



**CITY OF FLORENCE  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 1, 2017**

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, August 1, 2017. President Jordan called the meeting to order. Councilmember Betterton 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: Kaytrina Simmons, William D. Jordan, David Bradley, Michelle Eubanks, Blake Edwards and Andrew Betterton.

**AMENDED AGENDA**

**CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**August 1, 2017**

**5:00 P.M.**

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1. Meeting called to order - President Jordan
  2. Invocation - Councilmember Betterton
  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: None
  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 July 18, 2017, meeting.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.
- (c) Resolution to approve the contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional engineering services as required by ADEM for a three (3) year period, in the amount outlined in the Professional Rate Schedule, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #267-43200, sponsored by David Koonce.
- (d) Resolution to approve the contract with SWANA, to conduct Manager Recycling Program training courses in accordance with the agreement for the ADEM Grant ARF16-07-124, in the amount of \$38,805.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #256-43125, sponsored by David Koonce.

- (e) Resolution to approve the contract with Fairbanks Scales, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to provide maintenance service on the scales at the Florence Landfill, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #256-43200. Additional service work required will be expensed to Account #260-43200, sponsored by David Koonce.
- (f) Resolution to approve the contract with Keeton Electric Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to upgrade eleven (11) parking lot lights to LED lamps at the "Club" Senior Center, in the amount of \$1,400.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-44410, sponsored by Todd Nix. **(This item was moved to Regular Agenda Item 12 (d))**
- (g) Resolution to approve the contract with JC Hamm & Sons, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to replace a 3.5 ton HVAC Unit at the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, in the amount of \$5,790.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #1147-43600, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (h) Resolution to approve the contract with Shoals MPE Services, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to repair and service the HVAC Unit at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum, in the amount of \$4,313.50, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-44725 - Repairs & Maintenance, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (I) Resolution to approve the contract with The Lamar Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to construct a ten foot by forty foot vinyl illuminated billboard to advertise the Frank Lloyd Wright/Rosenbaum House on I-65 north of Browns Ferry Road, in the amount of \$12,880.00, to be paid from appropriated funds from the Florence-Lauderdale Tourism Board, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (j) Resolution to approve the contract with Shotcrete of America, LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to demolish structures and level lots at 1313 Sunnyside Street, 1314 Sunnyside Street, 322 South Kirkman Street and 136 South Nance Street, in the amount of \$11,000.00, to be paid from Community Development Block Grant Funds, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (k) Resolution to approve the contract with C&H Cooling and Heating, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary for repairs to the condenser unit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Municipal Building, in the amount of \$2,567.24, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-41810 - Building Maintenance, sponsored by Gary Williamson.
- (l) Resolution to approve the contract with Lighthouse Tactical, LLC, to provide two eight-hour firearms training sessions - After Dark-Low Light Handguns, for Florence Police Officers, in the amount of \$4,860.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #283-42100 - Travel and Education, sponsored by Ron Tyler.
- (m) Resolution to approve the letter confirming the status of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Florence and the Florence Housing Authority regarding in lieu of tax monies, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (n) Resolution to advance and reimburse travel expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Holt.

12. Regular Agenda

- (a) Ordinance to amend Section 3-7, Hours of Sale, of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202(b), sponsored by Bill Musgrove. (THIS ITEM DID NOT RECEIVE A UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AT THE JULY 11, 2017, MEETING. A VOTE FOR ADOPTION IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME.)

- (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. (THIS ITEM DID NOT RECEIVE A UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AT THE JULY 11, 2017, MEETING. A VOTE FOR ADOPTION IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME.)
- (d) Resolution to approve the contract with Keeton Electric Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to upgrade eleven (11) parking lot lights to LED lamps at the “Club” Senior Center, in the amount of \$1,400.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-44410, sponsored by Todd Nix. **(This item was moved from Consent Agenda Item 11 (f))**

13. General Business:

- (a) Resolution to approve the operating budget of the Electricity Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, sponsored by Mayor Holt, Vance Young and Richard Morrissey.
- (b) Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business	Vacancy		
SEDA	Macke Mauldin	10/07/14	09/30/17
	Barry Morris	11/20/14	09/30/17
SCOPE 310	Vacancy		
	Josh Webster	08/21/12	07/21/15
	Reginald Owens	04/01/14	07/21/16

- 14. Business from the public (5-minute time limit).
- 15. Council Members reports and/or comments (5-minute time limit).

Council member Bradley  
 Council member Eubanks  
 Council member Edwards  
 Council member Betterton  
 Council member Simmons  
 Council member Jordan

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that it was decided at the earlier work session to move Consent Agenda Item 11 (f) Resolution to approve the contract with Keeton Electric Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to upgrade eleven (11) parking lot lights to LED lamps at the “Club” Senior Center, in the amount of \$1,400.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-44410, sponsored by Todd Nix to Regular Agenda Item 12 (d).

There being no further changes, President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the amended agenda. Councilmember Betterton moved for approval of the amended agenda.

Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, a vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
 William D. Jordan  
 David Bradley  
 Michelle Eubanks  
 Blake Edwards  
 Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

**Message from the Mayor:**

Mayor Holt stated that the warranty deed for the former Golf & Country Club property was delivered to the seniors at the Senior Center. Mayor Holt noted that the City owns the property again.

Mayor Holt introduced Shannon Olive who was recently hired as the Chief General Fund Accountant. Mayor Holt noted that Mr. Olive will be replacing Dan Barger who will remain as the City's Treasurer.

Mayor Holt stated that the drawings for the new Animal Shelter should be ready by the end of the month.

**Report of Department Heads: none**

**Report of Standing Committee:**

President Jordan, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, noted that the committee which included President Jordan, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Simmons, Mayor Holt and Dan Barger. President Jordan noted that representatives from the Caring Place met with the committee to request funding for a new facility that will opening next month on Marengo Street. President Jordan further noted that this facility is for individuals with dementia.

**Public Hearing: None**

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

Mr. Daniel Lucas, appeared and made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202(b) and Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Lucas stated that the Council needs more information regarding the actual cost of the proposed project. Mr. Lucas further stated that is unreasonable to place the funding of this project on the lodging industry. Mr. Lucas stated that going to the bond market to borrow money for renovations to parks may not be possible.

Mr. Rick Ashley, Florence, AL, appeared and made comments in favor of Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202(b) and Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used

to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Ashley stated that the tennis complex is only a small portion of the 13 million - 14 million cost of the project. Mr. Ashley further stated that when he coached tennis and traveled to tournaments, he looked for hotels that were close, clean, safe and that lodging tax was not a factor. Mr. Ashley stated that the tennis courts will be used year round. Mr. Ashley further stated that this project will be a win-win for our community.

Mr. Jones Colcock, Riverview Drive, appeared and made comments regarding the proposed tennis complex's secondary revenue. Mr. Colcock stated that without commitments from UNA and Florence City Schools the secondary revenue that is stated in the report is not legitimate. Mr. Colcock stated that if the loss would be one million a year for twenty years then his vote would be no.

Dr. Barry Morris, appeared and made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202 and Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Morris stated that there are 69 tennis courts in the Shoals area and that is per capita six times more than Birmingham. Mr. Morris further stated that the proposed tennis complex is not an economic development initiative but a vanity project.

Mr. John Hargett, appeared and made comments in opposition to Consent Agenda Item 11 (I) Resolution to approve the contract with The Lamar Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to construct a ten foot by forty foot vinyl illuminated billboard to advertise the Frank Lloyd Wright/Rosenbaum House on I-65 north of Browns Ferry Road, in the amount of \$12,880.00, to be paid from appropriated funds from the Florence-Lauderdale Tourism Board. Mr. Hargett stated that the government is known for taking a great asset and turning it into a liability. Mr. Hargett further stated that he doubts the Frank Lloyd Wright/Rosenbaum House takes in enough revenue to pay for the billboard.

Mr. Hargett also made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Hargett stated that the City does not need a tennis complex.

Mr. A. W. Hargett, Creekwood Circle, appeared and also made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Hargett stated that he agrees with comments made by Dr. Barry Morris. Mr. Hargett further stated that to jump into this project would be a serious mistake. Mr. Hargett stated

that the last time the Council did not listen to the public regarding issues, those Councilmembers were voted out. Mr. Hargett asked the Council to put a hold on this project and take more time to study this project.

Ms. Gigi Broadway, 2429 Dunbrooke Street, appeared and stated that she would like to see an indoor swimming pool in addition to the tennis courts. Ms. Broadway noted that it could be a multi sports complex. Ms. Broadway stated that swim meets would bring in money to our area and also offering swimming and scuba lessons.

Mr. Bill Smoak, 2424 Roberts Lane, appeared and stated that the Council needs to change the order of the agenda. Mr. Smoak further stated that Agenda Item 5, Approval of Agenda, and Agenda Item 10, Business from floor pertaining to items on the consent and regular agenda (5-minute time limit), should be switched.

Mr. Smoak also made comments in opposition to Consent Agenda Item 11 Resolution to approve the contract with The Lamar Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to construct a ten foot by forty foot vinyl illuminated billboard to advertise the Frank Lloyd Wright/Rosenbaum House on I-65 north of Browns Ferry Road, in the amount of \$12,880.00. Mr. Smoak stated that the Council needs to look at how much revenue that the museum is bringing into Florence.

Mr. Smoak also made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202 and Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Smoak stated that if the City borrows thirteen million to fund this project, the City will have to repay eighteen million. Mr. Smoak further stated that the Council needs to say no to this project.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and stated that the Council should vote no on Regular Agenda Item 12 (a) Ordinance to amend Section 3-7, Hours of Sale, of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages, sponsored by Bill Musgrove, Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202 and Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Simpson stated that he opposes Regular Agenda Item a, Item b and Item c. Mr. Simpson further stated that he also agrees with Dr. Morris' comments. Mr. Simpson stated that the tennis project will only help the

Marriott Hotel.

Mr. Edwin Garner, 1100 Spring Cove Road, appeared and made comments in favor of Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements. Mr. Garner stated that he appreciates the past Councils that moved forward with Blackberry Trail Golf Course and the Sportsplex. Mr. Garner further stated that both of these projects have enhanced our City. Mr. Garner stated that the Council has an opportunity to enhance Veterans Park and that the Council should move forward with the tennis complex.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to amend Section 3-7, Hours of Sale, of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:



Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Simmons moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance.

Councilmember Bradley seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Councilmember Edwards made comments in opposition to the proposed Ordinance.

Councilmember Edwards stated that he appreciated Mr. Simpson's comments regarding alcohol.

Councilmember Edwards further stated that he is a supporter of small business but he is disappointed that he is the only one to speak out against alcohol sales on Sunday. Councilmember Edwards stated that he will not vote against it because of local businesses. Councilmember Edwards stated that he cannot support Sunday alcohol sales.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Abstain: Blake Edwards

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented Ordinance to levy and assess a lodging tax pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, Section 11-51-202(b), sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. President Jordan seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Councilmember Edwards made comments in opposition to the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember Edwards stated that he is not opposed to the tennis complex but he is not ready to vote yes. Councilmember Edwards further stated that he wants the entire park upgraded, not just a tennis complex. Councilmember Edwards questioned the actual cost to renovate the entire park. Councilmember Edwards stated that the Council needs to know more regarding the total cost of the project.

Councilmember Betterton made comments in support of the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember Betterton stated that supporting the tennis complex project is a chance to take a step forward. Councilmember Betterton further stated that fundamentally the renovations to Veterans Park will make everyone proud. Councilmember Betterton stated that the Veterans deserved to have a park that honored them. Councilmember Betterton further stated that he appreciates everyone that spoke tonight. Councilmember Betterton stated that this project needs to be a top priority and that the tennis complex is a small part of the project.

Councilmember Bradley made comments in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Bradley stated that everyone agrees that Veterans Park needs to be renovated. Councilmember Bradley further stated that he has heard pros and cons of this project. Councilmember Bradley noted that citizens in District 3 are in favor of renovating the park but are against the grandiose design of the tennis complex. Councilmember Bradley stated that we should be able to get exact numbers on the cost. Councilmember Bradley further stated that this project has the potential of being a great asset to our City. Councilmember Bradley stated that he is in favor of tennis but not the number of courts that are being proposed. Councilmember Bradley further stated that people do look at the lodging tax before they rent hotel rooms.

President Jordan made comments in favor of the proposed ordinance. President Jordan stated that in June 2016 an ad hoc committee was formed to look at developing a plan for a tennis complex at Veterans Park. President Jordan further stated that this committee along with the Florence/Lauderdale Tourism Office hired a development firm to draw up plans for the tennis complex. President Jordan stated that to be competitive with tournaments, it was decided that we would need more courts, bathroom facilities and a club house. President Jordan further stated that UNA and the Florence City School System expressed interest in using the courts. President Jordan stated that TVA and Dr. Bronner approved the plans for the facility. President Jordan stated that UNA pledged one million dollars and Florence City Schools pledged three hundred thousand dollars to support the proposed facility.

President Jordan further stated that he supports the five percent increase in lodging tax.

President Jordan stated that this tax will support the new tennis complex, the new pods at the Sportsplex and also to renovate the rest of Veterans Park. President Jordan further stated that we should honor our agreement with Dr. Bronner. President Jordan stated that he supports the tennis complex, renovating Veterans Park and building new pods at the Sportsplex. President Jordan further stated that he believes the proposed tennis complex would enhance the quality of life in Florence.

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

Ayes: William D. Jordan  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: Kaytrina Simmons  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards

**(The motion fails)**

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to request the Public Park Authority of the Shoals approve the redevelopment plan for Veterans Park, including the construction of the tennis facility complex and requesting the release of the \$2,000,000.00 reserve funds to be used to construct the proposed improvements, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. President Jordan seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: William D. Jordan  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: Kaytrina Simmons  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards

**(The motion fails)**

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to approve the contract with Keeton Electric Company, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to upgrade eleven (11) parking lot lights to LED lamps at the "Club" Senior Center, in the amount of \$1,400.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-44410, sponsored by Todd Nix. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Edwards moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Edwards moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Betterton seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards

Noes: None

Abstain: Andrew Betterton

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to approve the operating budget of the Electricity Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, sponsored by Mayor Holt, Vance Young and Richard Morrissey. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Edwards moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Edwards moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

President Jordan thanked Vance Young, Utilities Controller, for his hard work on the Electricity Department's budget.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business	Vacancy		
SEDA	Macke Mauldin	10/07/14	09/30/17
	Barry Morris	11/20/14	09/30/17
SCOPE 310	Vacancy		
	Josh Webster	08/21/12	07/21/15
	Reginald Owens	04/01/14	07/21/16

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

Mr. Daniel Lucas, appeared and thanked Dr. McCoy for his contribution to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Lucas asked the Council to look into providing more lighting at the library.

Mr. Lucas stated that the City has inadequate fire station locations and inadequate fire apparatus. Mr. Lucas further stated that the City needs to look into adding more fire stations.

Ms. Eva Knight, 2810 Waldrige Street, appeared and thanked Mayor Holt for coming to the Senior Center and presenting them with paperwork transferring ownership of their building to the City of Florence. Ms. Knight stated that there are numerous projects that are being completed. Ms. Knight also stated that there will be a fish fry at the "Club" this Friday night.

Mr. Bill Smoak, 2424 Roberts Lane, appeared and made comments regarding Sunday Alcohol Sales. Mr. Smoak noted that Regular Agenda Item (a) does not say that the ordinance is for Sunday alcohol sales.

Mr. Smoak made comments regarding 13 acres located on West Irvine Street that was approved by the City Council for an apartment complex. Mr. Smoak questioned why work has not begun on the apartment complex.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments regarding the recent W. C. Handy Festival. Mr. Simpson stated that the festival that was held last week was a great success. Mr. Simpson commended Councilmember Simmons for her work. Mr. Simpson also made comments regarding eradicating drugs in our City.

Mr. Greg McAfee, Florence, AL, appeared and made comments in favor of disc golf in Veterans Park. Mr. McAfee stated that he is in favor of improving Veterans Park.

**Council Reports and Comments:**

Councilmember Bradley stated that disc golf at Veterans Park has not been forgotten.

Councilmember Bradley thanked all those who spoke tonight regarding Veterans Park.

Councilmember Bradley further stated that the vote tonight is not the end. Councilmember Bradley

stated that Veterans Park is very special. Councilmember Bradley also thanked Dr. McCoy and the ad hoc committee who worked on this project.

Councilmember Eubanks comments' follow, to wit:



Council Comments  
August 1, 2017

I've written these comments a thousand times in my head, and, each time, I stop short as I feel there's one more bit of information I need to gather in order to make a decision, one more expert to call, one more source to check, one more conversation I need to have in order to make the best decision. Now, however, the time has come to vote on the proposal "as is."

By voting on it as it has been presented gives us, as council members, precious little time to verify the facts, cost estimates, and future funding for this initiative. Further, it's highly irresponsible to agree to redevelop the entire park based on plans that haven't been fully vetted and with costs that are completely unknown. In fact, we've been given three proposals, all of which must have differing prices, and, yet, none of the pricing we have is reliable.

Veterans' Memorial Park needs attention, badly. My vote this evening is a reflection not of a lack of willingness to improve the park for all residents of the city but to improve it methodically, responsibly, and justifiably and in a way that we, as a city, are able to sustain long after you and I are no longer here to see to its upkeep.

It's clear that the \$2 million from the Public Park Authority could go a very long way toward making some of the needed and necessary improvements, especially to the restrooms and existing attractions. I would love nothing more than to see that happen soon. From what I know of the agreement with RSA, our obligation is simply to spend the \$2 million on infrastructure. And that is a fine idea. What I cannot agree to is the expenditure of millions of dollars now and in the years to come on a project that may never reach sustainable levels, even with a proposed lodging tax increase.

We can – and must – do better than that for all of the residents of this city.

I'm thankful to the members of the ad hoc committee; their time and expertise has not gone unnoticed. I also appreciate the insight and help I have been given along the way by department heads throughout the city who have worked closely on this project. An astute business friend of mine added the perfect bit of clarity to what had been a cloudy issue: Were this such a wonderful idea, a business would have jumped on it long ago. Agreed. There is no reason to saddle the city with ongoing debt and a new tax in order to embellish an amenity we already have in abundance.

Finally, this evening, my congratulations to Tori Bailey and the entire W.C. Handy Festival committee and board. This year's event was fun and, from what I could tell, very successful! Coffee and Bradshaw alumni are invited to the first CHS/BHS alumni basketball game this Saturday at the Mars Hill Bible School gym at 6 p.m.

I also want to wish all students a safe and happy return to school next week.

Councilmember Edwards thanked the W. C. Handy Festival Committee on the success of the festival last week. Councilmember Edwards congratulated Shannon Olive on his new position as General Fund Chief Accountant.

Councilmember Betterton stated that there is still work to do at Veterans Park. Councilmember Betterton noted that disc golf is still in the master plan at Veterans Park.

Councilmember Simmons also thanked everyone for their comments. Councilmember Simmons noted that the Council is not denying the tennis complex in Veterans Park but are delaying it so more information can be gathered. Councilmember Simmons thanked everyone who was involved with the Handy Festival.

President Jordan also thanked Dr. McCoy and the Committee for their work on Veterans Park.

Councilmember Edwards presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK