

December 12, 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.
Absent: Councilmember Bob Turner.
Also, present: Town Clerk Hannah Driskell; Town Attorney Brad Hicks.

3. Invocation and Pledge:

Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields led the invocation and pledge.

4. Council Minutes – November 2023:

Mayor Kim Koniar asked the Council to review the minutes from the Council Workshop, November 14, 2023, and Regular Council Meeting, November 28, 2023. Mayor Kim Koniar asked for changes to be submitted to the Clerk's Office.

5. Public Comment:

6. Resolution:

- Resolution No. 2023-37 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contractual Agreement with United Way of Baldwin County –

7. Discussion:

- Employee Handbook – Mayor Kim Koniar discussed updating the Employee Handbook. The current Employee Handbook was adopted by the Council in August 2008. Mayor Koniar noted that she has reviewed the Town of Loxley's Employee Handbook. Mayor Koniar noted that the current Employee Handbook is vague on some issues that need to be more specific. Mayor Koniar noted that sick time needs to reflect the Retirement Systems of Alabama's policy on sick time being used toward service hours. Mayor Koniar noted that employees do not get as many holidays as other municipal and county employees and discussed having a floating holiday for employees to use when they want. Mayor Koniar noted that salaried employees who work over 40 hours a week receive comp time that needs to be addressed in the new Employee Handbook. Copies of the current Employee Handbook and the Town of Loxley's Employee Handbook will be emailed to the Council to review and discuss at the next meeting. Town Attorney, Brad Hicks, noted that his firm will be able to review the new Employee Handbook.

8. Reservation Application for Magnolia Springs Old School Park:

- St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel, The Burning of the Greens, January 6, 2023 – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Council will vote at the December 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.
- Finance & Audit Committee, Kim Koniar, Chairman – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Finance & Audit Committee has not met.

- Public Works, Lands & Safety Committee, Steve Mobley, Chairman – Councilmember Steve Mobley stated that the Public Works, Lands & Safety Committee has not met. Councilmember Mobley noted that the contractor will begin the work of removing the dirt and debris from the Jessamine Street drainage ditch in the next few weeks. Mayor Kim Koniar noted that Gulf Concrete Services will be repairing the broken sections of the sidewalks this week. Councilmember Steve Mobley noted that dirt will be added to areas along the sidewalks where there are significant drop-offs. Mayor Koniar noted that Alan Killen with Civil Southeast suggested putting in for a \$250,000 roadway repaving grant. The Town would be responsible for a \$50,000 match. Mayor Koniar noted that the Council will vote on a resolution at the December Regular Council Meeting regarding that grant application. Mayor Koniar stated that the bidding for the sidewalk installation project should begin in the new year. Mayor Kim Koniar asked for ALDOT to be contacted to address the water that holds at the intersection of County Road 49 and US Highway 98.
- Tree & Streetscape Committee, Nick Shields, Chairman – Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields stated that the Tree & Streetscape Committee has not met and there has been no tree issues.
- Magnolia Springs Public Library – Jan Pruitt, Magnolia Springs Public Library Board Member, noted that the library board meets on December 13 at noon at Town Hall. Ms. Pruitt noted that the Bookmobile will be coming to service Magnolia Springs while the library is closed. The dates when the Bookmobile will be in town have been posted on social media and on bulletin boards within the Town. Ms. Pruitt noted that the library board will be discussing the future of the library since new information has been sent from the County Commission regarding the Baldwin County Library Cooperative dissolution. There is a meeting with the County on December 18th that a board member will be attending. Ms. Pruitt noted that the board is working on getting information from the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Alabama Public Library Service on how to form an independent library board that would not be under the Town. Mayor Kim Koniar stated that the Town Attorney could assist with research if the library board would like them to.
- Short-Term Rental Committee – Mayor Kim Koniar noted that the Short-Term Rental Committee has not met due to the Chairman being sick. The Committee plans to meet at the beginning of the year.

10. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell noted that the Comprehensive Plan Workshop is December 13, 2023, at 2:30 pm at Town Hall. The Library Board meets December 13, 2023, at 12:00 pm at Town Hall. Town Hall will be closed December 25 and 26 for Christmas holidays and January 1 for New Years holidays. The December Regular Council Meeting has been changed to December 19.

Mayor Kim Koniar noted that a list needs to be sent to Riviera Utilities with roads to consider for underground utilities before the summer.

Councilmember Steve Mobley noted that the voting precinct location has changed that will impact residents of Magnolia Springs. Councilmember Mobley noted that residents that live south of US Highway 98 will vote at Redemption Church in Foley and residents that live north of US Highway 98 will vote at Calvary Chapel Fellowship in Foley.

Mayor Kim Koniar congratulated Town Clerk Hannah Driskell for completing and achieving her Certified Municipal Clerk Training. Mayor Kim Koniar discussed compensating Ms. Driskell for her achievement. Mayor Koniar noted that the Council will review and approve a raise at the December Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Kim Koniar discussed a nuisance on Cotton Stocking Lane and Zoning Violations on Oak Street, School Street and Magnolia Springs Highway that need to be addressed. Mayor Koniar noted that legal counsel will need to proceed with the next steps.

Mayor Kim Koniar read her resignation letter to the Town Council. Mayor Koniar will resign from her position as Mayor effective December 19, 2023.

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

No other business came before the meeting.

12. Executive Session:

Town Attorney Brad Hicks referenced license to practice as an attorney in the State of Alabama. Alabama Code 36-25A-7(3) referenced for Council to discuss with the Town Attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet being litigated but pursues a proposed course of action or to meet or confer with a mediator or arbitrator with respect to any litigation or imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body pursues a proposed course of action or to meet or confer with a mediator or arbitrator with governmental body involving another party, group or body. Councilmember Andrew Monaghan so moved. Seconded by Councilmember Ross Houser. All in favor. Motion carried.


Mayor Kim Koniar announced that the Council Meeting will not reconvene. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Approved this 23rd day of January 2024.



Ross Houser, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk

