

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORALA HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM AT FLORALA MUNICIPAL COMPLEX.

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: FY2024 Budget Amendment and FY2025 Budget.

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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins. Absent: Councilwoman Inabinett.

The invocation was given by Councilman Bryan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mayor Robbins and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the August 12 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024 meeting and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable September 9, 2024 and to pay bills as needed. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240909-FY2024 budget amendments for Fire Department. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval of Resolution 20240909-1-Property at 23581 Fifth Avenue. Projected cost for weed abatement is \$3,000-\$3,500. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the Agenda was approval of FY2025 Budget. Budget was approved with the addition of LED lighting of the brighter version for the streetlights. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve and Councilman Bryan seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixth item on the Agenda was approval of compensation plan for current employees. 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 Bryan, Councilwoman Inabinett, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was approval to amend compensation plan for new hires. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval travel policy. Failed due to lack of motion.

The tenth item on the Agenda was the approval of Chamber of Commerce contract. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Mayor Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin. Abstained: Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was the approval to reduce the rent for Restore Masters from \$933 per month to \$900 per month on this city owned rental property. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was the approval to appoint Angela Wiggs to the Library board to take the place of Pat Strickland, whose term expires September 30, 2024. Ms. Wiggs will have a term expiring September 30, 2028. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wallace-Patton seconded the motion. Mayor called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was approval of Homecoming/Pep Rally request to close 5th Street by 2 Gals and A Goat on September 13, 2024 and to have police assistance to close 5th Avenue for the parade. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was approval to close the street on the square at 5th Street for Halloweentown on October 31, 2024 and for Shop the Blocks on December 7, 2024. 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 Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was approval of the LEAD Steering Committee recommendation to hold the leadership classes for 2024-25 year. Kathy Murphy will be the instructor, classes will be held on October 7, November 4, and December 2, 2024, and will be 1 ½ hours per class, for a total of 4 ½ hours. 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 Bryan, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Community notes and event-Mayor Robbins: The ropes for the swimming areas a Lake Jackson are seasonal and will be removed for winter season; the company where the new fire truck was ordered from said the chassis should be ready for building up early in October; Chief Jones and Jeff Burlison attended the annual 911 Memorial Stair climb in Savannah, GA; the city is hosting the Covington County Youth Leadership program on Wednesday, September 18th at the RJE building and SIB will be providing lunch; the tailgate party has been moved to Tuesday night due to inclement weather on Thursday; pre-construction site meeting was today for the Airport with start of project beginning early October; a reminder to all about the Bobby Kemp Festival on Saturday-hope everyone can attend.

District Reports:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton Recreation board had their meeting; the games have started and are on Saturday at 4:30. The first game sold \$600 in tickets and the second game sold \$400 in tickets at \$5 per ticket. No report for the cemetery-cutting grass has started slowing down-the families of the loved ones need to pay the fees so that the cemetery can be maintained, as they are using a lot of volunteers. The lighting is bad in district one and hope that the new lighting will make a difference.

Councilman Bryan Senior Center is doing well and feeding 36 house bound and 16 in house meals. The seniors are making cookies for the tailgating party.

Councilwoman Inabinett No report.

Councilwoman Franklin The library looks good. The bushes have been removed and it looks good. Welcome to Angela Wiggs!! Library board meeting on October 9 at 9 AM.

Councilman Robbins Court is going well-no complaints. Police department-no complaints. Spoke with Chief and everything is under control. No complaints for the district. Glad that the ropes at the lake are removed for the winter season. Thank you to everyone that worked on the budget.

Fire Chief Update on fire truck chassis was given earlier.

Assistant Police Chief: The two officers that were planning to go to academy were released from employment. Two new officers hired and will go to academy on October 2, 2024. These officers are Wesley Devenney and Garrett McVay. All else is good.

Public Comments: No one had a public comment.

The sixteenth item on the Agenda was approval for council and mayor to go into executive session at 7:20 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was approval to come back into regular session from executive session at 7:40 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.

There was no action taken from executive session; therefore, meeting was adjourned.

Next Council meeting is October 14, 2024

Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk