of three acres to R-1(a) with a minimum lot size of 40,000 sq. feet. The clerk added that the council will also hold a public hearing at the next meeting.

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10. Discussion – Proclamation – National Boating Week
Mayor Underwood stated that a request for a proclamation for National Safe Boating Week which is May 16th – May 22nd has been submitted.

11. Discussion - Library
Mayor Underwood gave a report on what the ad-hoc committee found out from visiting the other libraries in the area. He explained that there is no additional action by the town needed to fully fund the library or in a manner they request. Mayor Underwood stated that we are funding the library and this year we are funding it a higher level than the town ever has. What would be required is that the Library Board report financial activities to the town and that process can be worked out. Also, the board would submit a request for monies for their budget for the next fiscal year. The existing 501-C3 corporation name can be changed to the Friends of the Magnolia Springs Library or whatever is appropriate. Bill Given suggested that the council read the Code of Alabama section pertaining to Public Libraries because it is very specific on the powers and duties of the board. Mr. Given also stated that if the library can exist in accordance with the state law then the board will be fine but if there are going to be changes of the authority of some people then it’s not going to work. Councilmember Dykema stated that the library will be included in the town’s audit and the clerk will need copies of the bank statements and during the audit the library will provide to the auditors whatever is needed by them. He added that it doesn’t need to be complicated. Councilmember Esslinger stated that with reading the resolution when the library was established, the code and the Attorney General’s opinion it’s a done deal and has been a municipal library. She added that her concern is if you are going to take on a project you need the best information you can get and you must be fiscally responsible. Mr. Given stated that they (library) will do their best to make it affordable. He said that someday Alida will retire and you will have to hire a librarian and it will cost more. Mayor Underwood stated that we appreciate what the library is doing.

12. Committee/Commission reports
a) Public Works & Safety – Councilmember Holk reported:
1. The sidewalk will start within the week.
2. The need to purchase a storage shed and mower for the town. He will have some price quotes for the meeting. Rough estimate: building $3,500 and mower $6,600.
3. Also working on a culvert permit application which the town does not have at present time.
b) Historic Preservation Commission – Mayor Underwood reported that the Commission has a vacancy because Donna had to resign. The Commission is going to recommend to the council to appoint Ross Houser.

Councilmember Esslinger stated that she has received so much wonderful feedback on the historic district street signs. She thanked the town clerk for all her research and assistance on the project. Mayor Underwood stated that they are the best looking historic district street signs that he has seen.

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

Meeting ended at 6:30 pm

Approved this the 26th day of May, 2015

Kenneth D. Underwood – Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen S. Biel – Town Clerk