

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes --- April 22, 2019
Northport City Hall

Commission Member Attendees: Mayor Walt Maddox-Chair; Mayor Donna Aaron; Claude Edwards; Jim Page; Judge Rob Robertson

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Edward Henderson, Clay Randolph, Tracy Criss, Robert Spence, Dennis Stripling, Jerry Tingle, Jarrod Milligan, Eddie Pugh, Steven Polunsky, Brandon Boatwright, Sen. Gerald Allen, Ron Davis, Bruce Higginbotham, Brad Matthews, Susan Snowden, Glenda Webb, Richard Rush

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Meeting minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Aaron, seconded by Judge Robertson.

The April deposit from February 2019 sales tax collected was \$693,800, with a current bank balance of \$8,969,757.99, which does not account for 3 outstanding checks totaling \$955,000 (\$5,000 in operation expenses and \$950,000 in project expenses).

Project updates were provided as follows:

It was noted that no ALDOT representatives were present to provide updates because of a state holiday.

Mayor Maddox reminded the Commission of a May 2 public involvement meeting for the Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK project, which will include a discussion of the Riverwalk components of Elevate Tuscaloosa. Maddox stated that the City's goal was to be turning dirt on the project within a year. He stated the City was proceeding as discussed at the last meeting with the revised alignment on McWright's Ferry Road and was happy that additional lanes were opened at the 82/Hargrove project in time for A-Day.

Bruce Higginbotham provided updates for the City of Northport. The Union Chapel construction project has been awarded to Ikaros, LLC for \$1,515,000, which was the low end of the ALDOT bid bracket. Up-to-date cost estimate is approximately \$2.8M, which is significantly lower than previously estimated. TCRIC is only responsible for the 20% owed by the City of Northport in a pre-existing agreement with ALDOT for an 80/20 split on the project. The City was paid \$800,000 in FY 2017 for the project, with an additional budgeted amount for overages in FY 2019. Therefore, the project is currently well under budget for dollars already received, but there is one right-of-way parcel that remains in condemnation.

TCRIC counsel Alyce Spruell stated that the ALDOT agreement addendum was still in progress and was with the Governor's office. The funding agreement for the 69 South turn lanes project is being edited between parties. The contracts committee still needs to meet on financial advisor RFP responses. Judge Robertson reiterated a need to have a recommendation on the financial advisor by the next meeting.

Mayor Maddox inquired about anything new related to the Port Authority and Spruell stated it still seemed viable but that housekeeping work to update that inquiry needed to occur. Maddox inquired about a roadmap for financing, and Spruell stated that trigger points in new addendum for when funds will be paid and when estimates will be provided by ALDOT will assist with that process. Maddox inquired about timetable for utilities, and the City of Tuscaloosa representatives stated it could be 6-10 months, depending on easement acquisition. Commission members agreed that there should be a clear communications strategy before traffic begins to be impeded.

Mayor Maddox opened the floor for public comment. None was received.

Jim Page announced that the Chamber of Commerce's annual Transportation Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, where ALDOT representatives will discuss the Rebuild Alabama Act and what it means for local and statewide funding.

Mayor Maddox introduced Richard Rush as the new communications director for the City of Tuscaloosa.

The next meetings were announced as May 24 at Tuscaloosa City Hall, June 24 at the Courthouse annex, and July 29 at Northport City Hall.

Mayor Maddox adjourned the meeting.