

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2025 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: Bill Goolsby 10-minute presentation, salaries of elected officials November 2025, draft comprehensive plan, draft employee handbook.

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

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

The invocation was given by Frank Jones.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025 meeting and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable February 10, 2025 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was approval of Ordinance 20250210-1-Voting by district. The first reading was waived. Councilman Robbins made a motion to waive the first reading and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried. Ordinance 20250210-1 was read, and 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Ordinance 20250210-Newly elected officials salaries. The first reading was waived. Councilman Robbins made a motion to waive the first reading and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried. Ordinance 20250210-1 was read, and 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was approval to amend the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations under Article 8 Special Provisions, section 8.1, subsection 8.11 for item 3: changing from "The mobile home unit shall be oriented with its end or side parallel with the street" to "the mobile home unit shall be oriented on the lot as it best fits the property to meet the setback criteria per the zoning chart in this document". 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the approval of the recommendation of Chad Carter to fill the unexpired term for District II, that was left vacant by the resignation of John Bryan as of December 31, 2024. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins. Nays: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Franklin. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was the swearing in of newly appointed councilmember, Chad Carter. Court clerk/magistrate, Aron Jenkins, did the official swearing in of Chad Carter.

The eighth item on the Agenda was the announcement of the welcome ceremony for Sims Bark to be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at the Rodney J Evans building at 11 AM. The public is welcome to attend but needs to RSVP to city hall so that an accurate head count is available for the catering company.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval of the security system quote from Ironstone Technology Solutions for \$9,050. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the notification to the council that the current city auditor, Carr, Riggs, & Ingram has been notified that the city will no longer be using their services. The city has received a quote for services from Gibson & Carden out of Troy, Alabama. Per the engagement letter from Darren Hips, Gibson & Carden will start with FY2020 and have set the goal to report no later than June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$9,500. An engagement letter will be provided for each year until the city is caught up to be current.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was approval for two dumpsters to be provided for use at the Floral Museum and Welcome Center, at a cost of \$500 per dumpster. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the declaration by Mayor Robbins of the open position for Enforcement Officer due to the resignation of Javier Steele, whom was hired for this position on December 25, 2025.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval for Southern Outlaw Drag Boat Association racing at Lake Jackson on March 14, 15, and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Friday is qualifying, Saturday is racing starting at 11 AM, and Sunday is racing starting at 12 noon. This approval includes closing Lake Jackson to boating, fishing, and swimming in addition to an ambulance on-site during the racing. 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 fourteenth item on the Agenda was the approval for Florala Fire Department to use the Rodney J Evans Civic Center at no charge, to host the Covington County Fire Association on September 16, 2025. 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 request from the Florala Fire Department to use the space behind the fire department that once housed the soda machine and the water fountain as a storage unit. The fire department will use donation funds to enclose this area between the restrooms to use as their storage facility. 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was the request to surplus the 2018 Silver SUV Ford Explorer. 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, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Community notes and events-Mayor Robbins: Cancer Freeze had a huge turn out! Black History Gala was a nice event with good turnout. The grant for the splash pad will not be applied for this year because we cannot meet the criteria needed before the deadline. Another grant is being looked at for Americans with Disabilities Act to upgrade the handicap access at the Municipal Complex. The gym roof replacement is in progress and should finish soon.

Community Easter Event will be on April 6<sup>th</sup>-more information to come later. Councilman Robbins is working with the lake manager to get the parking box installed to collect boat launch fees. The grant for the helipad has really helped and it looks good, almost done. Thank you to Representative Hammett and Carnley for the extra funds from RC&D grant to help with the helipad. Advocacy Day is Wednesday in Montgomery. Candidate information for Mayor or Councilmember is on our website and qualifying is June 10 – June 24<sup>th</sup>. Dance Company proposal from Frank Jones will be discussed later and will be on next month agenda.

#### District Reports:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** A check was received for the Recreation Board for \$5K from Covington County Commission from the Babe Ruth fund. The cemetery has not had a meeting lately but did complete the survey. There are no complaints in the district but cleanup is needed and a lot of dilapidated houses. This is the poorest district in the city. Black History Gala was held and Arissa Willis was a speaker and spoke about “from where we came”.

**Councilman Carter** No report.

**Councilwoman Inabinett** Complaint about loud music and where is it coming from? It is mornings into the afternoon. It is vulgar music. Spoke with lake manager about cabin that will be put at the RV part, he is getting quotes. The lake manager is also getting quotes to pressure wash the Rodney J Evans building. The barrels on 4<sup>th</sup> Street at the curve need to be removed (utilities). City workers need to weed eat in some areas.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Speed bumps are not helping in my district. Spoke with all residents regarding this and has put in work orders to handle this issue. Library is going well and the curbs look good since they have been painted. This helps to prevent tripping.

**Councilman Robbins** Court is good. Aron is handling it and doing a good job. Police department is doing well. Speed limit on Hwy 54 in the last mile of the city limits needs to be changed from 55 to 45. A speed study has been requested. Will contact Brock Burt from ALDOT and get a letter out to get it going. Mayor Robbins brought up the pothole in front of the carwash on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Utilities nor the city can do anything to this because it is on a state highway and falls under ALDOT. Councilman Robbins said there was a complaint regarding the condition of the road on Creech Road and spoke with Commissioner Holmes. He said a truck of limerock was sent out there and the complainant stopped the truck from depositing the load. The plan and the installation for the parking box at the lake is in progress and the goal to have it installed is May 2025. Once it is installed, signage will be put up to let residents know that the funds will go to improvements at Lake Jackson.

**Mayor Robbins** Financial reports have been provided.

**Chief McGraw** Graduation on February 27, 2025 for Officers McVay and Devenney will be held in the auditorium at the Municipal Complex at 2 PM. All officers will be wearing their dress blues.

**Public Comments** Frank Jones said there are dogs running loose in his neighborhood and will rush at you if you are outside. His neighbors are 85 and 90 years old so he spoke with them to let them know to be careful when they go outside. The dogs have scratched up her car. Mayor Robbins said we would do everything that we could to get them caught. Officer Dorsey added

that due to limitations, officers on normal patrol have nothing to catch a dog with and if a dog charges you, that you have a right to defend yourself.

Public Comments Julie Dieterlen said the fire department wants to do a boot drive to raise funds for the fire department and wants to get permission to do so on Saturday in March. The fire department will provide honors to Jackie McLaney on Saturday for his funeral service.

The seventeenth item on the agenda was the request to go into Executive Session for Economic Development. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve request and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried. The time was: 7:46 PM.

The eighteenth item on the agenda was the request to come back into regular session from Executive Session for Economic Development. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve request and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried. The time was: 8:23 PM.

The nineteenth item on the agenda was the recommendation to add another day to the work week for Catherine McFatter, bringing her up to more than 32 hours per week with no additional pay but for the city to pay for her insurance coverage, which would go into effect on March 1, 2025. Lori Diamond moved back to the library for safety purposes. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the recommendation and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Mayor Robbins. Abstained: Councilman Carter, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is March 10, 2025.

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Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk