

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD JUNE 12, 2023 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 6:30 PM. A WORKSHOP WAS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT 6:00 PM FOR AUDIT REVIEW.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM 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 May 8, 2023 Council Meeting with corrections to item eight and nine. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting with corrections. 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of Special Call meeting minutes of May 15, 2023. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 third item on the Agenda was the approval of accounts payable for June 12, 2023 and permission to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve accounts payable. 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 fourth item on the Agenda was to approve the re-appointment of Ray Bundy to the Industrial Board. Councilwoman Inabinett 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 fifth item on the Agenda was a cemetery issue presented by Samantha McDaniel. The entrance and exit to the cemetery need to be cleaned up, there are trees growing and encroaching on the road to the cemetery, the road itself is too narrow for two cars to pass each other so if the road is cleaned back from debris the road could be wider: requesting that State Avenue be put on the regular maintenance schedule to be cleaned and maintained by the City.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the presentation regarding the Lake kiosk project given by Carol Morgan. Carol presented two different proposals to the Council with cost projections. Mayor Holley asked if the veterans would still get free passes. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton asked about having someone go around to

check that boat launch users were paying but with this system, there would not be a need for someone to check.

The seventh item on the Agenda was presentation by Danny Dyess from the Planning and Zoning board. Danny stated that there are many properties in Florala that need to be addressed for clean-up. A packet was provided to the Council showing some examples of different properties around town, in addition to referencing the two Ordinances that allows the City to take action on these derelict properties-Ordinance 95-8-28(1) Unsafe structures and Ordinance 98-1-5(2) Abatement of Declared Nuisances of Certain Weeds. Danny requested that each Council member provide property address in each of their districts to the Planning and Zoning board before their next meeting on July 4, 2023.

The eighth item on the Agenda was from Downtown Development board (DDB) member Carol Morgan. Carol said that there will be a meeting of the DDB on June 27, 2023 to vote on new members to take the place of two members that resigned.

The ninth item on the Agenda was to approve Resolution 20230612-Application to ALDOT for TAP program. This will allow a sidewalk from Fifth Ave up Sgt Josh Turner Blvd to Florala High School. Councilwoman Inabinett 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 tenth item on the Agenda was the approval to rescind Resolution 20230508-Employee RSA due to incorrect date. 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 eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval of Resolution 2023061-1-Employee Retirement System of Alabama. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. 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 twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval of Resolution 20230612-2-Jacks Signs. Councilwoman Inabinett 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 thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval to renew the contract with Consolidated Communications for the term of three years. 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 fourteenth item on the Agenda was the approval to make the move to the old middle school located at 22975 Seventh Avenue, a permanent move as the Florala Municipal Complex. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and 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, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of request from Chief McGraw to make part-time Officer Caleb Piland a full-time officer. Councilwoman Inabinett 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 sixteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of adding a memorandum plaque to the side of the sand box at Lake Jackson to honor the ones that initiated the sand box. Councilwoman Inabinett 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.

Mayor Holley shared the city news: The work has started on the Jacks site; the City is getting ready for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June celebration; the lake income for the boat launch for Memorial Day weekend was \$431.75 and day use income was \$97.95; the schedule for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June is: Saturday June 17: Bass tournament at 6 PM, Alligator Trot at 8 AM, Miss 24<sup>th</sup> of June Beauty Pageant is 2-5 PM at Florala Municipal Complex in the auditorium; Monday June 19: Anything Goes Parade at 6 PM with children's water battle to follow at Lake Jackson; Tuesday June 20: no events planned; Wednesday June 21: Spaghetti supper at 5 PM at FHS with Gospel sing to follow at 6 PM; Thursday June 22: Children's events at Lake Jackson-Money Scramble at 5 PM with other games to follow at 6 PM; Friday June 23: Sock Hop at RJE building at 8 PM; Saturday June 24: 24<sup>th</sup> of June Parade at 11 AM, Wrestling at RJE building from 1-3 PM, Children's sidewalk chalk drawing contest at 5 PM by 2 Gals and a Goat, Fireworks at 9 PM at Lake Jackson followed by a street dance at RJE. Danny Dyess added that a microphone system was needed for the Council meetings because the audience cannot hear all of what is being said.

District Reports were called for:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** Senior Center will be closed for 4<sup>th</sup> of July-no meals will be distributed that day. The center will be open on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June-there are 36 outbound meals being delivered and 14 inbound meals being served on week days. The new food vendor starts on July 10, 2023. No complaints for the district. Report of parking issue at Lake Jackson but passed that onto Councilwoman Inabinett. Street light out on Begonia.

**Councilwoman Robbins** Calls about parking and vendors at the lake-passed those onto Councilwoman Inabinett; commend the Street department for patching the hole on Juniper Street; the bushes at Caton Road and Industrial Park needs to be trimmed back so that there is visibility for traffic; West side of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue-there is a van broke down on the side of the road; garbage on the property at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and Montgomery; trash at Montgomery and RJE Drive; couch needs to be picked up on RJE Drive; hole needs to be patched coming from 331; Welcome to Florala 331 North sign needs to be cleaned. Financial reports have been provided to the Council. Council needs to be updated in preparation for upcoming budget. Fire department has been notified that there are two fire hydrants that are leaking: one on Poplar and one on Sixth Ave by Apt 23; Volunteer firefighters had med calls where 6 showed up to one and 7 showed up for another-there were 6 airlifts this month-it takes a lot of volunteers to set up for helicopter landing zone for which they had training for in May-

the med calls have been discussed with Chief Jones and he will try to do a rotation to limit the number of firefighters that show up for med calls that are not needed.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** Cemetery has already been talked about. A house on 5<sup>th</sup> and Acorn Street is overgrown and needs to be addressed; concrete to be picked across from Chief Jones house; a streetlight is out on Daisy and Daisy and 4<sup>th</sup> Street; was asked if golf cart permits will be waived for people to ride during 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Also was asked about building another boat ramp because the one is always so crowded. There is a pot hole across from SIB that needs to be patched.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Light out at 4<sup>th</sup> and Elm above a stop sign; Goldenrod on the eastside needs some gravel put there; South Fir and Gum Street is really bad at the stop sign; some street signs are missing; there are four wheelers riding up and down Goldenrod; golf carts riding around town that are not permitted. The library is doing well. There are some books in a storage closet that need to be stored at FMC is possible to give the library more room for their storage. Attend a court session for the first time this month and we have a metal detector that works: could we not use this for court day? Councilwoman Robbins responded that the books in the library closet are property of the Historical Society.

**Councilwoman Mathis** Not much to report. Commend the volunteers that have worked at the cemetery-it really looks good-Samantha McDaniel and Pat McDougald. The street to the cemetery does need to be cleaned up. Recreation board had their football banquet. The Recreation board needs more people on it. Thank you to Danny Dyess for bringing up the dilapidated buildings around town-they do need to be cleaned up. It is sad that there are kids living in some and also, Florala needs rental properties. Thank you to all that attends all of the meetings so that they know what is going on in the City. Jeff Burlison invited the Council to ride in the parade and that they will be behind the first fire truck.

**Street Department** Street department is working on patching the roads. Jacks gave the City some dirt to use to help with the roads-there is a lot that needs to be done in the City.

**Chief McGraw** Florala had the biggest bust in the history of Florala recently. EMS needs a committee to come up with guidelines for natural disaster plan. The committee should be made up of Police Chief, Fire Chief, Mayor, Council members, City Supervisor.

Next Council meeting is on July 10, 2023.

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk

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Terry Holley, Mayor