

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA  
HELD JULY 8, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Public hearing was held from 5:45-6:00 PM for property on South Seventh Street and Third Street. No one attended for or against either property. Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: security cameras, Welcome Center/Museum plans, Florala Family Care

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Robbins with the following items recommended to amend the Agenda:

Mayor Robbins recommended to move line item 13 on the Agenda to come after line item 7. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve this recommendation 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.

Mayor Robbins recommended to add the letter from Dr Kraft's attorney, Michael Lasseter, to the Agenda. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve this recommendation 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 following Council members and Mayor present:

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

The invocation was given by Jacob Morgan, VP CCEDC.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Representative Matthew Hammett and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the June 10, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 meeting 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 second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable July 8, 2024 and to pay bills as needed. 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 third item on the Agenda was speaker Representative Matthew Hammett regarding the Welcome Center/Museum. Mr. Hammett said that when he ran for office, he promised that he

would do what he could for Covington County and the cities within and he was happy that he could secure the \$112,000 for the City of Florala for our Welcome Center/Museum project. Mr. Hammett stated that he is thankful to be our representative.

The fourth item on the Agenda was the presentation of the Proclamation to Tyler Zessin for his leadership with the 2023-24 Florala High School Baseball Team.

The fifth item on the Agenda was an Economic Development update from Jacob Morgan of the Covington County Economic Development Commission. Jacob has been with the CCEDC for about ten years and has been working very hard for economic development in Florala. There is a lot of potential being realized in the city to include the Industrial Park and the work of the Becker's to bring in a manufacturing facility for their beauty business. They plan to expand across the country with this facility being the main manufacturing facility. The beach traffic through town is non-stop and the goal is to get them to stop, shop and return on their way home. Jacob is still working on the McDonald's possibility but is back to the beginning due to a death of his contact person. Jacob is looking into the sawmill industry as there are a lot of trees in Covington County that can be milled and is a good capital here. There are sites needed of 50-100 acres to bring in more business. Mayor Robbins stated that Jacob has been working very hard for our community.

The sixth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240708 for Whatley Road. 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 seventh item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240708-1 for vacating property on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Hazel Bryant). 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 approval of Resolution 20240708-2 for vacating property on South end of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. 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 ninth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240708-3 for Back to School Sales Tax Holiday. 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 tenth item on the Agenda was the approval of renewing the FHS Athletic sign using the same graphics as last year. The renewal cost is \$100. 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 eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval to surplus the 2011 Senior Center van. 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 twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval to surplus the Dodge pickup located at the city yard. It needs work and does not run. 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 thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval to lease the lean-to and pocket park to Avery Smiley for one month at \$500 for his food truck. Councilman Robbins 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 fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval of acceptance of the letter from Dr. Kraft's lawyer to end lease of Florala Family Care leased property. 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: There are not enough words for the lake staff, operations, and 24<sup>th</sup> of June-Planning Committee on how well the 24<sup>th</sup> of June Celebration went! They all did a wonderful job. Thank you to Councilman Robbins who was the MC of the parade and to Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, and Councilwoman Franklin that decorated the car and rode in the parade to represent the city council. Councilwoman Inabinett was out of pocket with her grandchildren, and I was at Baptist Hospital with my husband. Thank you to all for the well wishes. There have been phone calls and visits to the office regarding the new roped-off area at the lake for swimming. This is for the safety of our swimmers. The purchase of the council voted on previously was turned down by the interested party of the station property at 1326 Sixth Street. The property has been shown since but no

offer has been made to date. The city rental property on Wall Avenue has had a new air conditioning unit installed (LA Custom Graphics). On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Jeffrey Crowder, Cameron Ansley, Landon Prescott, and Christopher Taylor started work under the Summer Intern Program. Christopher resigned on June 21<sup>st</sup> and Jeffrey resigned on June 26<sup>th</sup> for medical reasons. The others will complete the program on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**District Reports:**

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** No information on the Recreation board. The cemetery is looking good, and it is hot outside. No complaints from the district.

**Councilman Bryan** Senior Center is doing well and feeding a lot of participants. They love watching television and playing bingo. Showed up for the parade to ride and throw out candy. No complaints from the district.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** The lake and street employees worked hard to get the city cleaned up for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June celebration and it looked great. They cleaned up the sidewalks so that you can now walk down them, and they also filled some potholes that needed to be filled. No complaints from the district. Mayor Robbins stated that cleaning the sidewalks was one of the projects that the summer interns assisted the city employees with as part of the priority list.

**Councilwoman Franklin** No complaints. The 24<sup>th</sup> of June celebration and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a good time for everyone. The library board will be meeting on Wednesday at 9 AM. The summer reading program was awesome according to Mayor Robbins.

**Councilman Robbins** Court is going well. The police department for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June did a lot of work behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly with the help of reserve officers. Mayor Robbins commended the Chief, Assistant Chief, and reserves on completing a lot of training. No complaints for the district.

**Mayor Robbins:** Financials for the city were provided and the accrued interest on the certificates of deposit. The last status from Fire Chief Jones on the new fire truck was that the chassis still has not been received.

**Public Comments:** No one had a public comment.

Next Council meeting is August 12, 2024

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Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk