

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL; WORKSHOP FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING WAS HELD AT 5:45 PM PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING.

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

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Mathis, Councilman Burleson. Absent: None.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Mathis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the August 10, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Abstain: Councilwoman Inabinett. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett. Abstain: Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was the approval of accounts payable for September 14, 2020 and permission to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve the accounts payable for September 14, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Holley shared the following points of interest of city news: Florala Medical Complex Family Care Clinic will have the ribbon cutting and Open House on September 18, 2020 from 10 AM – 2 PM.

The fifth item on the Agenda was the re-appointment of Ronney Robbins to the Airport Authority Board for a 5-year term through September 8, 2025. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Abstain: Councilwoman Robbins Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the re-appointment of Pat Strickland to the Library Board for a 4-year term through September 2024. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was the re-appointment of Terry Holley to the Florala Utilities Board for term of office. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was the re-appointment of John Gardner to the Airport Authority Board for City and County for a 5-year term through September 2025. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval to switch uniform companies from Cintas to Unifirst for a significant cost savings. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the switch. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burleson. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next on the Agenda is the ACE Leadership presentation by Samantha McDaniel. Members of the first LEAD Florala (Leadership Exploration and Development program). The first nine individuals have been chosen for the initial session: David Bass, Hazel Bryant, Nancy Chance, Jennifer Davidson, Michalyn (Hope) Hunt, Amanda Laird-Scofield, Sue Mathis, Carol Morgan and Evan Robbins. These individuals will be learning how to expand their communication skills, finding community resources, resolving issues in the community, and opening the area for new jobs. Pitts Media will be in Florala on 21 and 22 September to do photo shoots and video for branding to promote Florala.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the presentation and request from owner of Camellia Palms, Taylor Smith. Taylor requested to lease an area at Lake Jackson across from Camellia Palms to hold wedding ceremonies and pay to the City of Florala a flat rate of \$50 per ceremony for Jan-May and \$100 per ceremony for June-Dec. Councilman Burleson made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval of Resolution 20200810-4-Waste Pro Contract Extension. Councilman Burleson made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mathis. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

District Reports were called for:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton Senior Center doing good. Complaints have been resolved. A resident asked when the weed ordinance will be imposed. Mayor Holley stated that this is being addressed and a new person will be assisting in writing the abatement letters to residents that are not keeping their properties cleaned up.

Councilwoman Robbins City finance report has been provided to Council members. Sherry Simpson reported that in July the Library had 160 patrons and in August there were 187 patrons. The Library still has a water issue when it rains. Ms. Simpson has researched and found that a French drain will help to keep the water away from the building and prevent flooding. No complaint calls. There is a lot of household and trash to be picked up; missing street signs.

Councilwoman Inabinett Issue with docking boats at the airplane at the lake. There loose boards on the short dock at the lake that needs to be repaired. The lake is doing well. The fire department has a lot going on that needs to be addressed.

Councilman Burleson No court report. An extra boat launch is needed at the lake; boats cannot get in and out when there are a lot of boaters at the lake. This is an issue that needs to be looked into.

Councilwoman Mathis A complaint was received but it was in Councilwoman Robbins district. There is a double wide trailer on Fifth Avenue that has no power or water and somebody is living in it. The neighbor can't keep renters because these people keep asking to run lines for water and power from their residence. This needs to be reported to the City Inspector and dealt with.

Street City doing the best we can; it is a full-time job and we are shorthanded.

Police Chief Bedsole reported as of Friday the police department will be down to four full time officers. Officer Rogers is leaving to go work in Andalusia. The City will be running shifts with only one officer. Chief wants to administer physical agility test for new officers and it isn't fair to residents to have a shortage of officers. Chief Bedsole suggested adjusting the salary to help retain officers and the part timers are not signing up to be put on the schedule. Chief Bedsole said we need seven officers-six plus the chief. The Police department is prepped for the storm:

gas tanks are full and new batteries in flashlights; if the storm shifts, we will have a traffic issue due to people evacuating.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the motion for the Council to go into Executive Session at 7:07 PM. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was the motion for the Council to come back to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 7:30 PM. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Robbins. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of Police salary/pay increase. Officer with two or more years gets \$15 per hour; new officers get \$13 after six months; one year gets \$14- two years gets \$15; part-time gets \$13 per hour-also to budget in for new fiscal year, two new or leased police cars and \$300 for uniforms/supplies per officer. Councilwoman Inabinett made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallace-Patton. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilman Burleson, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Holley reminded all that the Census deadline is September 30, 2020 and the percentage of participation is low.

Next Council Meeting will be October 12, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned.

Adopted and approved this 12th day of October 2020.

Terry Holley, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk