



**CITY OF FLORENCE
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
September 2, 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, September 2, 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.

AMENDED AGENDA

CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 2, 2014

5:00 P.M.

-
1. Meeting called to order - President Jordan
 2. Invocation - Councilmember Graham
 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) Ordinance to rezone Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home from R-3/CO (Multi-Family/Conditional Overlay District) to B-2 (General Business/Conditional Overlay District) as requested by Plantation Partners, 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 August 19, 2014 meeting.
 - (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.

 - (c) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Florence Marble & Granite to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to make repairs to the entire Coffee Cemetery, in the amount of \$9,800.00, to be paid from Historical Board Funds, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.
 - (d) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with A-1 Fence Company to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to build and install a gate for the Memorial Grove Entrance, in the amount of \$1,900.00, to be paid from Fund 117, sponsored by Todd Nix.
 - (e) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), sponsored by Vance Young.
 - (f) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a Service Agreement for transportation of natural gas with Texas Eastern Transmission, L.P., sponsored by Mike Doyle.
 - (g) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a Firm Storage Service Agreement for natural gas storage with Bobcat Gas Storage, sponsored by Mike Doyle.
 - (h) Resolution authorizing the City to make application to become a member of Seven States, a joint equity cooperative ownership by TVPPA members, sponsored by Richard Morrissey.
 - (i) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a SSAISCSEP Host Agency Agreement with the North Alabama Council of Local Governments regarding the Senior Aide Program, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.
 - (j) Resolution to appropriate \$1,500.00 from the Mayor's Special Projects Fund and \$1,500.00 from the Council's Special Project Fund to the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, a federal government program administered by the National Park Service, for the purpose of erecting a W. C. Handy sign as part of the Mississippi Blues Trail.
 - (k) Resolution authorizing the City to approve an amendment to the City's Employees' Retirement Plan regarding long term disability, sponsored by Alanna Sullivan.
 - (l) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Ole Pete Key, Inc., for four (4) Leadership Training sessions, in the amount of \$6,500.00, cost to be shared equally between General Fund, Electricity, Gas and Water/Wastewater funds, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.
 - (m) Resolution to advance and reimburse Travel Expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.
12. Regular Agenda:
- (a) Ordinance to rezone Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, from R-3/CO (Multi-Family/Conditional Overlay District) to B-2 (General Business/Conditional Overlay District), sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
 - (b) Resolution to appoint Heath Trousdale as the City Prosecutor of the City of Florence, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. **(This item was removed)**

- (c) Resolution to permit the owner of The Court Street Market to construct an extended service area that includes a portion of the sidewalk area of the North Court Street right-of-way, 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	Vacancy		
Beautification Board	Linda Van Sandt	08/05/2008	11/01/14
	Patricia Bulls-Butler	01/03/12	11/01/14
	Vacancy		
Housing/Construction Appeals Board	Fitzgerald Hill	09/06/05	09/30/14
Parks & Rec	Bill Burke	01/06/09	10/30/14
	Mike Williams	12/01/09	10/30/14
SEDA	Marty Abroms	12/16/08	09/30/14
	Barry Morris	11/20/12	09/30/14
Tourism Board	Ernest Haygood	09/19/95	10/29/14
	David Abramson	08/17/10	10/29/14
Tree Commission	Louise Bone	03/01/1994	11/03/14
	Preston Hillis	02/03/2009	11/03/14

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

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

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

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that it was decided at the earlier work session to remove Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution to appoint Heath Trousdale as the City Prosecutor of the City of Florence, sponsored by Bill Musgrove.

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 Smith 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

Message from the Mayor:

Mayor Haddock noted that “First Friday” will be Friday, September 5. Mayor Haddock further noted he and the Council are taking the Alzheimer’s Ice Bucket challenge and the ALS Ice Bucket challenge at 6:00 p.m. in downtown Florence during the “First Friday” event.

Mayor Haddock presented a Proclamation designating the month of September 2014, as “Charmot-Marie-Tooth Awareness” month. The Proclamation was received by Ms. Tina Smith, facilitator of the CMT Group.

Mayor Haddock presented a Proclamation designating the month of September 2014, as “Childhood Cancer Awareness” month. The Proclamation was received by Ms. Tammy Hendrix and Ms. Whitney Wright.

Report of Department Heads: None

Report of Standing Committee: None

Public Hearing:

President Jordan noted that this is the date and time advertised for the public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home from R-3/CO (Multi-Family/Conditional Overlay District) to B-2 (General Business/Conditional Overlay District) as requested by Plantation Partners, LLC.

Melissa Bailey, Planning Director, stated that this rezoning does not include the Sweetwater Plantation. Melissa Bailey further stated the property is located next door to the Residence Inn.

Councilmember Graham stated that this property is South of the Residence Inn.

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

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

Mr. Billy Hammock, Creative Jewelers, appeared and stated his concerns regarding Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution to permit the owner of The Court Street Market to construct an extended service area that includes a portion of the sidewalk area of the North Court Street right-of-way. Mr. Hammock stated that he wants people to be able to his display windows. Mr. Hammock further stated that he believes not being able to see his jewelry displayed in the window from 12 feet away will have an adverse effect on his business.

Consent Agenda:

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

Councilmember Betterton 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 rezone Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, from R-3/CO (Multi-Family/Conditional Overlay District) to B-2 (General Business/Conditional Overlay District), sponsored by Melissa Bailey. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton 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 Smith seconded the motion.

There being no 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 to permit the owner of The Court Street Market to construct an extended service area that includes a portion of the sidewalk area of the North Court Street right-of-way, sponsored by Bill Musgrove. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

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

Discussion:

Councilmember Edwards stated that he can understand Mr. Hammock's concern regarding people walking down Court Street and not being able to see his store displays.

Councilmember Morris stated that he has met with Mr. Hammock several times and understands his concerns. Councilmember Morris further stated that he believes outside dining adds something to downtown.

President Jordan complimented Ms. Carmen Erdman and Mr. Billy Hammock for the great job that they have done on their buildings.

Councilmember Graham stated that in the future, we need to look at this issue more closely to determine if the extensions are having a negative affect on other businesses.

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:

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Tree Commission	Louise Bone	03/01/1994	11/03/14
	Preston Hillis	02/03/2009	11/03/14

President Jordan noted that at the earlier work session, it was decided to appoint David Mulendorf to the Tourism Board. President Jordan further noted that Mr. Mulendorf will replace Ernest Haygood.

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

Mr. Bryan Simmons, 402 South Main Street, appeared and made comments regarding pet licensing. President Jordans ask Mr. Simmons to leave his contact information with Robert Leyde and that he would have Animal Control get in touch him.

Mr. Simmons also made comments regarding the increase in water rates. Mr. Simmons stated that the Council should consider the income levels in Florence before approving a rate increase.

Council Reports and Comments:

Councilmember Morris had no comments.

Councilmember Graham thanked everyone in attendance.

Councilmember Edwards stated that the Council tries to make the best decisions possible.

Councilmember Betterton stated that the Council really appreciates our downtown businesses.

Councilmember Betterton cautioned drivers to be on the watch for bicyclists.

President Jordan made comments regarding the ALS Ice Bucket challenge. President Jordan noted that this is a great cause. President Jordan thanked Ms. Judy Sizemore, National Heritage, for the work she is doing.

Councilmember Edwards noted that the Council attended a ground-breaking ceremony at UNA for a new Residence Hall.

Councilmember Edwards presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

