

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2023 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: lake manager job description, Wall Avenue property, city attorney on retainer, and Healing Tools for Warriors proposal.

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

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins. Absent: None.

The invocation was given by James Pickron.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Jamison Jackson and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the October 9, 2023 Council Meeting with the correction to item seventeen on page three: change from Councilwoman Franklin seconding the motion to Councilwoman Inabinett seconding the motion. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023 meeting and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of the Special Call meeting minutes of the October 17, 2023 with the correction to item two on page one: change from Councilwoman Franklin seconding the motion to Councilwoman Inabinett seconding the motion. Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the Special Call minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable November 13, 2023 and to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval to waive the first reading of Ordinance 20231113-Wall Avenue property. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to wave the first reading and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was approval of Ordinance 20231113-Wall Avenue property. After much discussion and the need for more information, Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to table this item until the next meeting, and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item of business was approval of Resolution 20231113-Severe Weather Preparedness. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was to approve appointing Councilwoman Debra Inabinett at Pro Tempore until end of current term, November 2025. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item of business was to add Councilwoman Inabinett and Councilwoman Franklin to the city checking accounts and remove Terry Holley. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was approval of putting city attorney, Meredith Peters, on retainer for the city. After much discussion, and the need for more information/clarification, Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to table this item, and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was to approve the proposal from Healing Tools for Warriors to rent the city property located behind the old hospital. After much discussion on the details of this proposal, Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to table this item until next meeting and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was approval of the Lake Manager job description. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was approval to re-advertise for Lake Manager position. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval of John Bryan for District 2 Council seat. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was the recognition of Lynda Christian for administering CPR to save a child's life. Chief McGraw said a few words and presented Ms. Christian with a certificate of recognition.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was a report on the Second Congressional District Association dinner & meeting that was held in Dothan on November 1, 2023. Report given by Councilman Robbins.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was an update on library financial award and United Way update by Sherry Simpson but this will be moved to the meeting in December due to sickness.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was Cancer Freeze by Jennifer Davidson but this item will be moved to the December meeting.

The eighteenth item on the Agenda was the estimate of the repairing the dozier. The estimate presented was \$2,450 and request for approval of repair. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The nineteenth item on the Agenda was estimates presented to sealcoat and restripe Lake Jackson parking lot at \$7,600 and clean, sealcoat, and restripe parking lot at RJW building for \$5,800. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twentieth item on the Agenda was the approval to solicit estimates to replace HVAC at city rental property used by Floral Family Care. There are three estimates needed. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton,

Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was approval to change the name of the former Covington County yard to: Florala Operations Office & Yard (A) and the City yard to: Florala Operations, Supplies, and Storage yard (B) and purchase signs to identify each place. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-second item on the Agenda was approval to upgrade former Covington County yard office for operations: maintenance, grounds, and street department. An estimate will be provided at the next meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was approval of proposed upgrade to the RV park dish and internet system. The upgrade will be with the Smart Box system. The \$3,500 fee would be waived, set up is free with a six month contract and the internet is through Spectrum and the next level of connectivity is needed in order to give the campers better service. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fourth item on the Agenda was approval of posting "No Solicitation" signs to all city owned property and Lake Jackson Park, Percy's Park, and Pocket Park: Open at sunrise and close at sunset. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda was approval of the use of the Rodney J Evans building at no cost for the Covington County Republican Party 2024 Candidate Forum Primary Election on January 4, 2024, Choctawhatchee Pea & Yellow River Watershed Management Authority on January 7, 2024, Covington County Youth Leadership Program on September 18, 2024 from 8:30-1:30. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-sixth item on the Agenda was approval of the use of the parking lot at the Rodney J Evans building for Fire College training on December 18th through 22nd , 2023 (6PM-8PM). Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-seventh item on the Agenda was an update on the ADECA grant for the gym rehabilitation by Mayor Robbins. The grant total is \$375,655 in addition to the city match of \$41,470 for a total of \$417,395. The construction bid received is \$573,260.47 and the roof bid received is \$212,270 for a total of \$785,530.47. This is total is \$368,135.47 over the grant/city money available for this project. Emily with SEARPCD is waiting to hear from the engineering firm contact Neil Hughes, who is trying to reduce the scope of the contract so that this project will be within budget or a more manageable overage amount.

The twenty-eighth item on the Agenda was approval to appoint Frank Jones to the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-ninth item on the Agenda was approval of the use of the lunchroom at the former middle school for cookies with Santa as a fundraiser for the Headstart on December 15, 2023 from 4:30-7:00 PM. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirtieth item on the Agenda was approval of the year 2024 being called Christmas Winter Wonderland and future planning for decorations obtained with that theme in mind. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-first item on the Agenda was approval of the proposal of Officer Thigpen and Chief McGraw to purchase upgrades for the tasers and body cameras. The current tasers are not working properly and some are expired equipment. The proposal is for 3 tasers and 5 body cameras under a 5 year, 6 month contract that includes equipment maintenance at \$38,833.75 but charged at \$7,253.75 per year. This pricing is in the budget for this purchase. Chief McGraw also gave an update on the new purchase of the police truck. There is funding in the budget for this purchase as well. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-second item on the Agenda was approval to surplus/advertise the silver Explorer that belongs to the police department. This vehicle is a 2017 Ford Explorer with 109,715 miles. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-third item on the Agenda was approval to surplus/advertise the old fire truck for the fire department. This is a 1998 Pierce Saber Pumper. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-fourth item on the Agenda was approval to vacate 5th Street/Pecan North of Dwight Stone. The process to vacate is Council votes, if approved, advertise for four weeks in the newspaper, then hold a public hearing. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-fifth item on the Agenda was approval to vacate 11th Avenue from intersection of 4th West to Glenda Ward property. The process to vacate is Council votes, if approved, advertise for four weeks in the newspaper, then hold a public hearing. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Robbins shared the following points of interest of city and community news: Jacks opened and is doing very well; updates to the compensation plan are being worked on; Pro Vita physical therapy had their grand opening; Fins and Feathers had their grand opening; Veteran's Day was Saturday- all Veterans were asked to stand for recognition; a new business will be opening December 1, 2023: Revival Grounds Café.

District Reports were called for:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton No complaints for the district. The Peanut Festival was attended by fourteen seniors and they all had a good time. Tuesday and Thursday is bingo day at the center and the seniors really like attending these games. The center feeds 52 participants-there are 38 homebound and 14 in house.

Councilmember District 2 Financial report was provided to all members. The Fire department has already been discussed.

Councilwoman Inabinett Commendation to the lake staff for a job well done-the lake looks so good. Jimmy Burleson cut the drainage ditches and they look really good too. The crepe myrtles on 3rd and Cactus need to be trimmed. No complaints for the district.

Councilman Franklin No complaints for the district. Court and library are doing well. Christmas banners on the street are beautiful. Friends of Lake Jackson will be helping with the Christmas decorations.

Councilman Robbins I am still learning the process. I have plans to go door to door to introduce myself. Complaint by mail carrier in my yard because there is a piece of concrete curbing that needs to be removed. Mayor said to do a work order to get this removed. Cemetery has no report. Recreation board: Tiny Mites, Termites and Pee Wee went to cheer championship and placed: Tiny Mites were 1st place, Termites were 3rd place and Pee Wee were 1st place. In the future, the recreation board would like to get rings for the girls in recognition of achievement.

Operations Operations are doing an outstanding job! Making plans for the future needs that need to be maintained.

Chief McGraw Nothing to report-previously reported.

The thirty-sixth item on the Agenda was requested by Mayor Robbins to go into executive session. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve going into executive session at 7:47 PM and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote.

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

The thirty-seventh item on the Agenda was requested by Mayor Robbins to come back into regular session. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve coming back into regular session at 8:17 PM and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-eighth item on the Agenda was the request of the tenant renting city property behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church to add a shed behind the house. The request was denied and Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve the denial and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirty-ninth item on the Agenda was the approval to not lease the city owned property at 1326 Sixth Street (the station) with the future plan to make this property into an electric car charging station. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fortieth item on the Agenda was the approval of the request from Tyronda Griffin to rent the old Headstart building to start Florala Kids Christian Academy. The Council voted to allow

Ms. Griffin to have access to the building to make improvements and apply for a grant on the condition that she pay the utilities for the building until January, 2024. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is December 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned.

Gayle Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk