

DeFuniak Springs City Council  
Special Meeting  
June 6, 2016

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D Ennis, Sr., Councilman Ron Kelley, Councilwoman Janie Griffith, Councilman Mac Carpenter, Councilman Kermit Wright, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Interim City Manager Tilman Mears, Finance Director Joe Brown and Cindy Permenter. City Clerk Loretta Laird was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Campbell called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Campbell requested the retirement lunch agenda item be moved before the "Silver Wings" project agenda item.

Retirement Lunch

Interim City Manager Tilman Mears requested to close public works department on Thursday, June 15, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a retirement lunch for Rick Rodgers. Mears explained the lunch is for all city employees to attend.

**Councilman Ennis made a motion to close the public works' department on Thursday, June 15, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a retirement lunch for Rick Rogers, seconded by Councilwoman Griffith. Motion carried 5-0.**

*Councilwoman Griffith: Aye; Councilman Wright: Aye; Councilman Kelley: Aye; Councilman Ennis: Aye; Councilman Carpenter: Aye*

Silver Wings project

Mayor Campbell provided an outline for the presentation for the Silver Wings project with Walton County Economic Development Alliance representative Steve Jaeger providing a brief overview of the project. Local resident Jack Owen was to provide additional project information and David Graff, Airtrain Aviation Group LLC (Airtrain) representative, presenting additional information. The council and public would have time for their questions to be answered at the end of the presentations.

Steve Jaeger, Walton County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA), provided an overview of the Silver Wings project, which is a United States Air Force initial flight training program with an approximately 1,500 to 2,000 annual participants. Jaeger discussed the basic details provided at the April 19, 2016, special council meeting for Airtrain to utilize the city's airport property and an operation location on the city's certified airport sites. Jaeger stated the United States Air Force has requested proposals for a pilot flight training program with the request due on June 30, 2016, and the winning bidder being announced in May 2018.

Jaeger discussed Airtrain's opinions regarding the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport advantages and the funding for the proposed project, aviation and non-aviation jobs and the amount of aircraft fuel required for the project. Jaeger requested commitment of support.

Local resident Jack Owen discussed a letter presented to the council from local resident Harley Henderson. Owen discussed each item on the letter for the council and audience concerns.

Dan Graff, Airtrain Aviation Group LLC, provided his military background and stated a multi-site bid is being prepared for the awarded contract.

Discussion occurred relating to funding opportunities for the city if the project is approved, a Public Workshop: Triumph Funding and Initial County Project Identification scheduled at the Walton County Board of County Commissioners south office and the minimum five-year contract term.

Local resident J B Hillard discussed the city's decision of not wanting to make a commitment for the project.

Airport Advisory Committee Chairman Terry Dawkins discussed his thoughts on the project, including the city supporting the citizen concerns relating to projects at the airport.

Discussion occurred relating to funding the proposed project and the city obtaining grant funding to support the project. Councilman Carpenter stated the city needs to make the necessary commitments to the proposed project.

Don Riedel, AERO Club representative, discussed the shortage of pilots and the need to assist the aviation industry for future growth.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson discussed a non-binding Letter of Intent being prepared with the council's consensus.

***Councilman Carpenter made a motion to authorize the city attorney have discussions with the proposed project representatives, prepare a Memorandum of Understanding or reserve intent and would show evidence to the city's commitment of moving forward with the proposed project in a non-binding form, since there are some concerns in regard to the proposed proposal, and present the agreement at the next regular meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Griffith. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Kelley the nay vote.***

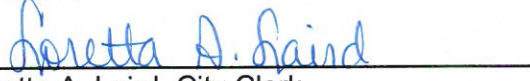
*Councilwoman Griffith: Aye; Councilman Wright: Aye; Councilman Kelley: Nay; Councilman Ennis: Aye; Councilman Carpenter: Aye*

There being no further business, Mayor Campbell adjourned the special meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ADOPTED on this 27th day of June, 2016.

  
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Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk