



**CITY OF FLORENCE
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7, 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, November 7, 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

November 7, 2017

5:00 P.M.

-
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:
 - (a) Proposed rezoning of Lots 16 and 17 located approximately 130 feet east from the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Highland Avenue from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by DC&N Properties, LLC.
 - (b) Proposed rezoning of part of Lot 1 containing 3.53 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC.
 - (c) Proposed rezoning of part of Lot 2-East containing 4.88 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irving Street right of way from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC.
 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 October 17, 2017, meeting.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.
- (c) Resolution to approve the contract with Athens Fence Company, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install new fencing and a gate at the Florence Utilities Electricity Department, in the amount of \$11,320.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #390 - Structures & Improvements, sponsored by Richard Morrissey.
- (d) Resolution to approve the Pole Attachment Regulation Amendment between the City of Florence and the Tennessee Valley Authority, sponsored by Richard Morrissey.
- (e) Resolution to approve the contract with Shotcrete America, LLC, to provide labor, equipment and incidentals necessary to replace 1,000 linear feet of pipe in the 200-300 block of South Trade Street, in the amount of \$36,100.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #331.10 - Distribution Mains & Appurtenances, sponsored by Mike Doyle.
- (f) Resolution to approve the Agreement between the City of Florence and Azteca Systems, LLC, for the use of Cityworks® Software to develop and maintain an asset management system for the Gas & Water/Wastewater Departments, in a range from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00, to be paid from each respective budgeted account(s) as appropriate, sponsored by Mike Doyle.
- (g) Resolution to approve the Agreement between the City of Florence and Industrial Training Services (ITS), to provide natural gas operator qualification courses, performance evaluations and documentation required by PHMSA (Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration), to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #165.20, sponsored by Mike Doyle.
- (h) Resolution to approve the contract with Watermark Golf, LLC/Nathan Crace Design, for development of design and bid documents, bid oversight and construction monitoring for the no-till grassing at Blackberry Trail Golf Course, in the amount of \$8,708.00, to be paid from budgeted Fund 117 - Capital Projects, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (i) Resolution to approve the Collection Agency Contractual Agreement between the City of Florence and Smith, Rouchon and Associates, Inc., to provide account collection services to Florence Utilities, sponsored by Vance Young.
- (j) Resolution to approve the contract with Ringers Garage Door Company, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install new garage doors at the Florence Sanitary Landfill, in the amount of \$4,062.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #1053-4320, sponsored by David Koonce.
- (k) Resolution to approve the contract with TTL, Inc., to provide construction materials testing for the Hermitage Drive Sidewalk Project, ALDOT Project No. TAPOA-TA15(913), in the amount of \$9,500.00, to be paid from budgeted Fund 188, Account #933-48100, sponsored by Bill Batson. **(Item removed by sponsor)**
- (l) Resolution to advance and reimburse travel expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Holt.
- (m) Resolution to approve a contract with the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama, Inc., in the amount of \$6,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (n) Resolution to approve a contact with the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama, Inc. - Meals on Wheels, in the amount of \$7,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.

- (o) Resolution to approve a contract with Burrell Normal - Burrell Slater School Alumni Association, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (p) Resolution to approve a contract with the Foster Grandparents Program, in the amount of \$4,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (q) Resolution to approve a contract with ARC of the Shoals, Inc., in the amount of \$11,200.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (r) Resolution to approve a contract with Maud Lindsay Kindergarten, in the amount of \$15,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (s) Resolution to approve a contract with Safeplace, Inc., in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (t) Resolution to approve a contract with Start on Success, Inc., in the amount of \$2,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (u) Resolution to approve a contract with the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, in the amount of \$30,000.00, to advertise and promote the City of Florence, to be paid from budgeted funds, sponsored by Mayor Holt and the City Council.
- (v) Resolution to approve a one year health insurance policy covering excess loss, Option 1, from Blue Cross of Alabama, sponsored by Keith Owsley.

12. Regular Agenda

- (a) Ordinance to rezone Lots 16 and 17 located approximately 130 feet east from the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Highland Avenue from R-2 (Single Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by DC&N Properties, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (b) Ordinance to rezone part of Lot 1 containing 3.53 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (c) Ordinance to rezone part of Lot 2-East containing 4.88 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
- (d) Ordinance to amend Section 3-2 of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding micro-distilleries, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (e) Ordinance to amend Section 3-40 of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding micro-distilleries, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (f) Ordinance to approve a Real Estate Sales Contract between the City of Florence and the W.C. Handy Foundation to transfer ownership of the W.C. Handy Home and Museum to the W.C. Handy Foundation, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.
- (g) Ordinance amending Sections 1, 3, and 15 of an ordinance of the City of Florence, Alabama, levying a privilege license or excise tax against persons, firms, or corporations storing, using, or otherwise consuming or engaging in the business of selling at retail tangible personal property or conducting places of amusement in the City of Florence, Alabama, in effect increasing amount of said tax 1%, sponsored by Dan Barger. **(Failed)**
- (h) Ordinance levying and assessing a lodging tax pursuant to Alabama Code Section 11-51-202(b)(1975), as amended, sponsored by Dan Barger. **(Failed)**
- (I) Resolution to vacate utility easement at Lot 3, Wildwood On Cypress, Phase II, as requested by Bruce and Rhonda Dillard, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.

13. General Business

(a)	<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
	Agri-Business	Vacancy Leonard Skipworth	06/03/08	11/15/17
	Beautification	Gina Bailey Ralph Jones Brenda Tease Linda Van Sandt	08/02/16 07/01/14 10/20/15 10/02/14	11/01/17 11/01/17 11/01/17 11/01/17
	Historical Board	Tom White David Curott Uhland Redd IV Rod Whatley	08/05/14 12/02/14 10/20/15 12/18/12	12/17/17 12/17/17 12/17/17 12/17/17
	Library Board (Fl/Laud)	Thomas Andrew Frith Julie Trapp	11/20/12 11/20/12	12/01/17 12/01/17
	SCOPE 310	Vacancy Josh Webster Reginald Owens	08/21/12 04/01/14	07/21/15 07/21/16
	Tree Commission	Preston Hillis Jacari Holt	02/03/09 03/21/17	11/03/17 11/03/17

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

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

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

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that it was decided at the earlier work session to remove Consent Agenda Item 11 (k) Resolution to approve the contract with TTL, Inc., to provide construction materials testing for the Hermitage Drive Sidewalk Project, ALDOT Project No. TAPOA-TA15(913), in the amount of \$9,500.00, to be paid from budgeted Fund 188, Account #933-48100, sponsored by Bill Batson.

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 Edwards 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 presented a Proclamation designating Saturday, November 25, as “Small Business Saturday” in the City of Florence. Mayor Holt noted that small businesses are critical to the overall economic health of the United States and that it is important for people to support them. Mayor Holt further noted that the City of Florence supports our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community.

Mayor Holt asked everyone to remember the family of Ernest Haygood. Mayor Holt stated that Mr. Haygood passed away yesterday.

Mayor Holt noted that there will be a groundbreaking for the Florence/Lauderdale Animal Shelter on Wednesday, November 15, at 11:00 a.m.

Report of Department Heads: none

Report of Standing Committee:

Councilmember Simmons, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, comments follow to wit:

Public Hearing:

President Jordan noted that this is the day and time advertised for a public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of Lots 16 and 17 located approximately 130 feet east from the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Highland Avenue from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by DC&N Properties, LLC.

Melissa Bailey, Planning Director, appeared and stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend the rezoning to the Council. Ms. Bailey stated that the proposed rezoning will be a buffer between single family residential district and an industrial district.

There were no comments from the public.

President Jordan noted that this is the day and time advertised for a public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of part of Lot 1 containing 3.53 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC.

President Jordan noted that this is the day and time advertised for a public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of part of Lot 2-East containing 4.88 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irving Street right of way from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC.

Melissa Bailey, Planning Director, appeared and stated that the proposed rezonings are to compensate for a shift in the project area of the Bellamy Student Housing project. Ms. Bailey further stated that the developer and the property owners felt that a shift in the project would be necessary.

There being no public comments, President Jordan closed the public hearing.

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

Mr. Joshua Dodd, owner of Gold, Guns & Guitars, 1119 Glendale Avenue, appeared and made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (g) Ordinance amending Sections 1, 3, and 15 of an ordinance of the City of Florence, Alabama, levying a privilege license or excise tax against persons, firms, or corporations storing, using, or otherwise consuming or engaging in the business of selling at retail tangible personal property or conducting places of amusement in the City of Florence, Alabama, in effect increasing amount of said tax 1%, sponsored by Dan Barger. Mr. Dodd stated that he is very upset about the proposed increase in sales tax and that he would like the City to vote on the increase. Mr. Dodd further stated that the citizens were not given proper notice for the tax increase. Mr. Dodd stated that this tax will be a burden on low income citizens and local business owners. Mr. Dodd further stated that this tax increase will force customers to shop in other cities and counties that have lower tax rates.

Mr. Austin Russell, 709 South Richards Street, appeared and made comments regarding the proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Russell asked when the City is going to make much needed repairs to the streets. Mr. Russell stated that the City is patching patches.

Mr. Chris Trensic, resident of Tuscumbia and a student of UNA, appeared and made comments regarding the proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Trensic stated that he is opposed to a tax increase. Mr. Trensic further stated that it will be a burden on the citizens who are on a fixed income.

Mr. John Williams, 333 Lindenberg Avenue, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Williams stated that he is very disappointed in this Council on the proposed increase. Mr. Williams further stated that a tax increase will greatly affect the poor. Mr. Williams stated that a few years ago the citizens were not pleased with the Mayor and Council and there was a "vote them all out" campaign.

Mr. John Shepherd, 1821 Lindsey Street, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Shepherd stated that citizens will shop outside of Florence because it will be cheaper.

Mr. John Crowder, 421 Knottingham Road, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Crowder stated that an increase in taxes directly affects the lower income. Mr. Crowder further stated that instead of increasing sales tax, the City should look into increasing property taxes.

Mr. Sam Pendleton Jr., 1934 Maple Avenue and former City Councilmember, appeared and made comments in support of the proposed tax increase. Mr. Pendleton stated that he wants the Council to look at the Public Safety pay scale. Mr. Pendleton further stated the Council should pass the 1 percent sales tax. Mr. Pendleton stated that the City should put police cars on the streets and out of the parking lots. Mr. Pendleton further stated that the Council should put measures in place to retain the police officers that are currently employed with the City. Mr. Pendleton stated that this Council voted down an increase for the Electricity Department and that this Council better hope that there is not an ice storm. Mr. Pendleton further stated that this Council should pass the sales tax increase and work with the Police and Fire Department to hire new employees and retain the current employees.

Ms. Janet Spencer, 518 Riverview Drive, appeared and stated that she is in favor of the sales tax increase but is opposed to the proposed lodging tax increase. Ms. Spencer further stated that if people want to live in our city then they should want to pay for services and the upkeep of our City. Ms. Spencer stated that the City should get the police officers back on the streets. Ms. Spencer further stated that the City leaders need to do more due-diligent with the City's money. Ms. Spencer stated that the City needs to look at abandoned vehicles. Ms. Spencer further stated that she is opposed to the lodging tax.

Laura Ingram, 110 Harris Drive and a representative of the Marriott Hotel and Spa, appeared and made comments in opposition to Regular Agenda Item 12 (h) Ordinance levying and assessing a lodging tax pursuant to Alabama Code Section 11-51-202(b)(1975), as amended, sponsored by Dan Barger. Ms. Ingram

stated that the hospitality industry does not need a 3 percent lodging tax increase. Ms. Ingram further stated that both proposed taxes were very short-sighted. Ms. Ingram stated that the increase in lodging tax to patch roads will not bring in more tourists.

Mr. John Hargett, 1406 North Wood Avenue, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed sales tax and lodging tax increases. Mr. Hargett stated that to help economic development, you need to lower sales tax.

Mr. Ray Styles, 13 Athens Street, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed increase in sales and lodging taxes. Mr. Styles asked the Council why they approved the budget previously if you were in need of money. Mr. Styles stated that the increase not only affects our citizens but those who travel to Florence from other cities and states to shop.

Mr. Simon Patel, Holiday Inn Express, made comments in opposition to the proposed increase in lodging tax. Mr. Simon stated that we need to increase the number of people coming into the city. Mr. Simon further stated that the hotel industries in Florence are opposed to the increase in lodging tax. Mr. Simon stated that an increase in lodging tax will decrease his business.

Mr. Rick Patel, Baymont Inn & Suites, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed increase in lodging tax. Mr. Patel stated that lodging tax is for tourism and with this increase the money will be going to the City and not Tourism. Mr. Patel further stated that the Council should have talked to the hospitality industry before voting on the tax increase.

Mr. Eron Patel, 112 Ana Drive, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed lodging tax. Mr. Patel stated that the Council needs to look internally at how the City is operating. Mr. Patel further stated that leadership starts at the top. Mr. Patel stated that the City should not start with a solution but should start with the problem. Mr. Patel further stated that the City needs to make right decisions for the right reasons.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments in support of the proposed lodging and sales tax increase. Mr. Simpson stated that if the Council, Mayor Holt and Dan Barger say we need an increase then we need an increase. Mr. Simpson further stated that it is the responsibility of all citizens.

Mr. Joshua Miller, 240 County Road 299, appeared and stated that you are paying lip service to small businesses with a tax increase. Mr. Miller stated that it is hypocritical to present a proclamation to support small businesses and then propose a sales and lodging tax increase.

Ms. Vicky Romine, 208 Twin Oak Drive and manager of Hampton Inn & Suites, appeared and stated that she would be in favor of the increase in lodging tax if the money would be going to the Florence/Lauderdale Tourism. Ms. Romine stated that churches and businesses bring in people to stay at local hotels and the local churches and businesses will pay the higher tax.

Mr. Chase Holcombe, 308 Crossmore Drive, appeared and made comments in opposition to the

proposed sales tax increase. Mr. Holcombe stated that the Council needs to find other areas in the General Fund Budget to cut. Mr. Holcombe asked the Council to vote against immediate consideration. Mr. Holcombe stated that he does not believe the Council is doing anything unethical but they have not thought the proposed tax through. Mr. Holcombe further stated that a tax increase will drive people to shop other places such as online. Mr. Holcombe stated that a tax increase should be the last resort. Mr. Holcombe stated that the citizens were not given enough notice of the proposed tax increase.

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 Eubanks 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 rezone Lots 16 and 17 located approximately 130 feet east from the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Highland Avenue from R-2 (Single Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by DC&N Properties, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

Councilmember Betterton 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 Eubanks moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. Councilmember Simmons 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to rezone part of Lot 1 containing 3.53 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Simmons moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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 Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. Councilmember Eubanks 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to rezone part of Lot 2-East containing 4.88 acres located at the west end of the unopened portion of the West Irvine Street right-of-way from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) as requested by Hensley-Graves Holdings, LLC., sponsored by Melissa Bailey. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Simmons 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.

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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to amend Section 3-2 of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding micro-distilleries, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Bradley moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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 Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. Councilmember Bradley 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to amend Section 3-40 of the Code of Florence, Alabama, as amended, regarding micro-distilleries, 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 Eubanks 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to approve a Real Estate Sales Contract between the City of Florence and the W.C. Handy Foundation to transfer ownership of the W.C. Handy Home and Museum to the W.C. Handy Foundation, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Simmons 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 Edwards moved for adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. Councilmember Eubanks 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance amending Sections 1, 3, and 15 of an ordinance of the City of Florence, Alabama, levying a privilege license or excise tax against persons, firms, or corporations storing, using, or otherwise consuming or engaging in the business of selling at retail tangible personal property or conducting places of amusement in the City of Florence, Alabama, in effect increasing amount of said tax 1%, sponsored by Dan Barger. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Simmons moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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

Discussion:

Councilmember Edwards made comments in support of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Edwards stated that services such as garbage collection, leaf collection and street paving requires money. Councilmember Edwards further stated that to afford these amenities, you must have funds to pay for those services. Councilmember Edwards stated that for the last three years Mr. Barger has stated that the General Fund cannot replace fire trucks and other equipment. Councilmember Edwards further stated that he does not like to pay more either. Councilmember Edwards stated that if you want to continue to enjoy amenities then the City must be able to pay for them. Councilmember Edwards further stated that if the City cannot afford to fund certain amenities then the services will stop.

Councilmember Betterton made comments in support of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Betterton stated that the City has department heads that know their jobs and care greatly for our City. Councilmember Betterton stated that services do not come for free. Councilmember Betterton further stated that streets must be repaired and that takes money.

Councilmember Bradley made comments in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Bradley stated that government should be run like a business. Councilmember Bradley noted that there are areas that need to be cut. Councilmember Bradley further stated that a sales tax increase should be the last resort. Councilmember Bradley further stated that the City needs to look at other ways to cut costs.

President Jordan made comments in support of the proposed ordinance. President Jordan stated that for months we have been saying that we need more money. President Jordan further stated that the City needs to complete the College Street Bridge, River Heritage and Veterans Memorial Park projects and that employee salary adjustments are also needed.

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

Ayes: William D. Jordan
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: Kaytrina Simmons
David Bradley
Michelle Eubanks

Motion fails 3-3

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance levying and assessing a lodging tax pursuant to Alabama Code Section 11-51-202(b)(1975), as amended, sponsored by Dan Barger. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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

Discussion:

Councilmember Edwards made comments in favor of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Edwards stated that lodging tax should be used for tourism.

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

Ayes: William D. Jordan
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: Kaytrina Simmons
David Bradley
Michelle Eubanks

Motion fails 3-3

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to vacate utility easement at Lot 3, Wildwood On Cypress, Phase II, as requested by Bruce and Rhonda Dillard, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Edwards 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 Eubanks moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. Councilmember Edwards 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
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

(a)	<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
	Agri-Business	Vacancy Leonard Skipworth	06/03/08	11/15/17
	Beautification	Gina Bailey Ralph Jones Brenda Tease Linda Van Sandt	08/02/16 07/01/14 10/20/15 10/02/14	11/01/17 11/01/17 11/01/17 11/01/17
	Historical Board	Tom White David Curott Uhland Redd IV Rod Whatley	08/05/14 12/02/14 10/20/15 12/18/12	12/17/17 12/17/17 12/17/17 12/17/17
	Library Board (Fl/Laud)	Thomas Andrew Frith Julie Trapp	11/20/12 11/20/12	12/01/17 12/01/17
	SCOPE 310	Vacancy Josh Webster Reginald Owens	08/21/12 04/01/14	07/21/15 07/21/16
	Tree Commission	Preston Hillis Jacari Holt	02/03/09 03/21/17	11/03/17 11/03/17

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

Mr. Norman Allen, 1025 Pruitt Street, appeared and made comments regarding prostitution that is taking place in McFarland Park. Mr. Allen stated that this needs to be addressed.

Mr. John Hargett, 1406 North Wood Avenue, appeared and made comments regarding taxes. Mr. Hargett stated that an ad valorem tax renewal was defeated in April 1997.

Mr. John Crowder, 421 Knottingham Road, appeared and made comments regarding sales tax. Mr. Crowder stated that the timing of the sales tax increase was rather sudden. Mr. Crowder further noted that the City is not enforcing the sign ordinance.

Ms. Janet Spencer appeared and stated that she agrees with Councilmember Edwards' comments regarding lodging tax. Ms. Spencer further noted that there are numerous issues such as abandoned cars that the City needs to address.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and stated that he is disappointed that the sales tax did not pass tonight.

Council Reports and Comments:

Councilmember Eubanks had no comments.

Councilmember Edwards stated that we still live in a great city and that we have a lot to be thankful for.

Councilmember Betterton had no comments.

Councilmember Simmons noted that November 16 is W. C. Handy's birthday.

Councilmember Bradley had no comments.

President Jordan had no comments.

Councilmember Edwards presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK