

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA
HELD AUGUST 12, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: FY2024 BUDGET AMENTMENTS

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

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins.

The invocation was given by Mayor Robbins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mayor Robbins and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the July 8, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2024 meeting and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable August 12, 2024 and to pay bills as needed. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was requests for the homecoming tailgate party on Thursday, September 12, 2024, made by Samantha McDaniel. The requests are to use the area by the boat landing at Lake Jackson for the bonfire/pep rally for the 9th consecutive year, have access to power for the DJ only, support of the fire department to be on standby with water should it be needed, and the presence of the police should they be needed. All participants will be asked to bring extra trash bags to maintain their trash and Florala High School will be responsible for all clean up on Friday. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240812-FY2024 Budget Amendments. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240812-1 for awarding the roof bid for the gymnasium project to Mid-Wester Commercial Roofers, Inc. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240812-2 to surplus property located off Central Y and 6th Avenue. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240812-3 for Back to School Sales Tax Holiday. This resolution rescinded Resolution 20240708-3 and states that sales tax exemption will be observed every year, annually going forward. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval of renewing the agreement with Avenu Insights and Analytics for maintaining city business licenses. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the approval of opening a bank account at SIB for the Fire Department donations. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval of ABC application for a manufacturing license for Finks Milling Distilling. Finks Milling Distilling is targeting the October-November timeframe for opening for business. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval to let out bids as needed for the gymnasium project. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL**

VOTE: Yeas: Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval to extend the lease for 22775 Seventh Avenue (Parsonage) for six months at \$350 per month to the current tenant, Jim Blackburn. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval to increase the pay for Sergeant Dorsey to \$21.50 per hour effective immediately. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval to increase the pavilion rental to include a \$10 for use of electricity. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval to lease the property at 23220 Fifth Avenue to Carla McLaney for her business, The Loft on Fifth, starting September 1, 2024 for twelve months at \$500 per month. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval for permission to let bids as needed for the museum/welcome center. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighteenth item on the Agenda was approval for Reverend Belcher to hold a tent revival at Lake Jackson. Set up will be September 21st and the revival will start September 23rd and go through September 27th. Reverend Belcher will be responsible for the power. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The nineteenth item on the Agenda was approval for new business owner, Kevin Goolsby, to install an air conditioning unit for his business on city property on the side of his building. This will be 36 X 36 concrete pad with unit. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twentieth item on the Agenda was approval for Assistant Chief Thigpen to investigate the exchange of the department's current Glock firearms for new firearms as the current Glock firearms are worn and old. Per Asst. Chief Thigpen, the exchange will give the department a break on the price of new weapons. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was approval for permission to enter into a rental contract for \$500 per month for twelve months to be used as a mechanic shop. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-second item on the Agenda was approval to donate to Florala High School \$125 for a full page ad in the sports program. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was approval to amend the agenda to add an item: rental of the city property at 803 Elm Street to start September 1, 2024. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fourth item on the Agenda was approval to lease the city property at 803 Elm Street to start September 1, 2024 to Provita at \$600 per month, for twelve months, with \$600 deposit. An ADA wheelchair ramp will need to be added and one pest control spray that the city will cover. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: School started today! All schools have a policy and brochure handbooks online and if you would look at these, there are different things that can be promoted for our schools. The Alabama Department of Education report card for WS Harlan and Florala High School is available and absenteeism is costly for our schools. The dollars given to schools is based on attendance so please make sure the children go to school regularly. Mr. Bowen (mental health) has students that graduated this week. Mr. Bowen will continue to help students on the weekend. The clerk and I will be meeting with the department heads in the coming weeks for the FY2025 budget so that it will be ready for the September meeting for approval. Hopeful to have a contract with Tracy Odom for the Medical Associates in October. Performance evaluations will be done prior to October for the following: Chris Jackson, Chief McGraw, Dominica McGraw, Sherry Simpson, Aron Jenkins, Chief Jones, Otis Dixon, and Gina Hendriks. Drag racing on Lake Jackson end of March and sponsors are needed. Christmas parade will be on December 7th with back up date of December 14th. Summary report given for comprehensive plan and requested from other council members to bring to present at this meeting. There were only two that had their report: Mayor Robbins and Councilwoman Franklin.

District Reports:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton No complaints. The recreation board had sign up last weekend. Getting ready for homecoming. The cemetery board had a meeting. People with loved ones need to help with the upkeep of the cemetery. Invoices were sent out.

Councilman Bryan Senior Center has a new computer system to report to the state for continued support of the facility. Seniors will be doing some art for the new daycare. The seniors participated in the 24th of June parade and want to participate in the Christmas parade.

Councilwoman Inabinett Lake employees continue to do excellent work at the lake. A resident wanted to know when the pot holes would be fill at the boat landing. Also, when EMS is called out, what is the process for calling the fire department for help for lift assist. Chief Jones stated that EMS was going to start charging when they had to do lift assist. If this is the case, the fire department will take over that responsibility, so the resident does not get charged for lift assist.

Councilwoman Franklin The library board had a combo meeting for April and June. It was thought there was a roof leak but it was the water cooler. A complaint regarding the new structure on Lakeshore and 4th Avenue and these concerns were addressed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. What is the status for the grant to repave Gum Street? Mayor Robbins stated there has not been a recent update.

Councilman Robbins Court is doing well. Chief said there are no issues.

Fire Chief Update on the fire truck chassis: contacted Deep South and it should be released the first week of September. Once it is released, it will be 3-4 weeks to finish assembly. The money for the purchase is in a certificate of deposit. The interest earned (\$22K) will be used to pay the matching funds required for a grant that has been awarded to the fire department for \$167 for SCVAs (air packs with masks). The units run about \$10k each and fourteen are needed. The

Anheuser Busch water came in and was split between Florala and multiple other towns. The heliport grant is coming soon and all that is needed is to order the lights.

Mayor Robbins: A new police vehicle was purchased at \$18,500. The vehicle is very clean, never wrecked and has 60,000 miles.

Public Comments: No one had a public comment.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda was approval to go into executive session for Economic Development at 7:45 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-sixth item on the Agenda was approval to come back into regular session from executive session at 7:58 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is September 9, 2024

Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk