

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
Monday February 15, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met for a Work Session in the City Hall Conference Room, Monday February 15, 2016. Mayor Handley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Council member Leslie Whiting	Council member Barbara Moore
Council member Ricky Ruston	Council member Kim King
Council member Ouida Mayfield	Mayor Stancil Handley

Absent:

None – A quorum present.

Library Employee Update

There was discussion about the current library employees and the quality employees that are working in our library. Council member Mayfield noted how well everyone gets along and works well together. There was discussion about a possible merit raise and questions about how long it had been since a raise was given. It was determined that the last raise was given in 2013 and it was a COLA. There will be more discussion about this in future meetings. Tom is up for a one step increase on March 1st of this year.

The Harrison Regional Library is also desirous to give an additional 3500 sq. ft. to the City. Since this library is closed to the public and is not using the space, they are offering this space to the Columbiana Public Library.

Downtown Entertainment District

Mayor Handley and the Council discussed a proposed entertainment district that would encompass the Main Street area and cover approximately 24 square acres. Bill Justice is helping see what the requirements are for the City to meet in order to designate an area as an entertainment district. Apparently 4 locations having retail ABC license are required in order to apply for this type of district.

Tax for Liquor Sales

The Council discussed retail liquor tax and how the taxes are levied on the sale of liquor. Currently there isn't any additional tax that is collected but this is up for consideration in the future. If a retail liquor store opened up in Columbiana, they would collect the 4% sales tax currently. A liquor tax can be levied for an additional amount. Other cities have enacted this additional liquor tax. An additional 2% was discussed for the future.

City Mission Statement and Handbook Review

There was discussion about our City Employee Handbook. City Clerk Mark Frey went through the proposed amendments to the Handbook. All changes requested

were noted and will be brought to the Council in a complete form for consideration at the first Council meeting in March for its first reading.

Electronic Billboards and Digital Sign Discussion

The Council discussed the use of electronic signs, including billboards within the City. The Council looked at amending the sign ordinance in order to allow a limited amount of electronic billboards to be constructed within the City as well as allow for electronic signage for businesses throughout the City. The Council asked City Clerk Mark Frey to advertise for the public hearing that is required in order to consider changing this ordinance.

Senior Center Advisory Board

The Council discussed three potential candidates and one alternate during this meeting. Larry Truss, Beth Glasgow and Sarah Atchison have agreed to serve on the board. Council member Whiting also stated that Barbara Nash is interested in the position. Barbara will be the alternate and available should one of the other members be unable to serve. Sarah Atchison will serve the 2 year term, Larry Truss will serve 3 years and Beth Glasgow will serve a 4 year term. The board will meet at least quarterly and at the board's digression.

Park and Rec Update and New Board

Council member Ruston stated that approximately 3 years ago the Park and Rec Board was dissolved due to it being a toxic environment. Approximately a year ago applications for the new board were submitted. This new board will be a five member board including potential candidates: Ricky Ruston, Andrew Lewter, Richard Sutton, Leslie Whiting, Ali Payne. This board is set up with Five to Nine members and the board will be appointed by the Columbiana City Council.

There was some discussion to make sure that this board moves forward with like-minded people and functions in a positive manner by setting personal interest aside and seeking out the "good of the City". The Council talked about the importance of accountability and how money is collected and deposited. A ledger should be kept with a list of revenue and expenditures. The Board will take an active role in keeping all leagues accountable and maintaining accurate books.

Mayor Handley talked about the new Old Mill Square Park project and what is happening in relation to the Shelby County Arts Council. Preliminary plans were viewed and discussed during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council member Whiting made the motion to adjourn and Council member King seconded the motion which was followed by a vote of members present to adjourn. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

J. Mark Frey, City Clerk

Stancil Handley, Mayor