MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD MARCH 8, 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL AT 6:30 PM.

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 Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis, Mayor Holley.

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 February 8, 2021 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Robbins made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 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, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the Special Call meeting on February 26, 2021 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was the approval of accounts payable for March 8, 2021 and permission to pay bills as needed. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the accounts payable for February 8, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Inabinett. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was the approval of hiring Dominica McGraw as Senior Center Director. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the hiring. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Robbins. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was the approval of voting delegates for the Annual Business Meeting. These delegates are: Mayor Holley, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett.

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the voting delegates. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Franklin. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis. Abstained: Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the approval to allow the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce to host an event on Wall Ave and Fifth St on April 24, 2021 having vendors and a concert. Councilwoman Robbins made a motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilwoman Mathis Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was the approval to appoint Amanda Laird to the Downtown Development Board. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Inabinett seconded the motion. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE**: Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilwoman Robbins, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Mathis. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Holley shared the following points of interest of city news: Tri-City Chamber of Commerce will host an event on April 24, 2021 using Wall Avenue and Fifth St for a band and vendors. This will start at 4 PM until? with pop up shopping scattered through out the event. The Rangers will be having a Water Jump exercise on April 7, 2021 at Lake Jackson from 8 AM – 2 PM. They will be using the two large pavilions and the lake will be closed to boaters and swimming. The paperwork has been submitted to the State of Alabama for the permit. The signs for the median will be complete by Thursday or Friday of this week. These signs will be put in the medians warning violators about NO Parking in the median and NO putting trash in the median. Any violators will be subjected to a fine. The old SOCOM building has been cleaned out and the City is waiting on Allen A/C to fix the air conditioner in order for this to be a rentable space. The new A/C unit will be approximately $3,900 with 5-year warranty.

District Reports were called for:

**Councilwoman Wallace-Patton** Thank you to Kim and Phyllis for attending the meeting. When will the abatement project start up again for the overgrown homes around town? Mayor said that Andalusia is developing an addendum to the abatement process that Florala will look at to adjust our abatement process to and any cost that occurs for abatement will be added to the property owners’ taxes. The abatement process is a long, drawn out process. Councilwoman Mathis said it is not an easy process but if it doesn’t get done things will just continually get worse. Once the properties are cleaned up, they can be sold or rented out. There are still pot holes in the road that needs to be repaired. The Senior Center hired a new person as Director and it is still unknown when the center will be open to the public. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton extended a thank you to Pat Carmical for a wonderful stay at The Cottage over the weekend.

**Councilwoman Robbins** Finance report was provided. No calls for complaints. The citizens of need to be asked if they are willing to be on a committee. Councilwoman Robbins asked if the City truck picked up trash/debris last week and if the truck was broke down. Mayor Holly stated that the truck is not broke, it did run last week but we are so far behind with pick ups because there is so much. Councilwoman Robbins said thank you for cleaning up the ditch at Seventh Avenue and Montgomery Street. The rural grant that was spoke about at last meeting will not be applied for because we don’t qualify. Spoke with Fire Chief Cheshire on Thursday March 4, 2021 and there is no report.

**Councilwoman** **Inabinett** Lake is doing well. Complaints came in about the sidewalks from Dr. Vishwanath’s office down to the tax building because they are weedy and overgrown. A question came up about when the alleyway behind Mike Scroggins building will be open. Councilwoman Inabinett wanted to know what happened to the fender on one of the police cars. Chief said it was damage in a car chase that was going on and that Palmer & Sons have the parts on order. The car will go into the shop in April for repair. The four new cars should be here sometime this month.

**Councilwoman Franklin** Library and Court are doing well. Thank you to Chief Bedsole for addressing the speeding in the alley.

**Councilwoman Mathis** No calls about the Recreation board meeting. Cemetery Board has a new person maintaining it but not sure who it is at this time. Mayor Holley said he would find out who the new person is. There have been complaints about how the West end of Fifth Avenue looks from the theater building down to the old washeteria.

**Street** Street Dept is working hard and there will be a need for two extra dumpsters this month due to so much extra trash. Councilwoman Robbins said there are vacant lots that trash is being dumped on and the citizens need to report this when they see it so the person(s) can be held accountable.

**Police Chief** Chief said there is a need to advertise for a new officer, that there was an officer that put in his resignation. Complaint about the children’s park toy being broken and needs to be repaired. This toy has been repaired twice already because adults are getting on them and the toys are not rated for that much weight. Chief said that the police will keep the adults out after dark.

Next Council Meeting will be April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the old Middle School.

Meeting adjourned.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of March 2021.

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Terry Holley, Mayor

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Gina Hendriks, City Clerk