

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA
HELD MARCH 11, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: paddle boat & canoe rentals, parking & fishing at Lake Jackson, policies & procedures drone operation, auditorium repair, work orders, animal control orders.

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 Frank Jones.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Alyssa Anderson and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 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 March 11, 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 approval of Resolution 202400311-Ratification of General Fund Municipal Court Unclaimed Funds Account. 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 fourth item on the Agenda was approval to waive the first reading of Ordinance 20240311-Fiduciary Fund in Hands of Municipal Court Clerk. 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 fifth item on the Agenda was approval of Ordinance 20240311-Fiduciary Fund in Hands of Municipal Court Clerk. 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 sixth item on the Agenda was approval to surplus kitchen items (stove, refrigerator, milk cooler, prep station) and Ford Taurus. 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 seventh item on the Agenda was the approval to promote Landon Thigpen to Assistant Police Chief as a full-time, salaried position. 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 eighth item on the Agenda was the rental of the old gas station at 1326 Sixth Street for six months at \$500 per month and permission for a contract to be drawn up with the condition that there will be no junk accumulated outside. The tenant is using the property to restore cars. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 the bid for the roof at the Museum/Visitor Center behind the old hospital. The most complete bid with the lowest cost was awarded to Scott Cook Roofing. 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 tenth item on the Agenda was approval of the request letter from Dealer's Choice to extend the use of the property off of Fourth Street to store their materials while repairs are made to their facility across the street. 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. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was approval to appoint Ron Hargrove to the Industrial Development Board with a term to expire August 2027. Mr. Hargrove replaces Pat Strickland who resigned from the board. 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 twelfth item on the Agenda was approval to appoint Mark Bookout to the Recreation Board with a term to expire October 2025. Mr. Bookout replaces Cheybrel Coleman who resigned from the board. 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 thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval of request from Jeanne Marie Carlson to plant roses in the median between the old armory and the post office, in the whole median. 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 fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval of request from Chamber of Commerce President, Amanda Laird-Schofield, for Rock the Block on May 11th to close 5th Street and Wall Avenue for vendors up until 4 PM and then just 5th Street for concert until 10 PM. 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 fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval to develop Currie Street off of 7th Avenue so that the resident on the adjoining property has access to their property. It will be approximately a 186.2 feet drive or ½ block. 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 sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval to rollover the Certificates of Deposit for accounts: Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax, GOB Capital Improvement Fund, Florala Gas Tax Fund, Four Cents Gas Tax, and American Rescue Plan, for another 90 days at the same rate of 5.5%. Councilwoman Sylvia 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 seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval of the delegates for the Alabama League of Municipalities annual convention. The first voting delegate will be Mayor Robbins, the second delegate will be Councilwoman Wallace-Patton and the third delegate will be Councilwoman Franklin. 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 eighteenth item on the Agenda was approval to donate the previously surplused Impala to Floral Auto Service in lieu of storage fees accumulated for storing this vehicle. 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 nineteenth item on the Agenda was an update of the auditorium repair. Other funding is needed to do this repair. This will need a structural engineer to look at and assess what is needed to proceed.

The twentieth item on the Agenda was an update on the gymnasium. All items listed on the grant must be completed and there are items that will require three quotes. Chris Jackson and Eric Jordan are working on these issues.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was approval of paddle boats/canoes at Lake Jackson for rent. Mr. Jackson spoke in the workshop and presented his business plan with a plan A and a plan B. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to table this until further information/discussion could take place. 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 twenty-second item on the Agenda was approval to reimburse Councilwoman Wallace-Patton for her mileage to Advocacy Day in Montgomery. It was originally not reimbursed because there were no CEU credits thought to be involved but there were CEU credits awarded, so the mileage will be reimbursed. Councilman Bryan made a motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was an update on the removal of the stained glass windows for repair from the old hospital. There are five windows left to remove and they are being worked on.

The twenty-fourth item on the Agenda was an update on the boardwalks at Lake Jackson. These repairs to the boardwalks are paid for with grant money. The repairs are progressing nicely and are looking good.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda was to amend the Agenda to add items: drone policy and triple sink award. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approved 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 of the drone policy for the police department. Councilwoman Inabinett made a 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-seventh item on the Agenda was approval of awarding the surplus triple sink to Angela Wiggs for the cost of \$300. There was only one bid received for this item. Councilwoman Franklin made a 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-eighth item on the Agenda was to postpone the Executive Session for Economic Development to the next Council meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilman Brysan seconded the motion.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: Patricia Johnson was hired as the Assistant Lake Manager; Hunter Wilcox was hired into the Operations department at a level one employee; the leadership meeting was held on February 29 and there were 51 citizens that attended-the next meeting will be on March 14th from 5:30-6:30 and the City planner will be there; Florala High School 7th-12th graders held a living history museum on March 7th at Lake Jackson and it did very well; Pat Strickland resigned from the Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Board-want to say thank you to Pat for all that she has done; ZTEC will be opening in the building where the Tom Thumb was; the rangers will be at Lake Jackson on May 23rd for a training session. Remember employee Jimmy Burleson and family in the death of his mother, Louise Burleson.

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

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton Street department repaired the hole at MLK and 11th Ave; 6th Avenue has had work done and it looks good. The Cemetery board met one week ago, and grass cutting and weed eating has begun; there is an opening for a board member as Joey Evans is expiring-waiting on a name to be presented for this opening; Pat Strickland is remaining on this board. The Recreation Board id meeting on Sunday, March 17th.

Councilman Bryan Senior Center distributed 52 meals per day: 36 homebound and 16 in-house. The seniors at the center are happy. On Thursday, 15 participants are going to the Spring Fling in Samson and on May 1st; the seniors are going to Old American Day in Dothan. The van is ready in Montgomery.

Councilwoman Inabinett No complaints. Lake staff is doing well, and the lake looks really good. Residents want the slide back that was broken and removed from the park.

Councilwoman Franklin Library board meeting was on January 31st and the financial report has been provided. There was a mix-up regarding the fishing and parking fee at the lake and it has been resolved. Need to know about a temporary drain on Gum Street start date. Per Chris Jackson, there is a 60-foot pipe that is needed, and it has been ordered.

Councilman Robbins Court is going well, no issues. Haven't spoken with Chief McGraw. No complaints from the district-will ride around and see what is going on.

Assistant Chief Thigpen Business as usual.

Mayor Robbins Financial reports have been provided and the fire truck is not ready yet.

Public Comments: Resident stated that the paddle boat person should be cut out of negotiations if he can't act correctly in the Council meeting. This was seconded by another resident at the Council meeting.

Next Council meeting is April 8, 2024

Meeting adjourned.

Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk