

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 28, 2020

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a workshop session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via a teleconferenced meeting. Council President Zack Steele presiding.

Those members present were as follows:

Council President Zack Steele  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Jef Freeman  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: None

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat

The workshop was convened and the Council received a preliminary agenda and supporting documentation for the City Council meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. The Council reviewed the agenda and determined the order for consideration at the Council meeting.

Discussion followed on the work on the Hamilton property across from Winn Dixie. Mayor Choat stated Councilman Cook called him and said he had received comments and concerns about the project clearing. There was some mention of then owner of the project Conner Farmer saying that he would save as many of the trees as he could and still situate the roads, drainage, buildings, and parking. The property has been sold. Mr. Farmer told us that he was a developer, not a builder, and that he would get the development approvals, and then sell the property. Trees were not a part of the zoning approval that listed several items that would have to be done on the property. The current design has six lots, but the approval allows up to eight lots. This would mean a couple of the lots could be subdivided, but we do not know if this will happen. A landscape plan will be approved for each lot as plans are approved. Behind the houses on Birch Street underbrush and smaller trees have been removed. The tall trees by the houses that were removed are gone. The current owner is proceeding in compliance with the approved development plan, installing sewer, drainage and streets. Since the land is so flat, minimal grading is required.

Councilman Cook stated he went onto the site on the gravel pad being used for access and noticed one tree in the area that had been called a tree save area. Now that tree is gone, and the entire area to be developed, back to the houses on Birch Street is cleared. He stated he understood that trees have to be taken out for road and buildings and parking. He stated he was concerned that trees have been removed from Lots 5 & 6 when no tenants are known for these two lots. He stated trees have been taken down in the area to go to the City on the Birch Street side. He thought the trees should have been saved on these lots not currently being developed. He said he was sure there will be a landscape plan, but he was disappointed.

Mayor Choat stated even in the park area that will go to the City, there will have to be trees removed to install the trails and pond, and underbrush will be cleared out. He stated he was not aware of the tree save area. This was on a map used at some meetings, but was not a part of the development submittal to the City. Some of this may have been wishful thinking, as root systems are damaged in the installation of infrastructure.

Councilman Cook stated he understood this.

Mayor Choat asked Councilman Cook if he had seen the drone video of the site before it was cleared, and he said he had not seen it. Mayor Choat stated the park must be in by the time Final approval is given on the site.

When asked when this would be, City Clerk Lynn Porter responded, after all of the public infrastructure is installed and approved, and any required bonds posted, the developer can apply for final approval.

Councilman Taylor pointed out that trees will have to be taken down in the park area for the walking trails.

Councilman Cook stated he felt bad for the people on Birch Street. This was a buffer for them.

Councilman Freeman stated the landscape plan will come before Design Review. We have a tree ordinance drafted that will go before Planning and Zoning before coming to the City Council for adoption. He stated we need this model to show to developers and require payment for cutting trees.

Councilman Plant stated the zoning restrictions go with the land regardless of who owns it.

Councilman Steele stated once the city owns the property, we can plant what we want.

Councilman Taylor asked was it possible to ask the developer to put in trees as a part of the park?

Councilman Cook asked was the gasoline station architecture going to compliment the Board of Education building, and was told yes.

Councilman Plant stated he would be supportive of doing more if we feel it is appropriate.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in a teleconferenced regular session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Steele presided over the meeting and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Council President Steele called the meeting to order and explained that we are in compliance with Governor Ivey's Proclamation issued March 18 declaring a COVID-19 public health emergency, and that this Proclamation allows a waiver of the Open Meetings Act for governmental bodies to meet by telephone, video conference or similar communication, during this period. This Proclamation limits discussion to COVID-19 matters and essential city business, thus there will be no reports and no discussions not pertaining to these items. He explained that with this unique situation with members all signing in from different places, Mayor Choat will be describing each item for consideration before one of the Council makes a motion.

Council President Steele asked Councilman Taylor to lead in prayer. Councilman Cook led the pledge to the flag.

Those persons answering present to roll call were as follows:

Council President Steele  
Councilman Perry Cook  
Councilman Jef Freeman  
Councilman Brian Plant  
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: None

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat  
Attorney Rick Stotser

The minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting were carried over.

The agenda and the consent agenda were presented for approval. Consent agenda items included the accounts payable and upgrading employee positions to Park Maintenance Superintendent II for J. Scott Brooks - Grade 23, Step 8 and Malcolm Lee Smith - Grade 23, Step 4. It also included accepting resignations from IDB members Fred Goodnight and Bob Hicks. The Accounts Payable were as follows:

Non-Departmental	2,771.62
Mayor and Council	1,323.95
Administration	883.43
Inspections	490.90
Finance	14,062.00
Information Technology	1,494.00
Police Department	21,789.07
Fire Department	4,797.41
Public Works	11,021.55
Parks and Recreation	6,770.90
Library	9,335.30
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	74,740.13
CAPITAL PROJECTS	150.00
CORRECTIONS FUND	5,579.64
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	84,269.77

Councilman Plant moved they be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-031 authorizing the Mayor to execute documents for the acquisition of rights-of-way and temporary constructions easements on Tracts 35 and 37 belonging to H & H Properties be approved, seconded by Councilman Cook, and the motion carried with Councilman Taylor abstaining due to a conflict.

Councilman Freeman moved Proclamation 2020-008 on Arbor Day be approved, seconded by Councilman Taylor and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Choat stated in a statement made last week, he indicated that the City offices would most likely reopen on Monday, May 4. Due to the Governor's directive issued today, this reopening will be delayed two more weeks through May 15.

Council President Steele stated with local retailers now allowed to open at one-half capacity, he encouraged citizens to shop local to help our local economy. He encouraged everyone to wear face coverings to protect themselves and others from the spread of this disease.

No other business coming before the Council, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter  
City Clerk