



**MINUTES NO. 2023-05-WS
PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF MADISON, ALABAMA
May 17, 2023**

The Madison City Council met for a public work session on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Madison Municipal Complex, Madison, Alabama. Noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Ranae Bartlett.

The following Council Members were in attendance:

Council District No. 1 Maura Wroblewski	Present
Council District No. 2 Connie Spears	Present
Council District No. 3 Teddy Powell	Present.
Council District No. 4 Greg Shaw	Arrived at 7:34 P.M.
Council District No. 5 Ranae Bartlett	Present
Council District No. 6 Karen Denzine	Present
Council District No. 7 John Seifert	Absent

City Officials in attendance were: City Clerk-Treasurer Lisa D. Thomas, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer Kerri Sulyma, City Attorney Brian Kilgore, City Administrator Steve Smith, Fire Chief David Bailey, Police Chief Johnny Gandy, Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren, Information Technology Director Chris White, Information Technology Support Technician Garrett Gillott, Finance Director Roger Bellomy, Deputy Court Clerk Dorothy Bellomy, and Parks & Recreation Director Kory Alfred

REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren provided an update on redistricting's next steps. The city will be redistricting to maintain 7 equitable districts. Below is a timeline of the steps:

May 22nd

- Ask council for contract approval to re-engage Slaughter and Associates
- Contract price will be the same as 2021
- On the previous contract the city spent about \$5,800.00.

Month of June

- Preparation of Plan

July 17th

- Public meeting regarding Plan

August 14th

- Public hearing on Plan

By August 30th

- Preparation of Legal Descriptions

September 11th

- Council adoption of plan

Council member Wroblewski asked Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren if she could send the redistricting information to council again. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren replied she would. Council President Bartlett asked if we still had the website with information regarding redistricting. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren responded that Communications Specialist Samantha Magnuson might have set that up before and that once they have the public outreach piece ready, they can do that again so that the public is aware of the meetings. Council President Bartlett asked Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren if the public hearing would be held during the regular council meeting. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren responded yes it would be. Council President Bartlett asked if July 17th would be the first time the consultants would reveal their recommended redistricting map. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren replied that it would be.

Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren added that redistricting is one of their specialties for the firm Slaughter and Associates.

Mayor Finley explained that when they are looking into the equitable districts, Slaughter and Associates also factors in growth areas so they can find a balance for areas that can grow and areas that can't grow.

Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren advised that the public meeting on July 17th would not have to be attended by council, they would still take a head count to see if there is a quorum, but the meeting is intended for the public.

MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mayor Finley provided council with updated projections on the General Fund (Fund #10), Debt Service Fund (Fund #71), and Municipal Capital Fund (Fund #76) after transfers totaling \$12,453,000 to a New Capital Fund 38.

Revenue totals were also updated on the franchise fees and interest income mid-year conservatively for a total of \$725,000. Mayor Finley explained that when the Finance Committee put the finances out for bid, they were able to get better rates which increased our interest income.

Mayor Finley provided the breakdown of the New Capital Fund 38 which has already been approved by council:

Community Center	\$3,395,000
Sunshine Oaks – Phase I	\$550,000
Hexagon Building & Courts	\$4,988,000
Wayfinding Project	\$750,000
Hardiman Roundabout	\$1,510,000
Royal Drive Extension	<u>\$1,260,000</u>
Total	\$12,453,000

Mayor Finley added the following updates to the following projects:

Community Center

- 30% has been completed
- Ahead of schedule
- Working on the inside of the building
- Completion August 2024

Council Member Spears asked how it affects Madison Visionary Partners (MVP) fundraising if the city has it fully funded in our budget from city money and will it deter their fundraising efforts. Mayor Finley responded that he does not think it will affect their fundraising efforts.

Hexagon Building & Courts

- Purchase of the 23a building completed
- Outdoor Pickleball Courts
- Pickleball, Softball, and Soccer lighting
- Ballpark fencing needs replacement
- Dog Park fencing brought
- Rental contract between Hexagon and City of Madison for fitness facilities use for employees

Wayfinding Project

- Almost ready to be bid out

Sunshine Oaks – Phase I

- Outdoor playground
- Bathroom
- Improved gravel parking
- Existing barn revamp
- Disc golf course
- 2 additional pavilions
- Dog park fencing

Council Member Spears asked about security in the form of cameras since there will be facilities at the property. Mayor Finley responded that they could look into adding it since they are currently looking into security for Palmer and Dublin Park.

Hardiman Roundabout

- Already approved
- School build is being moved up by a year
- Helps with east/west traffic flow

Council Member Wroblewski asked if the school is scheduled to open in 2025 or 2026. Mayor Finley responded that the original date was 2027 but that they are looking to be open in 2025.

Special Projects

- Planning-Comp Plan (\$270,000)
- Phase 2 – Street Lighting (\$500,000)

- Areas of concern from the public
- Other thoroughfares that need lighting

Council Member Wroblewski asked if there could be lighting added on Balch Road from Mill Road to Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road as there is no lighting currently. Mayor Finley responded that he would have City Administrator Steve Smith add it to the list so they could look into it. Council Member Spears also added that Huntsville-Brown Ferry Road near the community center has no lighting as well. Mayor Finley responded to Council Member Spears that the area on Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road near the community center is also on the list.

- Dublin Field 5 lights-council to vote soon

Mayor Finley shared about additional capital in the following forms:

Police

- 2 vehicles

Recreation

- 1 vehicle

IT

- 1 vehicle

Building

- 1 vehicle

Public Works

- Dump Truck
- 2 Ford F-450
- Aerial Lift Truck
- Milling and repaving city hall parking lot
- Seal coating and striping city hall parking lot
- Hydraulic Thumb
- Security lighting, backside of Public Works
- Cemetery storage building (Constructed in March)
- Street light storage building (Constructed in March)
- Electricity to street light storage building
- ATV for cemetery maintenance
- Ford F-250 (purchased in March)

Mayor Finley explained that the lead time on some of these vehicles is longer and that having this set aside now might mean that it carries over, but Public Works needs these to get their work done.

Engineering

- Bradley Street Improvement
- Mill Road Ditch Improvement
- Hughes Road/Old Madison Pike Intersection
- Balch/Gooch Intersection
- Balch/Browns Ferry Roundabout

- Royal Drive Phase I
- Portal Lane Ditch Improvements
- Mill Road Sidewalk Study

Council Member Wroblewski asked if there could be a chance of adding an additional roundabout at the dead end of Balch and Mill Road. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren responded that when they did the transportation plan in 2018 it was not warranted over other areas but that it is not to say that it won't be warranted in the future.

Royal Drive Phase I Extension

- Traffic light at County Line Road will be a safety feature
- Phase II would come at later date to complete the connection

Council Member Spears asked about the intersection at County Line Road lining up with the concrete plant on the Limestone County side of County Line Road. Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren clarified that it lines up with SCS Exhibits & Cabinets and they will likely realign their driveway to take advantage of the new light.

Capital Improvement Projects (Under Design)

Mayor Finley shared the percentage of progress on a variety of projects that are under design and explained that it would be posted on the website as well.

Safety and Efficiency

Mayor Finley explained that currently there is \$245,000 in a special account and that mid-year they will add \$20,000 for a total of \$265,000 to improve safety and efficiency in following 5 areas:

- City Hall Access Improvements-\$50,000
- HR/City Clerk Revamp-\$100,000
- Records Room Addition-\$25,000
- Palmer Park Comms System-\$50,000
- Dublin Park Comms System-\$40,000

Parks & Recreation Director Kory Alfred provided information about previous incidents that have raised safety issues due to the lack of being able to communicate to all the fields when dangerous weather approaches. A Comms System would alert all attendees in a timely manner.

Staffing Additions

- ERP Support Specialist
- EMS Captain-Training
- Director of Facilities
- Economic Development

I-565 Flyover Status

Mayor Finley advised that the flyovers are currently 20% completed. Council Member Spears asked when they are supposed to be completed. Mayor Finley responded that by November of 2024 they should be completed.

Mayor Finley completed his presentation of the Mid-Year budget by opening the floor for questions and letting council know that the full budget would be sent out to them from finance and that approval would be asked of them on the first council meeting of June.

Council Member Denzine asked about the addition of additional police cars besides the 2 due to older vehicles and since vehicles are so hard to come by, should we budget additional funds to have ready. Mayor Finley responded that the money is there. Council Member Powell added that the 2 vehicles are in addition to 6 that they already have budgeted for. Police Chief Johnny Gandy explained that the 2 additional vehicles that they asked for is to replace 2 detective vehicles that are very old and have blown engines. It would cost more for the engine than to replace them. Mayor Finley added that next year there will be more funds available to police as other departments such as Public Works and others will be well off. Council Member Denzine asked Police Chief Johnny Gandy about cars that need to be retired and if they would be able to replace them. Police Chief Johnny Gandy responded that they will be good this year because they have officers who are retiring and others that will leave and those vehicles will cover officers coming out of the academy. Vehicles that end up being taken offline can wait till next year's budget and that in the future as they grow, they will need more but he can wait till the regular operational budget for that.

Council President Bartlett asked Police Chief Johnny Gandy if he would be able to provide enough staffing to meet the school superintendent requirement of having a Student Resource Officer (SRO) at each school with the new middle school coming online. Police Chief Johnny Gandy responded that right now he cannot and that he has been speaking with the superintendent on how they are going to be able to staff it. Mayor Finley added that the schools might be able to help with the funding because part of the funds that were added for safety could be utilized for SRO's. Police Chief Johnny Gandy added that he has 8 officers in Field Training or in the academy, but that it will take a year to get them on shift. Police Chief Johnny Gandy informed Council President Bartlett that he will be able to cover the new Journey Middle School and some of the losses at the SRO position, but that he does not have enough for new additions.

Council Member Denzine asked Mayor Finley for additional details regarding the Hardiman roundabout. Mayor Finley explained that they are working with the developer and the schools to have the roundabout and the connection through to Seger's Road completed before the school opens. Council Member Denzine asked if they are going to need extra money to cover it. Mayor Finley said they have money for the design in the budget and he is certain that it will be done before the school opens. Mayor Finley also added that it is not in this budget because there is no solid game plan yet.

Mayor Finley advised council that they might want to sit down with City Engineer Michael Johnson or Deputy City Engineer Michelle Dunson to go over the projects that they are managing.

Council President Bartlett asked Mayor Finley if the amount listed for the Hexagon Project of \$4,988,000 include the purchase of the property which was just over \$4,000,000 and if the funds came from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund and not the General Fund. Finance Director Roger Bellomy and Council Member Powell clarified that only \$988,000 came from ARPA and that the rest came from General Fund.

Council President Bartlett asked Finance Director Roger Bellomy if MVP is successful in finding a naming rights sponsor or something else, what is going to happen to the excess money that is placed in Fund 38. Finance Director Roger Bellomy responded that it would be placed back in the General Fund. Council President Bartlett asked if the resolution that will be presented to them would have that included. Finance Director Roger Bellomy responded that from his understanding the amount they are moving over to Fund 38 is not going to be enough to cover all the community center. Mayor Finley added that the funds will get them to 2 years

and that they will have 1 year left to finish. Council Member Wroblewski added that the community center was estimated at \$10,000,000. Council Member Powell and Mayor Finley clarified that \$1,500,000 from the sale of the library is going into the community center.

Council President Bartlett asked if there were any other questions regarding Mid-Year Budget and with none, thanked Finance Director Roger Bellomy and others for their work on it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS TRIAL PERIOD RESOLUTION DISCUSSION

Council President Bartlett asked for councils' opinion on the public comments trial period.

Council Member Powell shared that he is happy with the way it went during the trial period. It allows the public more time and the meetings have been more productive and have allowed council to get things done faster. Council Members Spears shared that she likes that it allows additional time for the public to comment in three ways, agenda items, public hearings, and general comments. Council Member Powell added that it also allows the department heads to leave, since most have been here all day already. Council Member Wroblewski also agreed with Council Member Powell and Spears that it allows the public to have the opportunity to comment in three different ways.

Council Member Denzine disagreed and would like the public comments back at the beginning of the meeting only because she feels the public's voice should be heard first. She understands that they have the option to talk at three different times, but she feels that since they were the ones who put them in their seats, council should hear all their comments first.

Council Member Spears shared with Council Member Denzine that with the new format they would have additional time in each of the areas. Council Member Denzine responded that she is fine with separating it, but that it all needs to happen at the beginning of the meeting as she feels less people came and talked when the general comments were placed at the end.

Council Member Wroblewski added that she noticed people's questions were answered as the meeting progressed and they still had time to add more comments at the end. Council Member Wroblewski added that they should get Council Member Shaw and Seifert's opinion as well. Council President Bartlett responded that Council Member Shaw had shared with her that he clocked it at fifty-one minutes of public comments because they had multiple opportunities to speak.

Council President Bartlett asked City Attorney Brian Kilgore about amending the ordinance to permanently change it. City Attorney explained they could amend the code to make it permanent or they could do another resolution to extend it. Council President Bartlett asked if they would need a first reading at the May 22nd meeting. City Attorney Brian Kilgore said they could suspend the rules at the first reading they choose to. Council Member Spears added that she would prefer not to suspend the rules as she would like to hear public comments on it before they vote on it. Council President Bartlett added that she senses most are wanting to amend the ordinance with the new change and they will go ahead with a first reading on the May 22nd meeting to allow for comments before they vote in June.

ANIMAL CONTROL APPROPRIATION

Council Member Wroblewski went over the following numbers of animals that Madison Animal Rescue Foundation (MARF) picks up and made a request that instead of appropriating the full \$15,000 to MARF, they should appropriate it to the Police budget, where they will allot a per animal picked up appropriation. Council Member Wroblewski added that she has talked with Police Chief Johnny Gandy, and he is able to answer questions. Council Member

Wroblewski added that she feels it allows Police to manage the appropriation better because currently MARF is not picking up all animals and they end up using other rescues that are not getting compensated.

Year	Animals Picked Up (MARF)	Actual Animals Picked Up	Appropriation Amount	\$ Amount per Animal
2019	220	105	\$15,000	\$142.86
2020	220	97	\$15,000	\$154.64
2021	220	75	\$15,000	\$200.00
2022	220	52	\$15,000	\$288.46

Council Member Powell asked where the above numbers came from. Council Member Wroblewski responded that the number came from Madison Animal Control and was sent to her by Police Chief Johnny Gandy. Council Member Powell asked Police Chief Johnny Gandy if Council Member Wroblewski came to him about it or vice versa. Police Chief Johnny Gandy responded that Council Member Wroblewski came to him about it. Council Member Wroblewski added that she is just trying to be proactive.

Council President Bartlett asked Mayor Finley if he wanted to weigh in on the discussion. Mayor Finley and other council members discussed various ways that it could cost the city more than \$15,000 if they went other routes besides using MARF. The discussion was completed with Council Member Spears asking if Mayor Finley could gather more information to reach a good decision. Mayor Finley agreed he would do some research. Council President Bartlett thanked Council Member Wroblewski for bringing it to their attention and thanked everyone for the discussion and looks forward to more information from the Mayor.

Council President Bartlett advised everyone that the tentatively scheduled work session for June is on the 21st and the only item on the agenda is the mural guidelines from Director of Development Services Mary Beth Broeren.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the work session adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes No. 2023-05-WS, dated May 17th, 2023, read, approved and adopted this 12th day of June 2023.

Council Member Maura Wroblewski
District One

Council Member Connie Spears
District Two

Council Member Teddy Powell
District Three

Council Member Greg Shaw
District Four

Council Member Ranae Bartlett
District Five

Council Member Karen Denzine
District Six

Council Member John Seifert
District Seven

Concur:

Paul Finley, Mayor
Attest:

Lisa D. Thomas
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mari Bretz
Recording Secretary