

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA  
HELD OCTOBER 14, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: Job descriptions, amended new hire compensation plan, and handbook draft.

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 Katie Lee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Ellie Odom and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Abstain: Councilwoman Inabinett. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable October 14, 2024 and to pay bills as needed. 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 third item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20241014-A-Sale Surplus Property for Fair Market Value. 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 fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20241014-1-Property at 877 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve and Councilwoman 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 20241014-2-Surplus city vehicle-Chevy truck/police car. The Chevy truck was given to the city under ADECA but it is now outside the timeframe of the commitment, therefore can be put out for surplus. 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 sixth item on the Agenda was the 4H State Ambassador Program. Ellie Odom, the current 4H Ambassador, Katie Lee, Youth Leadership Development Coordinator 4H, and Charles Simon, County Extension Coordinator 4H. The group spoke of the achievements of Ellie Odom in the role of State Ambassador and what the 4H group is all about and the services provided to Florala Students.

The seventh item on the Agenda was approval to reschedule the next council meeting from November 11 to November 12, 2024 due to Veteran's holiday being on November 11, 2024. 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 the approval of a \$500 donation to South Central Alabama Mental Health to support the established and needed services for our citizens. 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 ninth item on the Agenda was the approval to sell one power pole from the city stock to Randy Whitmire for \$50. 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 Enforcement Officer job description and permission to advertise. 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 eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval of Operations Grade 2 Foreman position and job description. This new position will not go into effect until January 1, 2025. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor 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 approval of updated new hire compensation plan which includes the addition of Enforcement Officer and Operations Grade 2 Foreman. 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 thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval to re-appoint Lisa Windham to the cemetery board for another term of four years. Term ends October 2028. 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 fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval to re-appoint Joey Evans to the cemetery board for another term of four years. Term ends October 2028. 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 fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval to appoint the recreation board nominations for members. The nominations are Savannah Johnson and Chad Carter. 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. Abstained: Councilman Robbin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval of airport authority recommendations. Re-appoint Ricky Suggs and Dwayne Eason for another six year term. Term to end 2030. 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 seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval to use the Rodney J Evans center for the Comprehensive Plan Open House on October 23 & 24. Set up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and event on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 eighteenth item on the Agenda was approval to add one handicap parking space to be marked on 5<sup>th</sup> Street near Designer Dogs business. 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 nineteenth item on the Agenda was approval of the request from Provita to be allowed to sublet three rooms, 2 days a week for twelve months in their facility, to Dr. White. 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 twentieth item on the Agenda was approval to use an assigned car for the use of city business for approved travel. This vehicle, Ford Focus, was donated to the police department by Okaloosa County. This vehicle has 68,000 miles and the spotlight and cage will have to be removed prior to use. 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 to do a speed study on Hwy 54 between Magnolia RV Park and McPhail Farm Road. This is to get state approval to make the speed limit within the city limits 45 mph and 55 mph once you leave the city limits. 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 an update on the gymnasium grant. There was a pre-construction meeting last Monday with McKee and Associates, Mid-Western (roofing company), SEARPC (Emily), Mayor Robbins, Clerk Hendriks, Chris Jackson, and Eric Jordan. The roofing company has 90 days to complete the roof and then the work on the inside of the gym can begin.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was approve decision to take the steps to dissolve the Downtown Redevelopment Authority Incorporated. Councilman Robbins 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-fourth item on the Agenda was to approve the participation of the city council in Halloween Town on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The city council will set up a table and distribute candy during the Halloween Town event. 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.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: Covington County Youth Leadership group met at the Rodney J Evans building on September 18, 2024. There were thirty-five eleventh grade students from Covington County that participated in the leadership event.

District Reports:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** Recreation board appointment has been covered and the cemetery board re-appointment has been covered. Cutting the grass at the cemetery has slowed down due to the change in weather. No complaints for district one. What is the audit update? Mayor stated that the Utilities is up to date through 2022 and they are working on 2023. Once they are done with Utilities audit, they will work on the city audit. Utilities needed to be done first because there is a \$1M grant pending, waiting on this audit. The grant is for infrastructure in the city.

**Councilman Bryan** Seniors are very involved in city activities under the current director, and they also provide transport locally to those that need it. The director really provides for our senior citizens. District two is doing well.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** Lake is doing well and looking good. There are a few new projects going on and the "No Parking" signs by The Depot issue has been resolved.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Library meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> with the new members and all is good. What is the status of the grant for Fir St & Gum St paving? Mayor stated that we are still waiting on the state. "No Thru Trucks" signs needed on Second Avenue and Lakeshore Blvd. The streets cannot hold up to the weight of these big trucks cutting through residential neighborhoods. Shelia has the contact information for the company doing this.

**Councilman Robbins** Court and police departments are doing well with no complaints. The district five speed limit sign issue has already been discussed. The residents are holding the councilman accountable.

**Fire Chief** Robert Thomas-Assistant Chief, stated that the fire truck chassis is on the way and hopefully the new fire truck will be here before Christmas.

**Police Chief:** There are two officers going to the academy in November and looking forward to the code enforcement officer starting.

**Public Comments:** Angela Wiggs: There is a speeding issue on 331-today they were drag racing. The speed limit is 35 mph on Sixth Street (also Hwy 331). I am requesting extra police patrol in that area because it is dangerous to all & they are not obeying the speed limits.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda was approval for council and mayor to go into executive session at 7:29 PM. 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-sixth item on the Agenda was approval for council and mayor to come back into regular council meeting from executive session at 8:04 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-seventh item on the Agenda was approval to invite the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, president and vice president into Executive Session at the next council meeting to discuss Economic Development and their contract with the city. 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. Abstain: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is November 12, 2024

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Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk