

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD MAY 20, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: 1326 Sixth Street property, cafeteria lease, 24<sup>th</sup> of June advertisement, budget summer youth program.

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 John Bryan.

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

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 meeting and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of the Special Call meeting minutes of the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 Special Call meeting 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 third item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable May 20, 2024 and to pay bills as needed. 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 fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 2024-Hazard Mitigation Plan. 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 fifth item on the Agenda was the award of sealed bid for woodchipper. Two sealed bids were received for the woodchipper. The highest bid of \$1,699 was awarded to Danny Thames. The lowest bid was \$1,356.99 from Gordon Bell. 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 vacating property on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. 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 seventh item on the Agenda was approval of vacating property on the sought end of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Director of Operations, Chris Jackson, stated that 200 ft from the right-of-way the property has not been developed and the utilities department has a drainage pipe there that would need an allowance and the city maintains the watershed there as well. 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 eighth item on the Agenda was the approval of putting the \$10K received from the State of Alabama into the Capital Outlay general fund. 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 ninth item on the Agenda was the approval for 24<sup>th</sup> of June pageant to be held in the auditorium with a rental fee of \$125 on June 8, 2024. 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 Franklin. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the approval of the request from 24<sup>th</sup> of June planning committee to have the carnival at the lake in the area where the boat ramp is near the airplane. 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, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval of the request from 24<sup>th</sup> of June planning committee to have 4<sup>th</sup> Street closed on June 29<sup>th</sup> for the car show. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval of the request from 24<sup>th</sup> of June planning committee to have 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Florala Pharmacy closed for the adult water battle on June 29<sup>th</sup>. 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, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval of a new full-page ad for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June program booklet. The full-page ad is \$125. 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, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval to purchase a floating dock to put in at the lake to give the kids something to jump off of and swim rope with buoys for the other side of the pier to extend the swim area. This cost would be approximately \$2,500. 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 fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval of recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone the Begonia properties owned by DHC Investors LLC, to Single Family Residential (R1). After discussion from Councilwoman Wallace-Patton regarding R1 versus Mixed Use (MU), Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. 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 sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval of a speed bump on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin. Nays: Councilman Bryan, Councilman Robbins. Motion carried.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval of the 2024 Summer Youth Program. A job description was provided to the City Council and this would hire four youths for five weeks for eight hours per day at \$10 per hour. 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 eighteenth item on the Agenda was approval to move \$8K from the general fund for the Summer Youth Program and to amend the current budget to reflect this action. 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 nineteenth item on the Agenda was approval to lease the cafeteria to Frank Jones for two weeks at \$100 to teach dance to youth. 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 twentieth item on the Agenda was the conference report from Fire Chief Anthony Jones. Chief Jones attended the Fire Department Instructional Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana April 15-19, 2024. Met with instructors, took some classes, and learned about hybrid/electric vehicles. There were a lot of vendors there and Deep South was one of them. Deep South is the company that is building our new fire engine. The hope is to get the new fire engine before the 24th of June. Some firefighter's finished firefighter one certification for volunteer. The fire department had a booth at Rock the Block and raised \$700. There was not enough advertisement for Rock the Block. The city needs a digital sign somewhere that lets everyone know what events are happening and when. Mayor Robbins stated that their will be a new digital sign going in out at the Industrial Park with the help of Rick Clifton. The heliport will be upgraded using a \$10K grant and the city will have a \$1K match. The fire department will be receiving 98 cases of canned water (Anheuser Busch product) and this water will be shared with Lockhart and Samson.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was the conference report from Clerk Hendriks. The clerk conference was held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. They briefly touched on the municipal elections coming up in August of 2025. The next clerk training in August will have more about the elections. There is a bill before the house regarding open records access that will put a huge burden on all clerks across the state of Alabama and the clerks all voted to do a resolution against this bill. Another hot topic was cyber security, and our city is covered by VC3. The networking with other clerks is most beneficial as a clerk.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: Headstart graduation is tomorrow and Thursday here in the auditorium; Greg Hill and Hunter Hicks will begin with the police department on May 21<sup>st</sup> and will attend the academy in September and at the completion/graduation of academy they will earn \$16.50 and at end of twelve month probation will earn \$18 per hour; Rachel Cook re-appointed to Florala Housing Authority board with term to expire in 2029; Planning & Zoning Commission, based on state statutes, members are: Danny Dyess, Chairman, Sara Goolsby, Vice Chair, Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor, Gina Hendriks, City Clerk, Shelia Franklin, John Stone, Angela Wiggs, Dominica McGraw and Jessie Coughenour, meets tomorrow night with city planner at 6 PM here in the auditorium and is open to the public; Museum and Welcome Center has been roofed-Thank you to Representative Hammett for securing \$112,000

in funds this legislative year toward the museum/welcome center; CCYL graduates are Ava Blocker, Nathan Cook, Jayla Davis, Gracie McNeil, and Skylar Quincy; Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Aquatic training at Lake Jackson-lake will be closed to water activities until training is complete-public invited; May 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Ribbon cutting at 10 AM for Healing Tools for Warriors; Industrial Development Board is working with Beckers (woman's skin care cosmetics) and we will get a report at the June meeting.

District Reports:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** Recreation board is meeting tonight; cemetery is doing well. No complaints in the district. Went to the Annual Convention in Huntsville last week and Mayor Robbins was elected to the Alabama League of Municipalities Board. Congratulations!

**Councilman Bryan** Senior Center is doing well. May 1<sup>st</sup> was Older American Day in Dothan and there were 12 participants that attended.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** The lake is doing very well and has been packed; the floating dock addition has already been discussed; there are issues with sidewalks through out town and they need to be fixed especially on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near Vishwaneth's office.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Library is doing well. Received videos from residents on Gum Street regarding the water flow during the storm. Something has changed environmentally since they moved in. Chris will speak with Mr. Rawls tomorrow about the issue.

**Councilman Robbins** Attended court last Thursday to see the proceedings and it looked like things were running smooth-very professional. Rode w/McGraw, worked a funeral and went on a call regarding a drunk driver, so it was an experience. The district is doing well.

**Assistant Chief Thigpen** Had new officer, Hunter Hicks introduce himself to the Mayor & Council.

**Public Comments:** None.

The twenty-second item on the Agenda was request for motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 PM. Councilwoman Sylvia Wallace-Patton made the motion and Councilwoman Inabinett approved motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was request for motion to come back into Regular Session from Executive Session at 8:13 PM. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion and Councilwoman Franklin approved motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fourth item on the Agenda is request to add re-negotiation of the lease with The Depot to the agenda. 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, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda is request to re-negotiate the lease with The Depot to pay \$1,000 per month rent. 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, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is June 10, 2024

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Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk