

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

Workshop was held from 6:00-6:30 PM for topics of discussion: Bill Goolsby's request, updated rental agreement for Rodney J Evans Civic Center, drug and alcohol test/abuse policy, Downtown Redevelopment Board, Inc. & Downtown Development Board, Young Men and Women of Destiny, 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins, Mayor Robbins. Absent: Councilwoman Inabinett.

The Invocation was given by PAWS (Peers Actively Working to Serve) Member Gracie McNeill.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by PAWS members, Elijah McMeans, Aurora Wiggs, Jayla Davis, Skylar Quincey, and all present.

The first item on the Agenda was the approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 meeting 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. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The second item on the Agenda was the approval of the Special Call minutes of the February 17, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilman Carter made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 Special Call meeting and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The third item on the Agenda was the approval of the Special Call minutes of the February 20, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 Special Call meeting and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourth item on the Agenda was approval of the accounts payable March 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, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifth item on the agenda was a presentation by Presley Zessin about the Florala High School PAWS program. Gracie McNeal, Jayla Davis, and Skyla Quincy received a PAWS award. PAWS

program gets students involved in leadership roles and one of these activities is to volunteer at the Christian Service Center to pack and distribute food on food Friday. The group also volunteers to work the concession stand at the basketball games and they served the food at the Sims Bark welcome event at the Rodney J Evans building last month.

The sixth item on the Agenda was approval of renewing the certificates of deposit (CD) at Southern Independent Bank (SIB) for another 90 days. There are three CD's to be renewed: Florala Gas Tax Fund, Rebuild AL Gas Tax, and Four Cents Gas Tax. Councilman Robbins 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The seventh item on the Agenda was to appoint and approve the voting delegate authorization form for the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities on May 15, 2025. Councilwoman Franklin made the motion to appoint and approve Mayor Robbins as the voting delegate, Councilwoman Wallace-Patton as the 1st Alternate voting delegate, and Councilwoman Franklin as the 2nd Alternate voting delegate, 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. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eighth item on the Agenda was the approval of the Drug and Alcohol Testing/Abuse Policy. Councilman Robbins made the motion to approve with the clarification to the council as to what makes up suspicious behavior, and Councilman Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The ninth item on the Agenda was the approval of the donation of \$2,000 to the Covington Area Transit System (CATS) for supporting transportation of our citizens. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The tenth item on the Agenda was approval of the quote for a cabin building at the RV park. Lake Manager, Otis Dixon presented two quotes to the council. The quote approved is from Graceland Portable Buildings in Andalusia for the 16 X 40 cabin with side porch will be used as an office and the other half used as a rental space. The quote came in at \$21,142 and was deemed to be the best quote for the product received. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The eleventh item on the Agenda was approval of the quote for pressure washing the Rodney J Evans Civic Center. Lake Manager, Otis Dixon presented three quotes to the council. The quote

approved is from South States Roof Cleaning. The quote came in at \$3,725 and was deemed to be the best quote for the cost and scope of work that was received. 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 Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The twelfth item on the Agenda was approval of the quote for a new golf cart for use at Lake Jackson by lake staff. Lake Manager, Otis Dixon presented three quotes to the council. After hearing all three quotes, it was suggested that the Lake Manager check into the mini-trucks versus a golf cart as the uses of the mini-truck were much greater and would hold up better than a golf cart. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to table this item until further information could be gathered on the mini-truck and Councilman Robbins seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The thirteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of the dissolution of the Downtown Re-development board. The same procedures to establish this board will be used to dissolve this board. The cost is approximately \$130 for the document and filing fee. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fourteenth item on the Agenda was the approval of the dissolution of the Downtown Development board. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton made the motion to table this item pending further information and Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. Mayor Robbins called for the vote. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Yeas: Councilwoman Wallace-Patton, Councilman Carter, Councilwoman Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The fifteenth item on the Agenda was the approval for Young Men and Women of Destiny Dance to rent the cafeteria per the rates in the proposal offered by Frank Jones to the council. This is for 18 months at a graduated rate scale ending with \$125. 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 Franklin, Councilman Robbins. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sixteenth item on the agenda was the municipal clerk's Spring Institute report. Clerk reported that the institute was held in Tuscaloosa from March 5-7th. The topic covered was everything regarding municipal elections, as the municipal elections are coming up on August 26, 2025. There were approximately 150 clerks in attendance and about 85% are new clerks that have never been through an election. A new requirement filing the Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), is that anyone filing must take the online video training prior to filing. Information on this can be located on the ethics website at: www.ethics.alabama.gov. Mayor and Council

are required to file. There is HB-362 that needs to be addressed. This house bill is requiring each municipality to record every open and public meeting. Also, required to post this video within 24 hours after the adjournment of the meeting. The Alabama League is in opposition to this bill and says that each municipality should have the autonomy to make this decision, rather than it being imposed by our government. Call your house member and let them know that this decision should be made at the local level.

The seventeenth item on the Agenda was the approval to add a speed bump at the intersection of Elm and 4th Avenue. Councilwoman Wallace-Patton 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 Franklin. Nays: Councilman Robbins. Motion carried.

Community notes and events-Mayor Robbins: Police department had the academy graduation for the two officers, Garrett McVay and Wesley Devenney, on February 27, here in the auditorium. The gymnasium roof has been completed and the first inspection done. There was more work to be done, and it was completed and waiting for the second inspection. The electrical inside the gymnasium has been completed. All of this falls under the grant. The Easter Event will be held on April 6th at the Kiwanis ballpark. The Southeast Outlaw Boat races will be March 15-16th at Lake Jackson, with qualifying on the 14th. Council members are asked to volunteer to help Friends of Lake Jackson to monitor and help keep people out of the lake (which is closed for the event). The rest of the park will be open to the public. Thanks to the Opp dive team for supporting the event this weekend. Our own rescue boat will be on the lake in case of emergency. EMS will also be there at \$100 per hour for coverage. The bids for paving Fir and Gum Street have been let by Southern Engineering Solutions.

District Reports:

Councilwoman Wallace-Patton No report for the Recreation board. Cemetery is quiet. Advocacy Day was held in Montgomery on February 12, 2025, to meet with the legislators and congressional people to ask questions. They provided lunch and the panel report is on police department and Veterans. This involved paid college for kids, immunity to lawsuits and different bills coming out.

Councilman Carter The Senior Center serves 52 meals per day, 16 in house and 36 delivered. A Valentine's Day party was held and had 35 people in attendance. The director completed certification training in preventing Medicare fraud. The sidewalks in District 2 are terrible and need to be cleaned and repaired. There was a request for speed bumps on Alabama Street. There are fire hydrants needs as there currently is one for two city blocks and there needs to be more.

Councilwoman Inabinett No report.

Councilwoman Franklin Library is good. Advocacy Day in Montgomery was good. The panel was on Public Safety with three different types of law enforcement background. Encourages officials to work with public and representatives, law officers, and problems on a day-to-day basis, as well as mental health. Officers, Fire Department, and Safety Officers are so appreciated.

Thorough background checks, open communications, retention, recruitment, use Radex database, be friendly with your law officers.

Councilman Robbins Court has no issues, but the magistrate is getting a new computer. Police: Chief and Assistant Chief are working on grants for the police department. There are two new officers that just completed the academy, Garrett McVay and Wesley Devenney. They have been working this week and in the last seven days have stopped speeders and issued tickets/warnings. No issues with the police department. One call received in the last month regarding speeding in the last mile of the city limits out by Carol Morgan's house. A letter was sent to Alabama Department of Transportation for a speed study and also have called Representative Hammett. Semis are speeding at speeds of 60-65 mph.

Mayor Robbins Financial reports have been provided to the council that also shows the certificates of deposit and payroll information. The Fire Department has been writing and applying for grants and will be planning a "fill the boot" fundraiser soon, possibly this weekend, weather permitting. The Advocacy Day panel subject was mental health. The healthcare director was there for mental health which is a huge issue in our state. These residents need help and not sent to jail or ER. There are a few places in the state where they can get help and one of them is in Brantley. Unfortunately, there are no beds for youths and the youth are treated as adults. The Alabama League of Municipalities has a legislative day in October with all types of committees. All topics discussed within these committees are turned in to be discussed by the panels on Advocacy Day. Serving as a member of the Human Development Committee for two years and then the Vice-Chairman, funds were requested for mental health.

Public Comments None.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Council meeting is April 14, 2025.

Gayle C. Robbins, Mayor

Gina Hendriks, City Clerk