

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA  
HELD APRIL 14, 2025 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: 20091026-Mobile Home Ordinance, speed bumps, Employee Handbook.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Robbins with the following members present:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins. Absent: None.

The invocation was given by Doug White of 24<sup>th</sup> of June Celebration Planning Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Michelle Conway of Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the March 10, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to table the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting because there was a misprint and pages missing, and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable April 14, 2025 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the agenda was to amend Ordinance 20241209-Impoundment of vehicles. Amendment is located in section (2) to add the word "cash" to the type of payment options; so it now reads "The registered owner or his/her representative will be responsible for paying a \$100.00 processing fee to the city by way of money order, cash, or cashier's check." Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve the amendment and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20250414-Award for Rebuild Alabama Act (RAA) to construct grade, drain, base, & pave – S Fir Street, N Gum Street & S Gum Street. Councilwoman Inabinett 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was the request from the Airport Authority to pass the resolution for the fuel farm with bid opening being on April 30, 2025. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the approval of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June Planning Committee request for the following items: Alligator Trot (close 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) and fish tournament on 21 June; Anything Goes Parade/kids waterbattle at RJE building; Carnival at lake in same place-committee will provide dumpsters and port-o-potties; planning more kids events but they are not final; main kid's events at the lake; rent RJE building 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June; bingo Friday night; car show on 4<sup>th</sup> Street (close street); adult waterbattle on 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the 28<sup>th</sup>; street dance at RJE building Saturday night after fireworks, increase of police presence requested, requesting donation from city for fireworks expense. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was the presentation for the Downtown Development Board by Marvin Williford, Jr. Marvin stated that the board had a meeting on March 31, 2025. Marvin listed the following final activity report: trash cans purchased throughout downtown area, flowerpots throughout downtown area, Christmas decorations prior to Christmas Committee being formed. Since September 2023: identified parking downtown and had parking places striped (recommend every 3-5 years), downtown walking trail signage, ambient lights on palm trees in medians, allocated money for roses planted in median on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in front of post office, purchased Christmas ornaments for city Christmas tree to replace aging ornaments, worked with FAA at Floral and Paxton High School to replace plants in planters, paid for street sweeper to sweep downtown twice a month during 2024, power project at Lake Jackson, worked with city Director of Operations to get ALDOT to edge the curbing and medians on 331 and Fifth Ave, anti-litter signs for downtown trash cans. The dreams and visions of the board: raised bricked platform for city Christmas tree with photo opportunity; digital sign downtown where the old marquee sign used to be in front of Z-Tec, arches at intersection North and South side of square, poles set in front of Fillin Station and Distillery with cables crossing the highway to put banners on to advertise events.

The eighth item on the Agenda was approval to dissolve the Downtown Development Board because per state law, the board has to be an incorporated board or have statutory authority and it currently is not incorporated or does not have statutory authority. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. After much discussion, Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: None. Nays:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett. **Motion failed.**

The ninth item on the Agenda was approval to dissolve the Downtown Re-Development Authority. This authority consists of the following people: Lynne Jones, Sue Mathis, Ray Bundy, Tim Townsend, and Laurie Petry. This authority is a 5013(c ) and there is a process that has to be followed in order to dissolve this group. All have signed the form for dissolution with the exception of Laurie Petrey and Tim Townsend (incarcerated). Council woman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve to dissolve the authority and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was approval of the Rodney J Evans rental contract. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. After much discussion regarding the rental rates, Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilman Carter. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval to appoint Tracy Holloway Vaughn to the Cemetery Board to take the open position left by Pat Strickland. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval to extend the lease for Jim Blackburn at the parsonage for another twelve months at the rate of \$350 per 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was the approval for temporary golf cart permits for the 24th of June Celebration from June 22-June 29, 2025, starting at 8 AM on June 22 and ending at 12:01 AM on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Golf carts must follow city Ordinance 20221212-1 and can be used in the parade without a permit. Only licensed drivers will be issued a temporary permit and can operate the golf cart. There will be a \$10 charge per temporary permit. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. After much discussion regarding golf cart versus side-by-side, Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilman Carter. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June Celebration full-page ad for \$125 for the city in the 24<sup>th</sup> of June book. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of a donation of \$1,000 for the 24<sup>th</sup> of June Celebration fireworks celebration. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilman Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item was a request to amend the Agenda to add the recension of the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Policy by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to approve and Councilman Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was the approval to rescind the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Policy until a special meeting can be called to discuss further. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighteenth item on the Agenda was an update on Lake Jackson items by lake manager, Otis Dixon. Otis requested that the part in the Rodney J Evans Rental agreement where it states that the staff will put the tables and chairs up after an event be changed to: the renter will be responsible for putting the tables and chairs up after an event. This will be put on the May agenda. The cabin that was approved has been ordered in March and is currently six weeks in development-should be on site by May or end of June. Otis met with Chris Jackson for the setup of the cabin. The Rodney J Evans building has been pressure washed on March 18<sup>th</sup> and sprayed for algae and should last 3-4 years. The floating dock will be installed this month. After looking into the mini-trucks, it's not a good idea-too much power. The need is for two golf carts and two can be bought for less than the cost of one mini-truck. One of the current golf carts caught on fire and this is the same golf cart that has been repaired three times in the last few weeks. I have two quotes provided to the council for a total of \$18,000 for two golf carts. The portable basketball goal will be purchased soon and installed.

The nineteenth item was a request to amend the Agenda to add two golf carts for Lake Jackson staff. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett

seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twentieth item on the Agenda was the approval to purchase two golf carts for Lake Jackson staff for a total of \$18,000. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-first item on the Agenda was the request for a new golf cart for the police department by Chief McGraw. Chief said this golf cart would be used by the new enforcement officer that will be starting end of April. Chief came with three quotes: 1) AlaBamaGroundhog (local) for \$8,995 for a 2024 electric w/5 year warranty, 2) JR's Mowershop-1 for \$10,600 (gas) and 1 for \$12,500 (battery), 3) FWB for \$20,000. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to approve for the gold cart from AlaBamaGroundhog for \$8,995 and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-second item was a request from Chief McGraw to amend the agenda to add golf cart storage facility. Councilwoman Inabinett made a motion to amend the agenda and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-third item on the Agenda was to approve the request from Chief McGraw to enclose the lean-to at the end of the buildings on Wall Avenue to house the new police golf cart for a cost of \$1,500. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made a motion to approve and Councilman Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fourth item on the Agenda was to approve the request from Assistant Chief Thigpen to purchase three new rifles for the police department using the refund from the radios that were returned to vendor for failure to work. Thigpen provided the council with a breakdown that showed \$268 out-of-pocket expense once the refund was received and the rifles paid for by 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-fifth item on the Agenda was to approve the amended employee handbook, Ordinance 20180402. It was recommended to table this until further discussions.

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-sixth item on the Agenda was to approve the request from Reverend Nathaniel Belcher to have a tent revival at Lake Jackson in the same spot as last year and to set up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and breakdown on May 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-seventh item on the Agenda was to approve the lease of a color copier for the administration office and to move the current copier to the police department. This is at a cost of \$2,359.32 for one year. This is \$35 more than the current lease. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-eighth item was a request by Councilman Robbins to amend the agenda to add asphalt speed bumps. Councilman Robbins made a motion to approve and Councilman Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twenty-ninth item on the Agenda was a request by Councilman Robbins to eliminate all asphalt speed bumps in the city. Councilman Robbins made a motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Franklin. Abstained: Councilwoman Inabinett. Motion failed.

Community notes and events-Mayor Robbins: The sidewalk at Begonia and Josh Turner is in progress; targeting end of July for museum completion; good progress is being made on the gymnasium; Recreation board is ready to plan community activities for 12 months once the gymnasium is completed; the community Easter Celebration was a success and everyone had fun; Coach Zessin and Floral Wildcats are going to the 1<sup>st</sup> round playoff game Friday; the Social on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is now open; the city was awarded the Bronze plaque for 2024 for Risk Management/Water loss; made contact with Martha Spencer to put murals on two of her properties downtown on Fifth Avenue and also the theater property owned by the city, we are in the process of getting quotes.

District Reports:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** No complaints. Recreation board is getting ready to order uniforms; the Cemetery board is replacing Pat Strickland's position.

**Councilman Carter** Pothole at Longview and Caton Rd that needs fixed; Senior Center serves 52 meals per day: 16 in-house and 36 delivered; lemonade lady treated seniors to lemonade on Friday; there are 18 seniors going to Dothan on May 7<sup>th</sup> for Older American Day; center closed on April 18<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** Otis has already spoke on the lake status; no parking signs are needed at the lake to keep people off of the grass; complaints about 18-wheelers parking in residential areas; a keypad lock is needed at the laundromat at the RV park because people off the street are coming in to do laundry but are not residents for the RV park.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Two complaints: one is about the advertising sign at the Marathon (black electric sign) that blocks the view of traffic at the stop sign; two is about the backhoe/equipment for sale near Jack's that is blocking the view of traffic; need speed bumps put in as soon as the gym project is complete; Chief McGraw will patrol the area for speeding; Cypress & 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue is overgrown and blocks view; citizens have been updated on the paving to start on Fir and Gum Street; staffing arrangement at the library has made it more safe for staff; Two Lights for Tomorrow about Paul Revere will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>; library meeting was on April 9<sup>th</sup>; there are 12-25 kids for story time; the old books are being pulled to make room for new books coming in; summer reading will be on Thursdays in June.

**Councilman Robbins** Court is doing well; Police has already been discussed-rifles and golf cart; a letter was received from the state regarding the speed study and this has to be a request that comes from the Mayor; ADECA overtime for police is spent in this area to reduce the amount of speeding per Chief McGraw and the company trucks that are speeding are also causing sludge on the highway which is a safety issue.

**Mayor Robbins** A written statement was provided and reviewed by the mayor for the financial condition of the city from October 2024 through March 2025.

**Chief McGraw** The new Durango has come in and is really nice; already spoke about golf cart and rifles.

**Public Comments** Justin Wiggs: The stop sign is missing on Wall Avenue in front of Finks Milling and Distilling.

Frank Jones: Just wanted to thank Chief McGraw for the quick response to the dog issue in the neighborhood. The dance Motivations and Moves will be starting at the Senior Center soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Next Council meeting is May 12, 2025.

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Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk

