

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA  
May 19, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met in a Regular Session in the Council Chambers of Columbiana City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Mayor Stancil Handley called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk, Charlene Tucker, to call roll after the invocation and pledge.

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

The Mayor declared that a quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes 5-5-20 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approval of Check Registers for May 1 and May 10, 2020 Accounts Payable Batches

Council Member King made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Council Member Whiting and followed by a unanimous show of hands vote of all members present. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

- **Admin** – Charlene Tucker reported that Columbiana’s census response rate is up to 60.2%. Due to COVID-19, the self-response deadline has been moved from July 31 to October 31. Enumerators will start going door to door in June and July. They will leave paper surveys and try to limit contact with citizens. Shelby County will have a mobile kiosk and going to municipalities on June 1. Everything is going good at City Hall.
- **Library** – Sheila Gallups reported that more patrons are coming into the Library. The library has a new program, READSquared, that is a virtual link to Columbiana Public Library and Harrison Regional Library. They are posting virtual programs on Facebook. She is hoping to have two programs at the Amphitheater at Old Mill Square this summer.
- **Fire** – Rodney Reed reported that the fire department has run a few calls and their call volume is picking up a little. Most of the calls are citizen assist calls.

- **Police** – Chief Jeff Bowers reported that the police department has more calls coming in and there is more traffic on the roads. APOST has allowed 12 hours of training online instead of 6 due to COVID-19. Sergeant Knighten is working with the schools and delivering meals.
- **Environmental** – Dale Lucas reported that an instructor is coming this Thursday to his office to train his employees that will be taking their Waste Water Operator test. Next Thursday they will start going back to Jacksonville for training. One pump went out at the plant but it was under warranty so that is being fixed at no cost to the City.
- **Planning & Zoning** – Dale Lucas reported that he has been busy with Planning & Zoning. Two lots have been permitted for Springs Crossing Sector 2. He has had inquiries from developers wanting to build subdivisions in the City. The Planning & Zoning Board is working on updating our ordinance. Ours was adopted in 1958 and we have a lot of updates that need to be made.
- **Streets** – Allen Reynolds reported that his department has been busy picking up brush and cutting grass. He has one employee that is still out due to COVID-19 restrictions. This is due to his spouse having a compromised immune system. He has one employee that will be out for a few months following surgery. Flags will be going up Thursday for Memorial Day.
- **Senior Center** – Ali Payne reported that her department is delivering about 50 meals a day. The Senior Center is still closed but the seniors are getting out more.
- **Marketing** – Elizabeth Smith reported that The Shelby County Arts Council is posting Black Box Performances every Thursday at 7:00 pm on You Tube Live, Facebook and their Web-Site.

## **DISCUSSION – AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE AS BUILT PLANS**

Council discussed the need to amend the City's Zoning Ordinance to include As Built Plans. This is part of our subdivision regulations and is not currently required. We currently require three copies of the final plat but will also require three copies of the as built plans. These will show utility lines, storm drains, etc. We will also require a CAD copy for future reference. This recommendation was made by the City Engineer. Council agreed that this is needed.

## **DISCUSSION – OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

Tommy McCoy spoke on behalf of property owners near 303 Pitts Drive. The residents there have three or four dogs that bark constantly. The police department has been called out of several occasions and complaints have been filed. There is a concern that one of the dogs is vicious. I bit the previous Police Chief and has chased one of the neighbor's children. The Police Department has sent letters to the residents. If more complaints are received, they will be issued a citation, given a court date and the judge will make a decision on the case.

Council discussed the one City employee that is still at home due to COVID-19 restrictions. Council decided to continue to pay this employee until the governor makes another announcement and lifts restrictions.

Council Member Ruston announced that the Park and Recreation Board has decided that there will be no City sports until the fall. Baseball and softball leagues are refunding money to parents.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Allison Steineker with the Alabama Power Foundation contacted the City regarding COVID-19 reimbursements. They have a team that researches and writes grants for monies that are available related to COVID-19. They have reached out to several cities that may be in need of help and Columbiana was one. Charlene Tucker and Elizabeth Smith have been researching and applying for grants in addition to their other job duties. This team will be dedicated to this project. Charlene Tucker will be their primary contact and Elizabeth Smith is the secondary contact.

Brian Sparks, Vice President of Smith Douglas Homes, is very pleased with progress of Springs Crossing. They are interested in building more homes in the City.

Highpointe Builders are interested in Westervelt property to possibly build 200 homes. The lots will range in size up to 10 acres. The previous administration dropped the minimum lot size from 20,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet and created a residential special district for Magnolia Meadows and Springs Crossing to allow for small lot sizes.

Liberty Day is scheduled for June 26-27. The governor will be making an announcement on Friday, May 22. The alternate date is Liberty Day is postponed is July 24-25. Council discussed and decided to postpone until July.

There is a possibility that there will be more absentee voting if voters have concerns about coming to the polls.

Old Mill Square update: The water features on the fountain have been turned on. They are finishing the landscaping around the fountain.

The Mayor has received calls about the fountain and the sign tower. The "H" on the digital sign stands for Hyoco, the manufacturer of the sign and is the factory setting. City employees will be trained on the sign program to change the messages. This is an informational sign that will display upcoming events. There were questions about the sign tower. Council approved a variance for the sign for Old Mill Square. The Mayor signed a letter for the variance and that was sent to Shelby County Development Services for permitting and inspection, which was approved. This sign is not in violation of the sign ordinance.

The Mayor met with DeJarvis Leonard with ALDOT regarding the speed limit at the intersection of Highway 26 & 70. The current speed limit is 55 but we are requesting that the speed limit be dropped to 45. This will allow more entrances from Highway 70 for the front parcel of Springs Crossing for commercial use.

Shelby County High School graduation is planned for Monday, June 1st at Papa McCombs Stadium. Each graduate will have 4 tickets to comply with social distancing. June 2 is the back-up date in case of rain.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## PUBLIC COMMENT

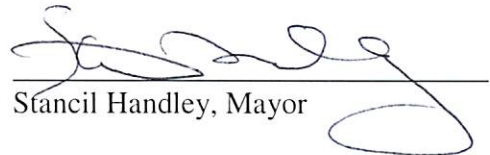
Dale Lucas reported that GED classes have started back. This is in the trailer by the Shelby County Highway Department on Highway 70.

Dale also wanted to thank Kayce Watkins and Charlene Tucker for implementing the process for department heads to approve invoices. The invoices are scanned to the department head and they e-mail back with approval to pay. This cuts down on trips to City Hall and also cuts traffic at City Hall.

There being no further business, Council Member King moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Council Member Whiting. The motion passed by vote of all members of the Council present. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Charlene Tucker, City Clerk



Stancil Handley, Mayor

