

**CITY OF FLORENCE
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
February 4, 2014**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Florence, Alabama, was held in the City Hall Auditorium in Florence at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. President Jordan called the meeting to order. Councilmember Graham gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert M. Leyde, City Clerk, performed the roll call and noted that six Councilmembers were present and a quorum was present with the following members of the City Council in attendance: Dave Smith, William D. Jordan, Hermon T. Graham, Barry Morris, Blake Edwards and Andrew Betterton.

AGENDA

CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 4, 2014

5:00 P.M.

1. Meeting called to order - President Jordan
2. Invocation - Councilmember Edwards
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call - President Jordan
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Message from Mayor
7. Reports of Department Heads
8. Reports of Standing Committees
9. Public Hearings:
10. Business from floor pertaining to items on the consent and regular agenda (5-minute time limit).
11. Consent Agenda:

All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of the Florence City Council for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request. Please call 256-760-6400 for questions on Consent Agenda items prior to the Council meeting.

- (a) Approval of minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.
- (c) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Young-Pittman, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install a Trane 15 ton dual compressor R-22 condensing cooling unit at the Cypress Creek Water Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$12,351.00, to be paid from Account 380.03, Treatment & Disposal Equipment, sponsored by Mike Doyle.

- (d) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with WPI Roofing and Construction, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install a heating and cooling unit, including connections and duct work, at 306 Button Avenue, in the amount of \$6,000.00, to be paid from Community Development Block Grant Funds, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (e) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Threet Builders, Excavating and Construction, LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to demolish structures and properly dispose of all materials for the properties located at 616 B East Irvine Street, 322 South Kirkman Street, 605 Trade Street, 2014 and 2020 Veterans Drive, in the amount of \$14,950.00, to be paid from Community Development Block Grant Funds, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (f) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with WPI Roofing and Construction, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to repair the central heating and air system at 109 Hackett Court, in the amount of \$1,250.00, to be paid from Community Development Block Grant Funds, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (g) Resolution to advance and reimburse Travel Expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.

12. Regular Agenda:

- (a) Ordinance to approve the sale and conveyance of any interest the City has in the Property on Lot 24, Block 34 of the Fourth Addition to Weeden Heights, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (b) Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.

13. General Business:

- (a) Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business Center	Vacant		
Beautification Board	3- Vacancies		
Parks and Recreation	Randy Chapin	12/19/06	10/30/13
	Rick Collins	02/02/93	10/30/13
Scope 310	Reginald Owens	04/03/01	07/21/13
	Vacant		

14. Business from the public (5-minute time limit).

15. Council Members reports and/or comments (5-minute time limit).

- Councilmember Graham
- Councilmember Edwards
- Councilmember Betterton
- Councilmember Smith
- Councilmember Jordan
- Councilmember Morris

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Betterton moved for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
Hermon T. Graham
William D. Jordan
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Message from the Mayor:

Report of Department Heads: None

Report of Standing Committee:

Councilmember Edwards made comments regarding AT&T's request to install a cell tower near Forest Hills School. Councilmember Edwards stated that AT&T has redrawn their request for a cell tower due to the neighborhood's concerns.

Public Hearing: None

Business from the Floor Pertaining to Items on the Consent Ordinance Regular Agenda:

Mr. Ernest Haygood, Creekwood Drive, and current member of the Florence/Lauderdale Tourism Board, appeared and made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Mr. Haygood stated that he did not understand why the Tourism Board would need to incorporate at this time. Mr. Haygood further stated that if it is not broken, why are we trying to fix it.

Ms. Sylba Mitchell, appeared and also made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Ms. Mitchell noted that no one from the hospitality industry is on the current Tourism Board.

Ms. Vicky Atwood Romine, Hampton Inn-Downtown Florence, appeared and also made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Ms. Romine stated that this proposed bill should be shredded.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments in favor of Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Mr. Simpson stated that citizens want the money to stay in our cities.

Consent Agenda:

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda items. Councilmember Betterton moved for approval of the ordinances and resolutions as follow, to-wit:

Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Hermon T. Graham
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to approve the sale and conveyance of any interest the City has in the Property on Lot 24, Block 34 of the Fourth Addition to Weeden Heights, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Smith moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. A vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Hermon T. Graham
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Graham moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilmember Graham noted that this ordinance clears up an old lien on this piece of property.

There being no further discussion, a vote taken on the motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Hermon T. Graham
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution requesting the Alabama Legislature authorize the City to incorporate the Tourism Board and enumerate its corporate powers to better provide the public services for which it was created, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Smith moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. A vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Hermon T. Graham
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Graham moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilmember Morris praised the excellent work of the Tourism Board and staff. Councilmember Morris noted that the three main provisions of this act are the incorporation of the Tourism Board, Board composition and the ability of the City and County to dissolve the Tourism Board. Councilmember Morris stated that there being no one from the hospitality industry on the Tourism Board is a concern. Councilmember Morris further stated that the continuation of a joint appointee is also a concern. Councilmember Morris stated that this Council is in support of members of the hospitality industry being appointed to the Tourism Board. Councilmember Morris further stated that the deficiency of the composition of this Board needs to be addressed. Councilmember Morris stated that the biggest opposition is the dissolution clause.

Councilmember Graham stated that he trusts our Tourism and Hospitality professionals and that the City is trusting the Tourism Board to repay the two million dollars that the City loaned them to build the new Tourism/Visitor's Center. Councilmember Graham further stated that without be incorporated, the Tourism Board is not required to repay the loan. Councilmember Graham stated that the incorporation of this Board protects the Board members. Councilmember Graham further stated that he is in full support of the Board being made up of hospitality professionals.

Councilmember Betterton made comments in favor of the proposed resolution. Councilmember Betterton stated that we need to incorporate this Board.

Councilmember Edwards noted that opponents to this proposed resolution say if it's not broken, don't try to fix it but they say that they want hospitality/tourism professionals on the Board. Councilmember Edwards stated that there is no corporate shield to protect the Board without being incorporated. Councilmember Edwards further stated that he is very proud of the hard work that this

Board has done.

Councilmember Morris noted that a number of concerns have been raised by the public regarding the disbursement of funds. Councilmember Morris stated that this Council will do what it has promised regarding the funds and the dissolution of the Board. Councilmember Morris further stated that this Council can change the appointment of hospitality industry people to the Board.

President Jordan noted that there is no question that the Tourism Board has done a great job. President Jordan stated Bill Musgrove, City Attorney and Mayor Haddock, who drafted the bill are trustworthy people. President Jordan further stated that we do have the capability to appoint someone from the hospitality industry.

There being no further discussion, a vote taken on the motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Hermon T. Graham
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

General Business:

(a) Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business Center	Vacant		
Beautification Board	3- Vacancies		
Parks and Recreation	Randy Chapin Rick Collins	12/19/06 02/02/93	10/30/13 10/30/13
Scope 310	Reginald Owens Vacant	04/03/01	07/21/13

Business from the Public (5-minute time limit):

Ms. Anna Broadfoot, 102 East Oakhill Drive, appeared and made comments regarding Tourism. Ms. Broadfoot stated that when people come to visit Florence, they trust us to provide quality service. Ms. Broadfoot further stated that everyone is here for the same reason and that is to better our City.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments regarding Tourism. Mr. Simpson stated that Tourism is the most viable and economical asset in the City.

Mayor Haddock noted that as soon as Governor Bentley signs the Tourism Act then a resolution will be introduced at the next Council meeting to incorporate the Tourism Board.

President Jordan asked for any further comments. There being no further comments, Mayor Haddock presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK