

January 23, 2024
 Regular Council Meeting
 12191 Magnolia Springs Hwy.
 Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Ross Houser; Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields;
 Councilmember Steve Mobley; Councilmember Andrew Monaghan;
 Councilmember Bob Turner.
 Vacancy: Council Place 3.
 Also, present: Town Clerk Hannah Driskell, Town Attorney Brad Hicks & Caroline Pope

3. Invocation and Pledge:

Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields led the invocation and pledge.

4. Appointment of Councilmember Place 3:

Councilmember Bob Turner made a motion to nominate Harold Sherman for Council Place 3. Seconded by Councilmember Andrew Monaghan.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Ross Houser, yea
 Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields, yea
 Councilmember Andrew Monaghan, yea
 Councilmember Steve Mobley, yea
 Councilmember Bob Turner, yea
 5 yea, 0 nay, 1 vacancy. Motion carried.

5. Swearing-In of Councilmember Place 3:

Harold Sherman was sworn into the office of Council Place 3 by Hannah Driskell, Notary Public.

6. Proclamations:

- Human Trafficking Awareness Month, January 2024 – Councilmember Andrew Monaghan made motion to approve the Human Trafficking Awareness Proclamation for the month for January 2024 within Magnolia Springs. Second, by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Arbor Day Proclamation, March 2, 2024 – Councilmember Andrew Monaghan made motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation. Second, by Councilmember Bob Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Council Minutes, December 2023:

Mayor Ross Houser asked for approval of minutes for Council Workshop, December 12, 2023, and Regular Council Meeting, December 19, 2023. Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve the Council Workshop and Regular Council Meeting minutes. Second, by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Financials and Expenditures, December 2023:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell noted that the December 2023 Financials and Expenditures have not been reconciled by the Independent CPA. The December 2023 Financials and Expenditures will be on the February Regular Council Meeting for the Council to review and approve. Councilmember Steve Mobley made a motion to approve the December 2023 Financials & Expenditures. Seconded, by Councilmember Bob Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.

9. Public Hearing, 14861 Cotton Stocking Lane Nuisance Abatement:

Town Attorney, Brad Hicks, noted that there is no proof that property owner, Walter Dunlap, received the Public Hearing Notice letter, therefore the public hearing will need to be moved to the February Regular Council Meeting. Town Attorney, Brad Hicks, noted that the Town will need to hire a process server to hand deliver the Public Hearing Notice.

10. Public Comment:

- Kenneth Challener – Kenneth Challener, property owner on Gates Avenue, inquired about the status of the sidewalk project. Mayor Ross Houser noted that Civil Southeast’s engineers will be submitting a new plan with the sidewalk on the north side of Gates Avenue. Mr. Challener noted that he and his family on Gates Avenue were not in support of the sidewalk project.
- Rodney Hubble – Rodney Hubble, resident of Jessamine Street and property owner on Magnolia Avenue, stated his support of the sidewalk project.

11. Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 2024-01 – Donating Funds to the Magnolia Springs Volunteer Fire Department – Mayor Ross Houser stated that Resolution No. 2024-01 is the annual \$10,000 donation to the Magnolia Springs Volunteer Fire Department. Councilmember Andrew Monaghan made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-01. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Nick Shields. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Resolution No. 2024-02 – 14861 Cotton Stocking Lane Nuisance Abatement – Mayor Ross Houser stated that Resolution No. 2024-02 will be postponed until after Mr. Dunlap receives the Public Hearing Notice letter and after the public hearing is held.

12. Reservation Application for Magnolia Springs Old School Park:

- Magnolia Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Magnolia Springs Firefighter Festival, October 19, 2024, 10 am – 5 pm – Councilmember Bob Turner made motion to approve the use of the Magnolia Springs Old School Park for the Magnolia Springs Volunteer Fire Department’s Magnolia Springs Firefighter Festival on October 19, 2024. Councilmember Bob Turner made a motion to approve the waiving of the fees. Second, by Councilmember Harold Sherman. All in favor. Motion carried.

13. Discussion:

- Employee Handbook – Mayor Ross Houser discussed creating a committee to work on the Employee Handbook.
- Certificate of Deposit Rates – Mayor Ross Houser noted that the Finance and Audit Committee will need to meet and discuss further. Mayor Houser asked for the Clerk’s Office to get clarification on if a municipality can use a credit union.

14. Council, Legal Counsel and Staff Comments:

Town Clerk Hannah Driskell stated that the Empower Yourself seminar is this evening at 6:00 pm at the Magnolia Springs Community Hall. The Empower Yourself seminar is to educate individuals on how to protect themselves from scams and fraud. The Comprehensive Plan survey closes on January 31. There has been an increase in responses since the banners were posted around Town and the mail cards were sent out. Currently, 218 surveys have been submitted. Town Clerk Hannah Driskell will be out of the office Friday, January 26, but Assistant Town Clerk Jessica Edgecomb will be in the office. The Town Wide Bulky Waste Pick-Up will be Thursday, January 25.

Mayor Ross Houser discussed the Comprehensive Plan project. Mayor Houser urged community members to be involved with the plan and give input. The Comprehensive Plan is the vision of the Town’s future which will include roadways, traffic, and land use. Mayor Houser noted that the current Comprehensive Plan needs updating as it is at least fifteen years old. Mayor Houser noted that when the Plan is complete, copies will be available for sell, at cost, to the public. The survey is being conducted by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) and they will analyze the data and present it at a Comprehensive Plan Workshop once completed. Any hours community members put into the project can be used to help the Town’s portion of the matching funds for the grant.

Councilmember Harold Sherman thanked the Council for appointing him to the Council and stated that he will do the best that he can for Magnolia Springs.

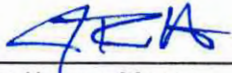
15. Any Other Business That Might Come Before the Meeting:

No other business that might come before the meeting.

16. Adjourn:

Mayor Ross Houser asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bob Turner made a motion to adjourn. Second, by Councilmember Harold Sherman. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm.

Approved this 27th day of February 2024.



Ross Houser, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk