

**MINUTES NO. 2010-02-WS**  
**OF A**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF**  
**THE CITY OF MADISON, ALABAMA**  
**APRIL 7, 2010**

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The Madison City Council met in a Public Work Session on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 130 of the Madison Municipal Complex, Madison, Alabama.

The published purpose of the Work Session was as follows: (1) Improvement Districts, (2) Televising of Council Meetings, (3) Traffic Calming Device Regulations and (4) any other business Council may deem necessary

The meeting began at 5:06 p.m. when called to order by Council President Bill Holtzclaw.

Elected Governing Officials in attendance:

Mayor Paul Finley	Present
Council District No. 1 Tim Holcombe	Present
Council District No. 2 Steve Haraway	Present
Council District No. 3 Jerry Jennings	Present
Council District No. 4 Tim Cowles	Present
Council District No. 5 Tommy Overcash	Present
Council District No. 6 Larry Vannoy	Present
Council District No. 7 Bill Holtzclaw	Present

Also in attendance were: City Clerk-Treasurer Melanie A. Williard, Assistant City Clerk-Treasurer Stacy A. Gilley, Police Major Lee Weaver, Fire Chief Ralph Cobb, Public Works Director Dana Stahl, City Attorney Kelly Butler, Director of Engineering Gary Chynoweth, Building Director Cody Phillips, Finance Director Lillie Causey, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Taylor Edge and Recording Secretary Kristen N. Bruseth

Public Attendance registered: W.C. Fuller, Ed Collins, Bebe Oetjen, Walt Anderson, and Bobby Deneffee

**IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS**

Improvement Districts were first created in 2007 to equalize the property tax differential between Limestone County and Madison County, as the city limits of Madison lie in both counties. Mr. Heyward Hosch, an attorney with the Birmingham law firm Maynard, Cooper and Gale, summarized for Council the current status of the seven Improvement Districts located in Limestone County. As the equalization of property tax between the two counties is no longer an issue, Mr. Hosch's recommendation is that the Improvement Districts be revoked.

**SLAUGHTER & ASSOCIATES, PLLC; CITY-WIDE REDISTRICTING**

Mr. Mike Slaughter, with the urban planning firm of Slaughter & Associates, explained the process and steps involved in redistricting the seven city council districts. His firm, if selected, would incorporate figures from the 2010 census data which he anticipates being available by the first of next year. The five steps are as follows:

- Determine need to redistrict
- Public awareness effort

- Preparation of plans
- Public input; Adoption of plan
- Preclearance through Justice Department

#### **TELEVISIONING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Executive Assistant to the Mayor Taylor Edge informed Council that the necessary equipment to begin televising Council Meetings is now in place and ready to be active. Council President Holtzclaw stated that they could go live as early as this Monday night.

#### **TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE REGULATIONS**

City Attorney Kelly Butler distributed a draft traffic calming policy to Council for their review and discussion. The purpose of the policy is to reduce speed of traffic on local residential streets where traditional traffic enforcement has not produced the desired results. Traffic calming includes traffic control signage or modified street sections that produce obstructions for high speed traffic and generally produce lower driving speeds. The draft policy further states that traffic calming will only be considered on local residential streets with a 24-hour traffic volume of more than 400 vehicles per day and less than 2,000 vehicles per day. Traffic Calming will not be considered or installed on streets which primarily serve commercial or industrial areas or are shown on the City's Major Street Plan.

Council President Holtzclaw asked that Council add their comments to the draft policy presented this evening. A revised draft will then be prepared by Mrs. Butler and will be presented to Council at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting for review and a possible vote.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT**

Mayor Finley announced to Council that an RFP has been drafted for professional services for the preparation of a Master Plan. This will be included on the agenda for the April 12, 2010 Council meeting.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Finley informed Council that he plans on presenting a Resolution to them at Monday night's Council Meeting asking for approval to undertake non-binding authority measures in order to bring new economic development into the City of Madison.

#### **RECREATION DIRECTOR AND PLANNING DIRECTOR POSITIONS**

Mayor Finley anticipates holding two days of interviews with candidates for the position of Parks & Recreation Director followed a few days or a week thereafter by interviews with candidates for the Planning Director position.

#### **SIX MONTH BUDGET REVIEW**

Mayor Finley stated that department heads are in the process of preparing their six month budget revisions.

#### **JOINT WORK SESSION WITH MADISON CITY COUNCIL AND MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

On Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm the Madison City Council and the Madison Board of Education will hold a joint work session to hear the findings of the preliminary report from the School Security & Communications Task Force. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the School System Central Office located at 211 Celtic Drive.

#### **WONDER WALK: MILL CREEK GREENWAY**

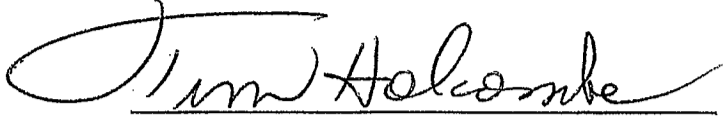
The United Way Day of Action volunteers will be dedicating the Wonder Walk recently installed at Mill Creek Greenway this Saturday, April 10th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Wonder Walks are a series of signs that give instruction on simple activities that stimulate the learning process in young children. The ideal age for participation in Wonder Walks is 3 - 5, though some activities are appropriate for older and younger children as

well. Families are invited to walk the trail and participate in activities for children; story time, face painting, bubble blowing and more. Hot dogs and ice cream will be provided. Parking will be available at Mill Creek Elementary School located at the corner of Balch Road and Mill Road.

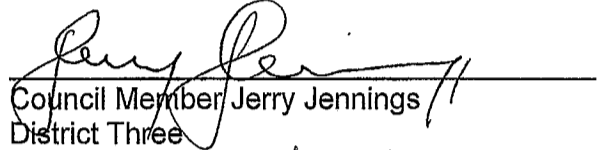
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes No. 2010-02-WS, dated April 7th, 2010, read, approved and adopted this 12th day of April 2010.

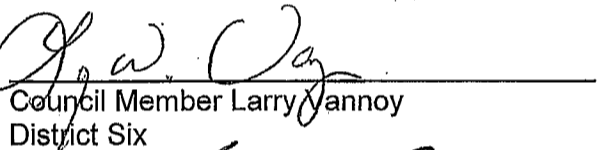
  
Council Member Tim Holcombe  
District One

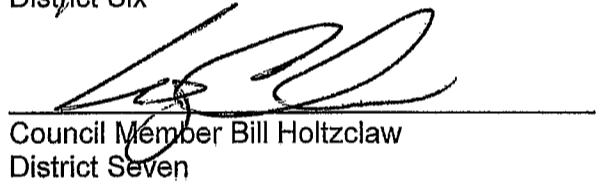
*Absent*  
Council Member Steve Haraway  
District Two

  
Council Member Jerry Jennings  
District Three

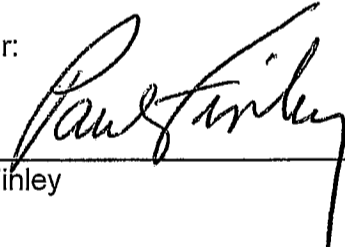
*Absent*  
Council Member Tim Cowles  
District Four

  
Council Member Tommy Overcash  
District Five


  
Council Member Larry Vannoy  
District Six


  
Council Member Bill Holtzclaw  
District Seven

Concur:

  
Paul Finley  
Mayor

Attest:

  
Melanie A. Williard  
City Clerk-Treasurer

  
Kristen N. Bruseth  
Recording Secretary