



**CITY OF FLORENCE  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 18, 2019**

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, June 18, 2019. 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**

**June 18, 2019**

**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 June 4, 2019, meeting.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.
- (c) Resolution to approve a contract with JABCO, INC., to provide labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to install a new pool slide at the Handy Recreation Center, in an amount not to exceed \$23,600.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #110-939-48100, sponsored by Todd Nix.

- (d) Resolution to approve a contract with Carbine Construction Company, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to remove and repair loose plaster and paint the repaired area to match existing color at the Pope's Tavern Museum, in an amount not to exceed \$1,989.00, to be paid from budgeted Fund 117, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (e) Resolution to approve a Professional Consulting Agreement contract with Robert W. Whitten Architect, LLC, to oversee the renovation of the Hughes Building at Pope's Tavern Museum, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #110-939-48100, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (f) Resolution to approve a contract with John Phelps d/b/a John & Sons Handyman Services, to provide labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to repair, retexture and paint the ceilings at the old Senior Center, in an amount not to exceed \$4,550.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #110-939-48100, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (g) Resolution to approve a contract with Pro Rain Irrigation Services, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to till and laser grade baseball fields #3 and #4 at the Florence Sports Complex, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #117, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (h) Resolution to approve a contract with Affordable Tree Service, LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to remove dangerous limbs from a willow oak tree at or near 904 North Wood Avenue, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #188-931-48131, sponsored by Bill Batson.
- (i) Resolution to approve an Agreement for the Installation and/or Operation and/or Maintenance of Traffic Control Signals and/or Roadway Lighting with the Alabama Department of Transportation, Project Number BR-002(550), regarding roadway lighting on O'Neal Bridge, sponsored by Richard Morrissey.
- (j) Resolution to approve a Contract Proposal with Swatek, Vaughn and Bryan, to provide governmental affairs consulting and lobbying services to the City, sponsored by William D. Jordan.
- (k) Resolution to appoint Karen Sanders to the Florence Beautification Board.
- (l) Resolution to appoint Katie Randall to the Florence Historical Board.
- (m) Resolution to advance and reimburse travel expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Holt.

12. Regular Agenda:

- (a) Resolution to declare the properties located at 114 White Street, 115 N. Main Street, 152 Washington street, 810 Beale Street, 528 E. Lelia Street, 1046 N. Royal Avenue, and 2241 Chisholm Road as public nuisances and to demolish the buildings on said properties, sponsored by Gary Williamson.
- (b) Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 1122 East Limestone Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson.
- (c) Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 230 N. Broadway Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson.
- (d) Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 409 W. Mobile Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson. **(Removed by sponsor)**
- (e) Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group, sponsored by the City Council. **(This item was added to the agenda)**

13. General Business:

- (a) Resolution to approve the operating budgets of the Gas Department and the Water and Wastewater Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, sponsored by Mayor Holt, Mike Doyle and Mark Lovejoy.
- (c) Board openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business Vacancy	12/19/17	11/20/18	
Tree Commission	2 - Vacancies		

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

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

Council member Edwards  
Council member Betterton  
Council member Simmons  
Council member Eubanks  
Council member Bradley  
Council member Jordan  
Mayor Steve Holt

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that it was decided at the earlier work session to add Regular Agenda Item 12 (e) Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group, sponsored by the City Council. President Jordan further noted that it was decided by the sponsor to remove Regular Agenda Item 12 (d) Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 409 W. Mobile Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson.

There being no further changes, President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the 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 noted that the Florence/Lauderdale Public Library is now under the direction of Mr. Derrick Wilson. Mayor Holt also noted that the Uber Porsche Festival was held last weekend and it was a great success. Mayor Holt stated that the "Walk of Honor" was held last Friday and there were four new inductees. Mayor Holt encouraged everyone to visit Heritage Park and see all of the inductees.

Mayor Holt stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration will be held in McFarland Park. Mayor Holt further stated that the music will begin at 4:00 p.m. and the fireworks will take place at 9:00 p.m. Mayor

Holt noted that next year Singing River Media will once again be the sponsor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

Mayor Holt along with Mr. Dave Smith, Chairperson of the Tree Commission, presented a plaque to Mr. John Norton for his service on the Tree Commission from 2013 until 2019.

**Report of Department Heads:** None

**Report of Standing Committee:**

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

**Public Hearings:** None

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

Reverend Christopher Reeves, Greater Saint Paul AME Church, appeared and made general comments.

Steven Sander, 458 North Court Street, appeared and made comments in support of Regular Agenda Item 12 (e) Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group, sponsored by the City Council.

**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 a Resolution to declare the properties located at 114 White Street, 115 N. Main Street, 152 Washington street, 810 Beale Street, 528 E. Lelia Street, 1046 N. Royal Avenue, and 2241 Chisholm Road as public nuisances and to demolish the buildings on said properties, sponsored by Gary Williamson. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Simmons 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 Bradley 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  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 1122 East Limestone Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

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 Simmons moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. 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 a Resolution to approve a special assessment against and a lien on the parcel of land located at 230 N. Broadway Street, sponsored by Gary Williamson. 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 Eubanks moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. 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 a Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group, sponsored by the City Council. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Simmons 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 Bradley moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. Councilmember Eubanks seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

Councilmember Edwards stated that the use of chalk is fine but not chalk paint.

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

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution to approve the operating budgets of the Gas Department and the Water and Wastewater Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, sponsored by Mayor Holt, Mike Doyle and Mark Lovejoy. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

Councilmember Simmons 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 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

Board openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business Vacancy	12/19/17	11/20/18	
Tree Commission	2 - Vacancies		

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

Mr. Stuart Ausborne appeared and made comments in favor of the Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group that was approved tonight. Mr. Ausborne stated that love always wins.

Ms. Savannah Watson appeared and made comments in favor of the Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group that was approved tonight. Ms. Watson expressed her appreciation to again be able to chalk the streets.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments regarding painting streets. Mr. Simpson stated that you should ask the people who live in there before you paint streets in their neighborhood.

Mr. Terry Shelby appeared and thanked the Council for approving the Resolution to authorize the chalking of the two crosswalks located on Mobile Street and Court Street by the Paint for Pride group, sponsored by the City Council. Mr. Shelby thanked the Council for their support in approving the resolution.

**Council Reports and Comments:**

Councilmember Edwards congratulated Mr. John Norton for his service on the Tree Commission. Councilmember Edwards noted that Mr. Norton had recently moved out of Florence and was no longer able to serve on the Tree Commission. Councilmember Edwards made comments regarding chalking streets. Councilmember Edwards stated that the City has an ordinance prohibiting the painting of streets. Councilmember Edwards further stated that paint and chalk paint are prohibited but regular chalk is fine to use on City streets.

Councilmember Betterton made comments regarding traffic problems on Gresham Road. Councilmember Betterton stated that Gresham Road is maintained by Lauderdale County. Councilmember Betterton also stated that there are a number of new developments in that area that are contributing to increased traffic. Councilmember Betterton further stated that a traffic study was recently completed and we should have the results soon.

Councilmember Simmons thanked everyone who spoke tonight. Councilmember Simmons noted that the part of Mobile Street that will be chalk is not in a neighborhood. Councilmember Simmons further noted that College Street is looking nice after further work was required.

Councilmember Simmons made comments regarding blight properties in Florence. Councilmember Simmons thanked the Council for taking action on blight properties. Councilmember Simmons asked the citizens of Florence to keep Florence clean.

Councilmember Eubanks noted that work has begun on the Decatur Avenue/Darby Drive drainage project. Councilmember Eubanks further noted that she will keep everyone updated regarding the progress of this project.

Councilmember Eubanks thanked everyone who spoke tonight. Councilmember Eubanks asked that everyone continue to keep Bill Gullett in their prayers.

Councilmember Bradley also congratulated Mr. Norton for his service. Councilmember Bradley noted that he is very proud of the City's stance on blight removal. Councilmember Bradley encouraged everyone to continue to support the businesses in East Florence near the Roundabout project. Councilmember Bradley thanked everyone for their comments at tonight's meeting.

President Jordan noted that Mr. Norton has served the community and the Tree Commission well. President Jordan also thanked everyone who spoke tonight.

Mayor Holt noted that he did not eat at the restaurants in East Florence this week but he did purchase a battery from Ranger Battery that is located near the Roundabout project.

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

