



**CITY OF FLORENCE  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
JULY 18, 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, July 18, 2017. President Jordan called the meeting to order. President Jordan gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert M. Leyde, City Clerk, performed the roll call and noted that five Councilmembers were present and a quorum was present with the following members of the City Council in attendance: Kaytrina Simmons, William D. Jordan, Michelle Eubanks, Blake Edwards and Andrew Betterton. David Bradley was absent.

**AMENDED AGENDA**

**CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 18, 2017**

**5:00 P.M.**

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1. Meeting called to order - President Jordan
  2. Invocation - Councilmember Eubanks
  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 11, 2017, meeting and the Special Called Meeting on June 28, 2017.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.

- (c) Resolution to approve the contract with Southern Environmental Engineering, Inc., to provide sampling, analysis and reporting for semi-annual storm water monitoring at the Street Department, in the amount of \$490.00 per semi-annual event, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #256-43120, sponsored by David Koonce.
- (d) Resolution to approve the contract with Southern Environmental Engineering, Inc., to provide sampling, analysis and reporting for semi-annual storm water monitoring at the Recycling Center, in the amount of \$435.00 per semi-annual event, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #256-43125, sponsored by David Koonce.
- (e) Resolution to approve the contract with McCrorys Carpet and Interiors, Inc., to provide labor, materials, equipment and incidentals necessary to install new carpet tile on the upstairs hallways of the Florence Police Department, in the amount of \$11,349.90, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #266-42100 - Building Maintenance, sponsored by Ron Tyler.
- (f) Resolution to reappoint Dick Smith to the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority Board of Directors, sponsored by the City Council.
- (g) Resolution to advance and reimburse travel expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Holt.

12. Regular Agenda

- (a) 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.) (This item was removed from the agenda)**
- (b) 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.) (This item was removed from the agenda)**
- (c) Resolution to approve the contract with ADECA naming the City of Florence as Sub-Recipient to receive grant funding for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(This was added to the agenda)**

13. General Business:

- (a) Resolution - Alcohol Beverage License Application for a Special Event called Alabama Craft Beer Festival, with On-Premises Beer, by CBJA HOLDINGS, d/b/a ALABAMA CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL, to take place on September 9, 2017, and located at 121 to 123 E MOBILE ST, FLORENCE, AL 35630, sponsored by Robert M. Leyde.
- (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		
Housing/Constr	Fitzgerald Hill	12/02/14	09/30/17
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 Simmons  
Council member Bradley  
Council member Eubanks  
Council member Edwards  
Council member Betterton  
Council member Jordan

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that it was decided at the earlier work session to remove Regular Agenda Item 12 (a) 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 and Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) 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. President Jordan further noted that Regular Agenda Item 12(c) Resolution to approve the contract with ADECA naming the City of Florence as Sub-Recipient to receive grant funding for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, sponsored by Melissa Bailey was added to the agenda.

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 Eubanks seconded the motion.

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

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

Noes: None

**Message from the Mayor:**

Mayor Holt made comments regarding the recent deployment ceremonies for the 115<sup>th</sup> signal battalion. Mayor Holt asked that we keep them in our prayers during their deployment.

Mayor Holt made comments regarding the W C Handy Festival that begins Thursday. Mayor Holt asked everyone to come out and enjoy great music.

Mayor Holt congratulated the businesses and individuals who received Beautification awards last week.

**Report of Department Heads:** none

**Report of Standing Committee:**

President Jordan, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, noted that the Finance Committee met recently to discuss the restrooms at Lewis Field. President Jordan stated that it was decided that the City and the Board of Education will split the cost to upgrade the restrooms.

Councilmember Edwards, Chairperson of the Utilities Committee, stated that the Finance Committee recently met with Vance Young, Utilities Controller and Richard Morrissey, Manager of the Electricity Department to discuss the 2017-2018 budget. Councilmember Edwards noted that the budget will be on the next City Council agenda for approval.

**Public Hearing:** None

**Business from the Floor Pertaining to Items on the Consent or Regular Agenda:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda items.  
Councilmember Simmons 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  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde presented a Resolution to approve the contract with ADECA naming the City of Florence as Sub-Recipient to receive grant funding for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. 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  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Melissa Bailey, Planning & Community Development Director, appeared and made comments in support of the proposed Resolution. Ms. Bailey stated that this contract is for a homeless assistance program that has been in place in the City for a number of years. Ms. Bailey further stated that this grant allows other agencies to seek funding for the homeless. Ms. Bailey noted that these funds also assist children as well as adults who are homeless or who are in danger of becoming homeless.

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

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

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution - Alcohol Beverage License Application for a Special Event called Alabama Craft Beer Festival, with On-Premises Beer, by CBJA HOLDINGS, d/b/a ALABAMA CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL, to take place on September 9, 2017, and located at 121 to 123 E MOBILE ST, FLORENCE, AL 35630, sponsored by Robert M. Leyde. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton 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  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Councilmember Simmons moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Eubanks seconded the motion.

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

Ayes: Kaytrina Simmons  
William D. Jordan  
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		
Housing/Constr	Fitzgerald Hill	12/02/14	09/30/17
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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, Cypress Mill Road, made comments in opposition to the proposed tennis complex in Veterans Park. Mr. Lucas stated that increasing the lodging tax is not feasible because the tennis complex will not be sustainable. Mr. Lucas further stated that he believes this complex will be harmful to the City.

Mr. Lucas made comments regarding the ambulance service in Colbert and Lauderdale County. Mr. Lucas stated that he hopes there will be a resolution between Shoals Ambulance and Keller Ambulance.

Ms. Gi Gi Broadway, USA Swimming Officiate, appeared and made comments in support of the City building an aqua center along with the tennis complex. Ms. Broadway stated that Brentwood, Tennessee has a tennis complex/aquatic center that is very successful. Ms. Broadway further stated that with an aquatic center, it would be possible to host a USA Division 1 swim meet each month with 300 swimmers competing. Ms. Broadway asked that the Council keep Florence on the athletic spectrum by building a tennis complex, ball fields and an aqua center.

Mr. Jones Colcock, 518 Riverview Drive, appeared and made comments in opposition to the proposed tennis complex in Veterans Park. Mr. Colcock stated that he recommends a more in-depth feasibility study. Mr. Colcock further stated that an aquatic center would be good. Mr. Colcock stated that the study by the FAA regarding the tennis complex does not seem accurate. Mr. Colcock noted that according to the study, there are a lot of parking lot spaces. Mr. Colcock further noted that the construction of the parking spaces could cost more than two hundred thousand dollars and that cost is not included in the study. Mr. Colcock stated that the City needs to look into getting a more in-depth study regarding actual construction costs which are not addressed in the report.

Mr. Glenn Harper, 2209 Estaline Drive, appeared and made comments regarding a “garbage dump” on Belview Road in front of Hearn Mobile Home Park. Mr. Harper stated that this area is a safety hazzard due to the fire hydrant being covered with garbage. Mr. Harper asked Mayor Holt and the City Council to help get this area cleaned up. Mr. Harper stated that he has sent Mayor Holt



pictures of this area. Mr. Harper further stated that this problem has been going on for years but it has gotten worse over the last year.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments regarding drug houses in West Florence. Mr. Simpson stated that drugs, such as amphetamines, are taking over North Alabama. Mr. Simpson further stated that people cannot continue to make money by supplying our children with drugs.

Mr. Dave Smith, former Florence Councilmember, appeared and made comments in favor of renaming College Street to W. C. Handy Street. Mr. Smith stated that W. C. Handy was born in West Florence in 1873 and left to become a famous musician. Mr. Smith gave a petition that was signed by residents of Florence to the Council requesting the name change.

### **Council Reports and Comments:**

Councilmember Simmons thanked everyone for coming tonight. Councilmember Simmons asked everyone to check on their neighbors during this hot weather. Councilmember Simmons reminded everyone of the W. C. Handy Festival that begins Thursday.

Councilmember Eubanks thanked everyone who has given her input and information regarding the tennis complex. Councilmember Eubanks also reminded everyone of the many festivities during Handy Week.

Councilmember Edwards stated that this Council is not taking the "tennis complex" vote lightly. Councilmember Edwards further stated that we want to do what is best for everyone in Florence. Councilmember Edwards asked everyone to please stay hydrated during this hot weather.

Councilmember Betterton thanked Mr. Smith for coming tonight.

President Jordan stated that there is an ad hoc committee reviewing the plans for Veterans Park. President Jordan further stated that this will not be just a tennis complex but will be a redevelopment of the entire 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