

August 8, 2023
Council Workshop
12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy.
Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Kim Koniar called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama law.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Kim Koniar; Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields;
Councilmember Andrew Monaghan; Councilmember Steve Mobley;
Councilmember Ross Houser; Councilmember Bob Turner.
Also, present: Town Clerk Hannah Driskell.

3. Invocation and Pledge:

Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields led the invocation and pledge.

4. Council Minutes – June 2023:

Mayor Kim Koniar asked the Council to review the minutes from the Council Workshop, July 11, 2023, and Regular Council Meeting, July 25, 2023. Mayor Kim Koniar asked for changes to be submitted to the Clerk's Office.

5. Deputy Eric Smith Monthly Report:

Deputy Eric Smith gave his July monthly report.

Reports: 3
Traffic Stops: 21
Written Warnings: 9
UTC: 7
Verbal Warnings: 5
Welfare Concerns: 1
Alarms: 3
Investigations: 4
Welfare Concerns: 1

6. Public Comment:

No public comment.

7. Resolution:

- Resolution No. 2023-04 – A Resolution Assenting to the Vacation of a Portion of Holly Avenue and an Unnamed Street Depicted on the Plat of Magnolia Plaza as Recorded at Slide 36-A in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Baldwin County, Alabama – Mayor Kim Koniar discussed conversations between the Town Attorney and Mark Wright. Mayor Koniar noted that the Town Attorney advised that the best course of action is for the Town to initiate the vacation of Holly Street. Mayor Koniar noted that the Town Attorney will be drafting a document that would allow Mark Wright to install a driveway across the right-of-way prior to the vacation being completed.
- Resolution No. 2023-19 – Resolution Adopting Transportation Plan Pursuant to the Rebuild Alabama Act and Repeal of Resolution No. 2022-24 – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Rebuild Alabama Act requires that the Council pass a resolution each year listing the plan for the funds during the next fiscal year. Mayor Koniar noted that the Council will vote at the next Regular Council Meeting.

8. Discussion:

- Wright License Agreement – Mayor Kim Koniar stated that there was no further discussion.

- Short Term Rentals – Councilmember Ross Houser reported on the Planning Commission’s discussions regarding short term rentals. Councilmember Houser noted that some of the issues have already been addressed in previous ordinances but need enforcement. The Mayor and Council discussed passing a moratorium on issuing business licenses until an ordinance is established or having an expiration date of one year if an ordinance has not been passed. Mayor Kim Koniar noted a resolution will be drafted and ready for a vote at the next Regular Council Meeting.

9. Committee/Commission Reports:

- Ad Hoc Committee, Kim Koniar, Chairman – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Ad Hoc Committee has not met but will wait to meet again until hearing from the Wesleyan Church property.
- Finance & Audit Committee, Kim Koniar, Chairman – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Finance & Audit Committee has met and has put together a preliminary budget. Mayor Koniar noted that the committee has discussed implementing a lodgings tax.
- Public Works, Lands & Safety Committee, Steve Mobley, Chairman – Councilmember Steve Mobley noted that the Public Works, Lands & Safety Committee has not met. Councilmember Mobley discussed an issue on Jessamine Street near the Magnolia River. The ditch that runs along Jessamine Street ending at the Magnolia River is blocked causing water to run through private property. Councilmember Mobley will work on a plan to get the trees removed that are growing in the ditch and get the debris removed.
- Tree & Streetscape Committee, Nick Shields, Chairman – Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields noted that there was one request to remove a tree, but it was not a protected tree, so no action was taken.
- Magnolia Springs Public Library – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Library Board has selected a library director. Her name is Genie Jones and will reopen the library next week.

10. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that Southern Sky Grill and Highly Flavored Tropical Sno will be at the Magnolia Springs Old School Park on Friday for Food Truck Friday. Ms. Driskell noted that the Assistant Clerk job opening has been posted with interviews beginning next week. Ms. Driskell stated that the Municipal Clerk’s Fall Training will be September 6-8, 2023. Town Hall will be closed on September 5 for the Labor Day holiday.

Mayor Kim Koniar discussed the legal proceedings with Kenneth Challener’s property near the Magnolia River. Mayor Koniar noted that the judge requested a survey to be conducted. The Town attorney and Mr. Challener’s attorney is working on completing the survey.

Mayor Kim Koniar discussed a letter submitted by Kenneth Challener regarding the sidewalk project along Gates Avenue. Mr. Challener noted his opposition to the sidewalk installation along Gates Avenue and suggested placing the sidewalk along Oak Street and adding a golf cart lane to the Magnolia River bridge. Mayor Koniar noted a sidewalk along Oak Street is not feasible due to the tree canopy and the Council applied for a grant to add a pedestrian and golf cart bridge over the river that would cost almost a million dollars to construct but was not awarded. Mayor Koniar noted that the Town was awarded the sidewalk project funds as part of a federal grant and the sidewalks will be on the Town’s right-of-way. Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields noted that there have been multiple public meetings in the past without any opposition from the community. Councilmember Steve Mobley reminded the Council to review the drainage study so they can determine what projects are a priority. Mayor Koniar will reach out to Shari Woody regarding grants that are available to fund drainage projects.

Councilmember Steve Mobley discussed complaints he has received regarding a pothole at the intersection of Magnolia Springs Highway and US Highway 98. Councilmember Mobley noted that the pothole is ALDOT’s responsibility, and he has contacted ALDOT to fix the pothole.

Councilmember Mobley suggested having citizens call ALDOT with their complaints, as well.

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

No other business came before the meeting.

12. Adjourn:


Mayor Kim Koniar asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bob Turner made motion to adjourn. Second, by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Approved this 26th day of September 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Koniar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kim Koniar, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hannah Driskell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there is a faint circular stamp, likely an official seal.

Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk

