

November 14, 2023  
 Council Workshop  
 12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy.  
 Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Kim Koniar called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm following publication and posting pursuant to Alabama law.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Kim Koniar; Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields;  
 Councilmember Steve Mobley; Councilmember Ross Houser.  
 Absent: Councilmember Andrew Monaghan; 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 – October 2023:

Mayor Kim Koniar asked the Council to review the minutes from the Council Workshop, October 10, 2023, and Regular Council Meeting, October 24, 2023. Mayor Kim Koniar asked for changes to be submitted to the Clerk's Office.

5. Public Comment:

Helen Underwood – Helen Underwood, resident of Oak Street, requested that if the Town Council wanted to sell real property in the future that to make it available to the Townspeople to bid on.  
Buster Slay – Buster Slay, resident of Rock Street, discussed the Town selling "Magnolia Springs Resident" window clings for their vehicles or boats. The purpose of the window clings would be for law enforcement or other agencies to identify residents. Mr. Slay suggested having the proceeds from the sale donated to the Magnolia Springs Community Association for the generator.  
Margie Grace – Margie Grace, resident of Yupon Road, encourages the Town Council to not vote to cut funding for the library. Ms. Grace noted that at the State of the Town meeting hosted by Mayor Koniar, the majority of those present wanted the library to stay open.  
Jack Grace – Jack Grace, resident of Yupon Road, reminded Council that they agreed to continue funding at the current level when the budget was passed. Mr. Grace noted that the percentage of the budget that other municipalities dedicate to their library is less due to those municipalities owning the building the library is in.

6. Resolution:

- Resolution No. 2023-33 – A Resolution Appropriating Funds to the Magnolia Springs Community Association, Inc. – Mayor Kim Koniar stated that the Magnolia Springs Community Association has reached out asking for the Town to contribute to the Christmas events. The Town contributed \$850 last year. The council agreed to keep the contribution the same amount for this year. The Council will approve Resolution No. 2023-33 at the November Regular Council Meeting.
- Resolution No. 2023-34 – A Resolution Authorizing an Additional One-Time Payment for Future Services – Mayor Kim Koniar stated that the Council gave one-time payments for future services to long-time employees last year. The payments would be for the Maintenance Employee and Town Clerk with the same amounts as last year. The Council will approve Resolution No. 2023-34 at the November Regular Council Meeting.
- Resolution No. 2023-35 – Amending 2023/2024 General Fund Budget – Mayor Kim Koniar discussed the Finance & Audit Meeting where the Committee discussed the library. The Committee proposed to reduce funding for the library and pay the library board monthly provided that the library was open longer hours, open on Saturdays and open hours when children could utilize the library. The library board is working to be independent of the Town. The Council discussed allocating the funds saved from the library budget toward road repairs and drainage improvements.

- Resolution No. 2023-36 – A Resolution Appropriating Funds to the Magnolia Springs Garden Club for Blue Star Memorial Marker – Lyndy Kouns, representative of the Magnolia Springs Garden Club, discussed the Blue Star Memorial and the desire to partner with the Town to purchase the memorial. Ms. Kouns noted that only Garden Clubs can purchase the Blue Star Memorial. The Garden Club desires to put the memorial at the Arboretum near Magnolia Springs Highway. The Garden Club hosted fundraisers before Hurricane Sally, however due to the damage of the Arboretum, the project was put on hold. The total cost of the memorial is \$1,800 and the Garden Club is requesting \$900 from the Town. The Council will vote at the November Regular Council Meeting.

7. Discussion:

- Law Enforcement for Luminary Display – Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that the Magnolia Springs Community Association inquired about the Town hiring a deputy during the luminary display. The Council requested the Magnolia Springs Community Association hire the deputy and the Council would add additional funding to the donation to cover the expenses, if needed.
- One-Way Streets on Jessamine Street and Cougill Avenue for Luminary Display – No discussion.

8. Committee/Commission Reports:

- Ad Hoc Committee, Kim Koniar, Chairman – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Ad Hoc Committee has not met.
- Finance & Audit Committee, Kim Koniar, Chairman – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Finance & Audit Committee met and discussed the library budget.
- Public Works, Lands & Safety Committee, Steve Mobley, Chairman – Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields noted that the Public Works committee met and discussed repairs to sidewalks. Councilmember Mobley noted that old tree stumps are decaying in the Old School Park leaving holes. The holes will be filled in with dirt. The Committee discussed clearing the overgrown shrubbery in the Arboretum near the springs. Councilmember Mobley discussed cleaning out and dredging the springs in the Arboretum to allow them to flow again. Councilmember Mobley is working with a resident who is researching and working on the springs clearing plan. The Committee discussed the overgrown retention pond on the southwest corner of US Highway 98 and Pecan Grove Street. Councilmember Mobley will reach out to the property owner. Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the sidewalk repairs is scheduled for December and ALDOT has approved a bigger ditch on the Old School Park property.
- Tree & Streetscape Committee, Nick Shields, Chairman – Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields stated that the Tree & Streetscape Committee has not met and there were no tree issues the previous month.
- Magnolia Springs Public Library – Harold Sherman, Magnolia Springs Public Library board member, discussed the Library Board’s previous meeting. The Library Board has decided to refrain from hiring a library director until they have completed the paperwork to become an incorporated, self-sustaining library. The Bookmobile will serve as the Magnolia Springs Public Library and will be parked on a regular basis at the Magnolia Springs Old School Park. The Library Board requests for the Town to continue to fund the library fully until the Library Board has created an incorporated board. Once that has occurred, the Library Board will meet with the Town to discuss the Town’s funding of the library in the future. Council agreed to continue to fund the library while the Library Board moves forward with their research and paperwork. Mr. Sherman noted that the Library Board will submit a report to the Town monthly with the status of their work.
- Short-Term Rental Committee – Mayor Kim Koniar stated that the Short-Term Rental Committee held their first meeting and decided to define a short-term rental as less than 30 days. Mike Boan was selected by the Committee to be the Chairman.

9. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell noted that the Bulky Waste Pick-up was moved to Thursday, November 16, due to the normal pick-up day falling on the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The Comprehensive Plan Community Kick-off Meeting will be on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Community Hall. The meeting is hosted by the Planning Commission and SARPC. The meeting will be available through Facebook Live. Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24. Town Clerk, Hannah Driskell, noted that she will be out of the office November 27 through December 1 for vacation and the Municipal Clerk's Conference. Assistant Town Clerk Jessica Edgecomb will be in the office. The Board of Adjustment will be meeting on November 30, 2023, at 4 pm concerning the Magnolia Springs Pharmacy property division. Redbird Christmas in the Springs events hosted by the Magnolia Springs Community Association starts December 3. The luminaries on Oak Street, Jessamine Street, Cougill Avenue, Woodland Avenue, and Pecan Grove Street will be on December 9 and 10.

Councilmember Ross Houser discussed the importance of a Comprehensive Plan. The plan has not been updated in fourteen years and it should be updated every ten years. Councilmember Houser stated that the Comprehensive Plan holds weight with developers and helps grow the Town in a way that is appealing to the community. Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Comprehensive Plan is being funded by a grant. The Town is responsible for half of the funds, but it can be paid with in-kind hours, so it is important for everyone in the community to be involved. Councilmember Steve Mobley stated that there is a large pothole at the intersection of US Highway 98 and Magnolia Springs Highway. ALDOT has been contacted to come repair, but they have not followed up. Councilmember Mobley asked residents to contact ALDOT in addition to the Town.

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

No other business came before the meeting.

11. Adjourn:

Mayor Kim Koniar asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Ross Houser made the motion to adjourn. Second, by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

  
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Kim Koniar, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk

