July 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**

   Members present – Mayor Charles Houser, Council Members; 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 Mayor Houser.

4. **Discussion of minutes – 06/21/11 Workshop and 06/28/11 Regular Meeting**

   Council reviewed the minutes briefly and there were no corrections.

5. **Discussion of financials and expenditures for June**


6. **Public Comment**

   No public comment.

7. **Discussion - proposal from Bob Zeanah for grant writing services**

   Bob Zeanah submitted a proposal to the Council for grant writing services:

   Research  $45.00/hour  
   Writing       $60.00/hour  
   Consulting   $90.00/hour

   In the proposal, Mr. Zeanah stated that it would involve 2-4 hours research per month with a regular report to the Council with any finding and recommendations. Councilmember Holk stated that the Town might be missing some opportunities for grants and that having him research a few hours a month would be good. Councilmember Laurendine asked if some grant writers are paid when a grant is received and Mayor Houser stated that Mr. Zeanah did not want to work it that way. General consensus of the Council was that it would be helpful to the Town to have Mr. Zeanah research for grants. **Will be on the agenda.**

8. **Discussion – Disaster Management & Recovery Services**

   Mayor Houser stated that these services did not need to be secured now, and suggested that it be discussed at the next workshop. Councilmember Holk said that he would like to see it awarded before it was needed, and maybe the Town could get a better pricing on the project, Councilmember Underwood agreed with him.

9. **Discussion – Resolution –Establishing a Library Board and its members**

   The Council discussed two different types of library boards; Free Public Libraries and Public Library Authorities. A Memorandum of Agreement was submitted to the Town drafted by Jim Gaines and a resolution establishing the library board and its members was drafted by Liz Reed, who is the director of the Baldwin County Library Cooperative. Mrs. Reed suggested that the Town adopt the resolution, which is required by the Alabama Public Library Service, and that would allow the Library Board to submit for state and federal grants, without the resolution they could not qualify. **Will be on the agenda.**

10. **Eddie Culpepper – Encompass 360 – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Projects**

    Mr. Culpepper attended the meeting in hopes of assisting the town in submitting any mitigation projects that the town might have. Some of the mitigation projects could be tornado/hurricane shelters, wind retrofits, property acquisition for property that continually floods, and drainage projects. The grants are 75% funding from FEMA and the Town’s match would be 25%. The 25% match for the town can be in-kind services. Mr. Culpepper’s company will assist the Town with a project that could qualify and also assist in seeking out the funding. Councilmember Gaar asked about a drainage project that the Town might have and the cost is about $800,000.00, and if the value of the Town’s infrastructure would
11. Committee reports
Finance: Mayor Houser asked the committee chairs to start working on their proposed budget for 2011/2012 and to send them to clerk and himself to be discussed at the August workshop. Mayor Houser would like the Council to approve the budget in September.
Public Safety: No report
Parks & Recreation: No report
Public Works: Councilmember Gaar stated that he is seeking proposals for traffic calming ideas on Hwy 49 and also for the drainage on Bay Street.
Planning Commission: Councilmember Holk reported that the Commission is working on the Subdivision Regulations and HMR is reviewing the erosion and drainage section and should have their recommendations to the Commission at the August meeting.
Historic Preservation: Councilmember Underwood informed the Council that David Schneider has sent the proposal for Magnolia Springs National Registry Historic District to the Alabama Historic Commission in Montgomery. Councilmember Underwood also stated that he and Bob Stoddard are working on the Historic Marker.
Environmental Protection Committee: Councilmember Odess stated that he sent a letter to Teddy King about elevated levels from testing that John Reuss had taken after a big rain. He wants to keep Mr. King informed and to find out what he might be doing with the information that he sends to him.

12. Any other business that might before the meeting
Mayor Houser stated that the Garden Club is requesting an expenditure to order tree seedlings for Arbor Day in February, 2012, because they need to be ordered now. He informed the Council that $500.00 was approved last year. Will be on the agenda

Councilmember Underwood stated that he had some concerns about kids jumping off the bridge into the river. Mayor Houser asked the clerk to order two signs 24x24 with No Jumping, No Swimming, No Fishing from the bridge.

13. Council, legal counsel and staff comments
No other comments

Workshop ended at 7:30 pm

Approved this the 23rd day of August, 2011

Kenneth Underwood – Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST:

Karen S. Bief – Town Clerk