

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

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: drone consideration of purchase, policy procedures for use of drone, EMS resolution, extension of least of 7th Ave property, mileage reimbursement, and derelict properties.

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. Absent: None.

The invocation was given by Carlton Dukes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Stella Coughenour and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting 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 second item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 29, 2024 Special Call Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 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 third item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable February 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 fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240212-Floralá EMS. 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 fifth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240212-A-Vacating 5th Street and 11th Avenue. 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 Proclamation of National Parent Leadership Month. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was approval to purchase the drone for the police department out of the seizure fund at the cost of \$13,000. 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 eighth item on the Agenda was the presentation given by Lynn Holmes to two individuals that made the All-Star football team: Elijah McMeans (Running back) and Rashon Coleman (Quarterback). Both young men were presented a proclamation from Covington County Commission.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the rental property at 7th Ave. A motion was made to extend the lease to the current tenant for six months at \$350 per month, to give the Council time to consider the request by the tenant to purchase the property. The motion was made by Councilman Robbins 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 tenth item on the Agenda was a report from Councilwoman Wallace-Patton who attended the ALM Advocacy Day meeting to represent Florala. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton was able to meet with lawmakers, ask questions and learn about the new laws coming up. A flyer was provided from the meeting to give a copy to each Council member. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton also stated that she earned CEU points toward her continuous learning.

The eleventh item on the Agenda the announcement of the resignation of Assistant Police Chief, Nick Ireland. This resignation came as a result of the Covington County Sheriff's Department's new policy that no active deputy could work for any other police department while in their employment.

The twelfth item on the Agenda the announcement of the vacancy for Assistant Police Chief and that the City of Florala would be advertising for this full-time position.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was the approval to surplus two city trucks: 2003 F350 and 2000 Dodge Ram to be listed on govdeals.com. 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 fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval to transfer the 2017 Silver Explorer from the police department to the fire department. 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. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval to appoint Sandra Danly to the Recreation Board with a term to expire October 1, 2025. Ms. Danly replaces Justin Jackson who resigned from the board. 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. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval to appoint Carlton Dukes to the Board of Adjustments to complete the term left vacant by the resignation of Cindy Phillips. This term will expire May 2026. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval to re-appoint Jennifer Davidson to the Board of Adjustments for a three year term to expire February 2027. 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, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighteenth item on the Agenda was approval to use the RJECC on February 29, 2024, for the Leadership/Comprehensive Planning workshops plus three additional dates to be determined as things progress. This usage will be at no charge. 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 nineteenth item on the Agenda was approval to leave the mileage reimbursement rate at .65 per mile through this fiscal year of 2024. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. None. Motion carried.

The twentieth item on the Agenda was approval to leave the business license issuance fee at the current rate of \$10 for another year. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. None. Motion carried.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was approval for the fire department to apply for Venmo (QR code) to be used to take in funds for the fire department as needed. Julie Dieterlen presented this information to the City Council and when using Venmo, the funds go directly into the fire department account that the Venmo account will be linked to and the fire department uses Southern Independent Bank. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. None. Motion carried.

The twenty-second item on the Agenda was to hear from Lynn Green regarding the road issues on Gum Street. Ms. Green stated that the rainwater is washing sand down onto their street and they must shovel it up so that it does not block the drain. Mayor Robbins stated that the city has applied for a grant to pave Gum Street and part of Fir Street that will alleviate this issue. In the interim of getting the grant, Chris Jackson and the Operations team will be making some repairs to that area to divert the water and keep the sand from washing down to Wysteria Avenue.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was to hear from Charles Treadwell with a business proposal to put paddle boats at Lake Jackson. Mr. Treadwell provided a business proposal for putting in paddle boats to rent at Lake Jackson and made his presentation to the council. A motion was made by Councilwoman Inabinett to table this issue until the council could have a workshop to discuss and Councilman Robbins seconded this motion.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: Cancer Freeze was very successful and exceeded the funds that were raised last year; Black History Gala was held on February 10, 2024 and was a great success; the process to remove the stained glass windows from the hospital to be reworked has begun but is a slow process due to the state of the windows-the first two windows had to be removed piece by piece and due to illness, the process has been delayed but will start again next week; the new parking plan has been started at Lake Jackson and it looks really good and the additional parking spaces as much needed; E911 approved the software license at 3K annually; Shannon Wallace has been hired as Senior Center regular employee to drive the van and David Willis as part-time back up van driver on an as-needed basis; on March 7th from 7 AM – 12 PM there will be a living history museum at Lake Jackson near the plane; the grant for the boardwalks at Lake Jackson are coming along well; the candidate forum for the March 5th election was held at the RJECC and went well.

District Reports were voted/approved to be held until meeting in February.

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton The election will be held on March 5th and everyone is asked to go and vote; Recreation Board is going well-looking for coaches, sign up to participate can be done online through the Facebook page; cheerleaders and players-there are different categories; appointment to fill the Recreation board vacancy has been done; Cemetery is quiet-board meets once or twice per year and the cemetery is looking good.

Councilman Bryan The Senior Center is doing well; there is a new van driver and a new 2018 Dodge Durango used for meal deliveries and director business; the seniors baked cookies for Cancer Freeze and the director and some of the seniors participated in the 5K walk/run for Cancer Freeze; the director ensures that the seniors get the services that they need; someone donated fresh eggs to the senior center.

Councilwoman Inabinett No report. Some work orders have been put in; the lake is looking good and on February 17, 2024, the new grills will be installed at the lake; on 6th Ave the street is caving in and it is a safety issue; Mayor Robbins stated that she needs to meet with the lake manager and Councilwoman Inabinett regarding the lights at the front entrance that are not working.

Councilwoman Franklin Problem with the leaky roof at the library; the Gum Street issue has already been discussed.

Councilman Robbins I have been making my rounds to different residents and meeting people; the residents on the outskirts of town want to have access to sewer; a resident out past the new campground on highway 54 said there is no water pressure since the campground went in-both of these issues need to be report to Florala Utilities; Court is doing well and plans to move into the old utility office soon; Police is doing well and plan to do a ride along with the chief soon.

Chief McGraw Business as normal; the department purchased a new, used Tahoe from surplus using seizure funds.

Mayor Robbins All financial reports were provided to the council; the February bank accounts listing shows the CD interest to date; the difference in January and February reflects annual payments that were due such as the \$56K for worker's compensation.

Fire Department The chief has been writing and applying for several grants; Venmo will be an asset for taking in funds.

Next Council meeting is March 11, 2024
Meeting adjourned.

Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk