

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA  
HELD JANUARY 19, 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL AT 6:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Holley with the following members present:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Holley.

Absent: Councilwoman Mathis.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of accounts payable for January 19, 2021 and permission to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the accounts payable for January 19, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Franklin. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was the approval of re-appointing James Stone to Florala Utilities Board. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Abstain: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was to be the approval of purchasing 40 each, 4 ½ foot lit Christmas wreaths from the City of Rogersville for \$100 per wreath. This was tabled by the Council until the next Council meeting waiting additional information to make an informed decision.

The fifth item on the Agenda was the approval to make Street Dept employee Harris Mayes a regular City employee effective 1-20-21. Mayor called for the vote. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to approve and Councilwoman Robbins seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the ACE review presentation by Samantha McDaniel. Ms. McDaniel said the leadership class has one more class to complete and then will graduate in April. Ms. McDaniel showed a short video example of what Pitts Media could do to promote tourism and revenue in Florala. She also provided sample packets of two different color palettes for the Council to have for consideration on color choice.

The seventh item on the Agenda was the approval of renewing the City's membership with the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce for \$50. Mayor called for the vote. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the renewal. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was the approval of leasing 4 police cars through the BanCorp Bank. The term is for 36 months for 4 cars at the rate of \$43,735.24 annually. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. The Council approved pending more information regarding early payoff of lease. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval of Cancer Freeze using the RJE building on Friday and Saturday on February 5 & 6 and closing 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the car show. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried

The tenth item on the Agenda was the approval for City Hall to be closed starting January 25 through January 28, 2021 for Florala Utilities training on new software. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried

Mayor Holley shared the following points of interest of city news: City Hall will be closed to the public starting January 25-28 (four working days) due to Utilities training. City Hall business can be conducted by appointment only. Recreational trail grant is open at this time and Andrew is working on it for the City. An application will be submitted to us the grant funds for the walking trails and bridges at Lake Jackson. The grant is for \$500k with matching requirement of \$100K. The Lake has these funds for matching. Mayor will write a letter on behalf of the City. Advocacy Day reminder for February 9, 2021. It is 8 – 4 and will leave at 5:45 AM. Pass thru money for the Airport Authority is for terminal access road and environmental study benefits. A resident is looking into opening a daycare facility.

District Reports were called for:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** No calls or complaints. Senior Center is doing well and serving the same number of residents that it was last month. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton helped serve food to cover one of the workers being out due to SARCOA direction because of COVID. Everyone is participating in social distancing and using protective wear.

**Councilwoman Robbins** Finance report was provided. JB Clary requested a street light on RJE and Caton Road near his house. The City determines where the street lights go and it was suggested to turn the existing light in the direction of his house. There has been debris all around the City needing to be picked up and most of it has been picked up. There are potholes that need to be fixed and the road closed barrier near Pat Strickland's house needs to be repaired, replaced or removed. Fire Department assistant Jaden Johnson said a grant is open for rural development assistance and wants to try to get it but there is one criterion that the City doesn't fit into in order to get this grant. The Fire Dept has asked for some assistance to get the brush truck in the shed repaired to get it back on the road. Cheshire has requested pay for EMT but the Mayor is not ready to put this on the agenda yet because he wants to talk to the County Commission, Advance and 911 first. The Mayor will make an appointment to discuss with them in the near future.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** Talked with Wade at the RV Park and all is going well. A resident at 544 McDuffie has went into the nursing home and the neighbors are upkeeping the yard for her. The house is in foreclosure and Councilwoman Inabinett was asked how to find out who owns the house. Received complaint regarding the semi-trucks parking and blocking the road near the fire department while waiting to load and unload. Sonny said that Officer Cheshire and McGraw are on the IRT (Instant Response Team) representing Florala for Covington County. The City pays for the training and this was not put into the budget. A generator was donated to the City that needs to be picked up.

**Councilwoman Franklin** No complaints. The carpet has been cleaned at the Library. Court is doing well. Mayor Holley added that prosecutor Lee Enzor has turned in his resignation but will be here to cover until someone else is found for the position.

**Councilwoman Mathis** No report.

**Street** The department has fell behind due to sickness but are getting caught up now. There were two cat traps stolen-one from Florala Housing Authority and one from the Middle School. Both have been replaced at \$42 each.

**Police Chief** No report.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the Mayor asked to go into Executive Session for Economic Development and Staff. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Robbins. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried. Time noted: 7:52 PM

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the motion for the Council to come back to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 8:34 PM. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to come

back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was to approve Mayor Holley pursuing the purchase of the Slater Emporium building for \$25K for City property. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mayor Holley. Mayor called for the vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was to give permission to work on the City property that used to be SOCOM to get it ready for rental. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Franklin. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was to approve Lorian Diamond for 4 hours a week to work at City Hall. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Robbins. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was to approve Resolution 20210119-Quality Professional Development & Continuing Education. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting will be February 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned.

Adopted and approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

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Terry Holley, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk