

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD APRIL 11, 2022 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 6:30 PM. A WORKSHOP WAS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT 5:45 PM FOR AUDIT AND RJE CIVIC CENTER RENTAL CONTRACT REVIEW.

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, Councilwoman Mathis, Mayor Holley.

Absent: None.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Mathis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of accounts payable for March 14, 2022 and permission to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the accounts payable for March 14, 2022 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20220411-Back to School Sales tax. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mathis. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was to approve the RJE Civic Center rental contract. Councilwoman Mathis made the motion to approve and 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was to approve Carl Taylor as a full-time employee-no insurance or retirement benefits at employee request. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins,

Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was to appoint Joey Evans Jr to the Cemetery Board. Councilwoman Mathis made the motion to approve and 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was the approval of the rental contract to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mathis. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was the approval of new flooring from City Hall door into the Police department and Chamber of Commerce. Councilwoman Mathis made the motion to approve and 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was an update on the ACE status and committee meetings from Samantha McDaniel. Items briefed: Phase I-Friends of Lake Jackson completed several projects at Lake Jackson and workforce development is a continuing effort in order for Florala to have a viable workforce. Phase II-Leadership development was addressed in this phase and leadership classes were held with four projects resulting from those classes. The classes aim to provide leadership skills to individuals thus allowing these individuals to be placed in leadership roles that will be benefit to the City. Phase III-The Strategic Plan for Florala was updated and approved in August 2021. The Comprehensive Plan is being worked on in this phase. Scott Farmer from Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission will be assisting the City of Florala with the comprehensive plan.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the announcement of Officer Cheshire's letter of resignation. Chief Bedsole stated that there is a reserve officer that has moved back into the area and is interested in becoming an official police officer for the City of Florala. He has no criminal history and can pass the physical agility test. He will be interviewed in the coming week and if all goes well, he will go to academy in August of 2022. Chief noted a commendation to Officer Cheshire for issuing 46 citations over the weekend prior to his resignation.

Mayor Holley shared the following points of interest of city news: Kim Matthews reported that there were five members of the Florala Junior class that graduated from the initial Covington County Leadership Program. Dominica McGraw (Senior Center Director) asked her to come and help setup a Facebook page for the center. The Facebook page is up and running. Tracy from

the Florala Family Care was asked to notify the center when the clinic would be closed because the clinic was closed over Spring break and the senior didn't know that, tried to go there and the clinic was closed. Kim has updated the Alabama tourism and Sweet home Alabama website also the Sweet home Alabama magazine needs to be updated on a yearly basis. Trip Advisor can only be updated by the business owner so all business owners need to go online and make sure they are on the site and if they aren't, it will need to be updated. Kim will provide information on Lake Jackson to City Clerk this week. Mayor Holley: Meeting on 28-April for bid opening to do the asphalt for the Recreational Trail Program. The Easter egg hunt on 6-April turned out really well. This was sponsored by First Baptist Church, Carver Community Center and Kiwanis Club. The Community Advisory Council met 4-April with education and workforce development partners concerning local workforce development efforts. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt at Lake Jackson on 16-April at 10 AM. Sunrise service will be held at the amphitheater on 17-April at 7 AM and breakfast will be provided afterwards at FBC. A review of the Strategic Action Plan will be held at the Middle School on 19-April at 6 PM. The military Rangers will have an exercise on 21-April from 8 AM-2 PM. The candidate forum will be held at the RJE building on 21-April at 6 PM. Dinner will be provided for approximately 125 people. There will be a carwash held at Southern Independent Bank on 23-April to support the girls' softball team. The Mayor and Council will be in Tuscaloosa for Annual Conference May 11-14. Mayor Holley checked with a company to hire for sweeper service for the downtown area but the cost was too high. It may be more beneficial to the City to buy a street sweeper and have the street department perform this service.

District Reports were called for:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton The Senior Center is doing well. A new Facebook page has been setup to show the events going on at the center. Mary will be on vacation after Easter for a week. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton will be helping in her absence. The senior aide quit so there is a vacant position that needs to be filled. No calls or complaints. The road by the library has truck that come through even though there is a "No Through Trucks" sign posted. This sign needs to be moved to a more visible spot.

Councilwoman Robbins No calls received. Poplar Street has a bump sign that is leaning and needs to be fixed. Alabama Street has household trash; Seventh Ave has four piles of trash; Montgomery St and Jupiter has trash; Rodney Evans needs patch near driveway; Fifth & Sixth Ave have mattresses; Eighth Street & Ninth Avenue have trash and debris to pick up. The financial report was provided and our numbers show an increase in the general fund and any financial increase is a plus. Chief Jones said that each member now has an SOP in a folder. Thank you to Mike Jones for helping the Fire department receive \$10,320 in grant funds from the State of Alabama. A commercial washer and dryer will be purchase with these funds for use at the fire department. The new helmets have been received. Black for firefighter, red for lieutenant or captain, and white for chief. New gear that has been ordered is slowly coming in now. We need to secure funding for a new fire truck. Chief Jones is moving within the City limits.

Councilwoman Inabinett The Lake is doing well. Friends of Lake Jackson painted all of the picnic tables at the lake. Eucalyptus Street needs to be cleaned up.

Councilwoman Franklin All has been quiet. A thank you to the police for doing a good job. The library and court are doing well. Complaint from a resident from Crestview that came to visit Florida and tried to use Percy's Park but the gate was locked. Mayor Holley stated that this was probably at the time that the City was replacing the mulch with rubber mulch which is more durable and will last longer. The gate was locked because the process was not completed yet.

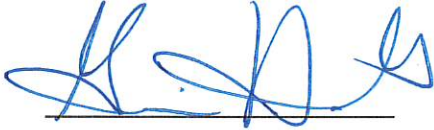
Councilwoman Mathis The swings at Percy's Park need to be lowered for little kids. No reports. Why are we not flying flags at City Hall and the Library? Mayor Holley: the pole at City Hall needs to be replaced-will find out for the Library. Mayor Holley said there is a new fountain to be donated to replace the one at the vet park. Samantha McDaniel bought a new pump for the current fountain but there are still issues with the fountain.

Street Mayor Holley spoke about the street department in special news.

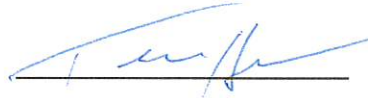
Police Chief Chief Bedsole spoke when item ten was discussed.

Next Council Meeting will be May 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned.



Gina Hendriks, City Clerk



Terry Holley, Mayor