

City of Live Oak  
Special Called City Council Meeting  
March 16, 2016

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The Live Oak City Council met in a Special Called Meeting, March 16, 2016 at 3:00, in City Hall located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064. The following officials were present: Mayor Garth R. Nobles, Council President Councilman Keith Mixon, Councilman Bennie L. Thomas, Councilman Grantham, Councilman John W. Yulee Sr., Councilman Frank Davis, City Manager Jan Parkhurst, and City Clerk John Gill. Not present was Attorney Fred Koberlein.

Council President Keith Mixon called the meeting to order.

Councilman Mixon presented the first item regarding discussion with possible council action, on the selection of two City Manager candidates to be interviewed a second time. Each councilmember provided there two candidates to be selected in a roll call fashion.

Councilman Davis = Ron Williams, James McCroskey  
Councilman Yulee = Ron Williams, James McCroskey  
Councilman Grantham = Ron Williams, Shawn Crocker  
Councilman Thomas = Ron Williams, James McCroskey  
Councilman Mixon = Ron Williams, James McCroskey

The Council consensus was to hold the second interviews on March 22, 2016, with the first interview beginning at 2:00 PM and the second beginning at 3:30 PM. Councilman Mixon then handed out a draft city manager contract from the International City/County Management Association. Councilman Mixon proposed that the Council discuss the contract and have one drafted to present to the selected candidate. The Council requested to also see the previous city managers employment contract (the city clerk was to forward the contract to Council the following day). Council Mixon then recommended that the Council meet with the selected candidate (independently from the second candidate) to negotiate employment. If an agreement could not be reached then the Council could meet with the second candidate to begin negotiations.

The Council consensus was to proceed with background checks, and on March 22, during a Special Called Meeting the council would select the top candidate, and begin negotiations during a Special Called Meeting on March 24, at 4:30.

Councilman Mixon then presented the next agenda item regarding a presentation by Rick Hall on "Walkability" with possible council action to follow. Councilman Mixon discussed that it was the Department of Transportation's (DOT) recommendation that in order to expedite changes in creating a more walkable community, the city would need to consider hiring a consultant or engineer to conduct a study to present to DOT.

Councilman Mixon then introduced Mr. Rick Hall, who was present to discuss the concept of a walkable community. Mr. Hall's presentation discussed a balance in accommodating all modes of transportation within the downtown area.

Councilman Mixon then discussed the city's grid system, and the need of truck routes. Mr. Rick Hall discussed the number one project as being the need for identifying truck routes. Continuing, Councilman Mixon then inquired the preference for parallel versus diagonal parking. Mr. Hall discussed that drivers prefer parallel parking lots, but diagonal parking would allow for more parking spaces.

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Councilman Davis then addressed his concerns over unintended consequences. Councilman Davis discussed that currently there was already an issue with US-129 and traffic, were the city to restrict or slow the traffic this would compound the problem.

Continuing, Councilman Davis discussed that the city has a lot of traffic that is passing through the downtown area; trying to reach destinations such as Gainesville, Lake City, or Tallahassee. Councilman Davis inquired if there was a bifurcated plan in addressing traffic passing through on a main arterial roadway. Mr. Hall discussed that one method would be to have A streets and B streets, as far as the grade for pedestrian and walkability. For example, the city could approve A as the primary walkable street, whereas B (that is parallel to A) would not be. Continuing, Mr. Hall discussed that the Council could identify each street's individual mode preference.

It was then discussed that traffic seeking to avoid slower traffic would reroute themselves to avoid the downtown area. Councilman Davis then discussed the unintended consequences of rerouted traffic resulting in increased traffic on Houston Avenue.

The floor was then opened to public comment. The public comments discussed the potential for a roundabout at the Houston Ave and US-90 intersection, reduced speed, signage for truck routes, filling vacant lots, and pedestrian comfort in walking along the roadside.

Councilman Mixon inquired of Mr. Hall what his recommendations would be. Mr. Hall recommended that the Council proceed with a vision study, truck route engineering, and lane elimination study on MLK Avenue.

With no other agenda items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Councilman Mixon  
City Council President

Attest:

Mr. John Gill  
City Clerk