Minutes of the Fairhope Airport Authority
January 9, 2024

The Fairhope Airport Authority met January 9, 2024 at 5:00PM in the City Hall Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Pel Henry, Chairman, Len Strickland, Will Bruce, Chip Groner, Jack Burrell and Don Ward. Amy Pearson was absent. Also present was Josh Myrick, Attorney and Dave Friedel, Airport Manager. Cynthia A Boothe took the Minutes.

Before the meeting started, Pel Henry welcomed Len Strickland to the Airport Authority and asked him to say a few words. Len stated that he was looking forward to serving on the Authority and that there are many interesting and exciting things going on at the Airport. He said he had been flying for about 28 or 29 years and has had an aircraft out at the Airport all that time.

The Minutes of the December 12, 2023 regular meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Will Bruce, second by Jack Burrell and unanimously passed.

Continental Aerospace Report: No Report.

Airport Manager's Operations Report: Dave stated that he had been working with a local website developer to update the Airport website to make it easier to navigate and add more information for users. They are going to make a demonstration website where Dave and any Authority Members can look at it and see if any other changes need to be made before it goes live.

Dave reported that he had received a depredation permit for white tail deer from Alabama Wildlife as there have been reports of seeing the deer out on the Airport property and runway. Pel Henry, Kyle Klenner, and Dave are all three listed on the permit to take care of the problem should it become necessary.

Dave reported that one of the third row T-Hangers was having trouble with water getting in so a gutter will be installed on the north side of the hangar to divert the water away. The repair should cost about $3,000.00.

Dave said at the terminal construction meeting last week that discussions were held about the flower beds with Jamie Rollins of the City of Fairhope Horticulture Department. Jamie said that when the building is about complete, that his department would build some planter boxes like they have uptown and that the Terminal Building will be put on the rotation for seasonal flower changeouts.

Dave stated that the Civil Air Patrol is going to be performing JR ROTC familiarization rides and Drone Ops on February 10th the same as they did in September.

Dave reported that the traffic count for December was 4,786, which is lower than usual but usually happens around the holidays.

Dave mentioned that the meeting for February is scheduled for the 13th, which is Mardi Gras Day, but the Council Chambers would be available for the 20th. A motion was made by Chip Groner to move the February 13th meeting to the 20th of February, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed. Dave also mentioned that the Council Chambers are not available for the regular meeting on November the 12th but will check to see if they are available for November 19th.

Dave reported that Paula mentioned to him that the USDA will be out doing bait spraying next month and wanted to make sure everyone was aware of it.

Will Bruce asked Dave if the Civil Air Patrol was still looking for space for storage and meetings and Dave confirmed that they were still looking.

Engineer's Report: Jordan stated that everything is going great and right on schedule with the Terminal Building construction. The trusses will be delivered tomorrow so they can be installed. The holidays and some weather events slowed down things for a while, but they are back on schedule now.

The Runway project will officially not be funded this year but possibly in 2025. The FAA said that the Airport can apply for an AIP grant of $150,000.00 for land reimbursement, so Jordan will work on that application and have all the information ready for next month.

A group discussion followed about possibly applying for other projects that were less expensive and may be more obtainable. Jordan suggested that they discuss everything with the FAA and ALDOT for advice before deciding what steps they may want to take next.

Jordan presented an amendment to the design contract they submitted. She stated that ALDOT reviews all rates and scopes of contracts that they submit and after review of the design contract it resulted in a reduction of the fees of $19,000.00. Don Ward made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the amendment reducing the fees to Volkert for $19,000.00, second by Chip Groner and unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report: Amy Pearson was absent, but Pel Henry reported that he has been working with Trustmark Bank and they are giving the Airport 4% interest on 375,000.00 in the Airport accounts and 4% on the funds in the grant account.

Legal Report: Josh Myrick reported that he had delivered the draft lease of the North Hangar to Mr Pennington of Continental Aerospace. He has not gotten any response yet but has given them until the end of January to make any comments or requests for changes to the lease. Since he has not heard from them yet he feels that the Authority does not need to move into executive session this evening.

Board Discussion/Approval Requests: Coley Boone of Thames Batre Insurance stated that she has talked to their underwriters and that the Airport can possibly expect a 15% to 20% increase in costs this year on the property insurance. She does anticipate some changes in deductibles. She does not expect a significant increase in the General Liability, Pollution, or the Public Officials Liability. She will have a proposal ready for the February meeting. There was also a group discussion about possibly insuring the runway and taxiway lights once they are replaced.

Don Ward stated that he has been working with the consultant who is working on the first draft of the Minimum Standards and Rules and Regulations and expects to receive the draft shortly. Once received, he will forward the draft to everyone for their review and will then bring it to the February meeting for approval and a request for an RFP so that the Authority can keep to the original timeline of issuing an RFP by the end of February.

Other Business: Jack Burrell stated that the funding agreement between the City of Fairhope and the Airport Authority is past due since December and needs to be renewed for the annual appropriation. Josh Myrick stated that he thought it was not due to expire until 2027 but will look at the bond transcript to be sure. Jack stated that the City plans to keep the funding level for this year.

Jack also stated that he has been talking with Don Ward and the property on the West Side that the Authority has been trying to sell would need to have about $5,500,000.00 dollars of infrastructure work done on it to make it more marketable so Don thinks it might be better for the Airport to have the City take the property back. Jack will talk to the Authority more about the property at a later time.

Comments from the Advisory Council Members: No report.

Comments from the General Public: Scott Peters stated that he saw a NOTAM that the PAPI lights were not working correctly. Dave Freidel stated that the PAPIs were fixed.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by Don Ward to adjourn, second by Jack Burrell and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56PM.

Pel Henry

Chairman, Pel Henry

Cynthia A Boothe

Submitted by Cynthia A Boothe