



**CITY OF FLORENCE  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 2, 2018**

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, January 2, 2018. President Jordan called the meeting to order. Councilmember Edwards 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**

**January 2, 2018**

**5:00 P.M.**

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1. Meeting called to order - President Jordan
  2. Invocation
  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 .49 acres of unnamed property located behind 2487 Mall Road to the west, at the end of the unimproved Tuscumbia Street right-of-way, to be rezoned from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-B (Residential Business District) by Michael Hames.
  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 December 19, 2017, meeting.
    - (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.

- (c) Resolution to approve a contract with the Wood Floor Store LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install laminate plank flooring at the Florence Senior Center, in the amount of \$22,288.87, to be paid from budgeted Fund 117 Capital list, sponsored by Todd Nix. **(Amount changed)**
- (d) Resolution to approve a contract with John Johnson, d/b/a as Johnny's Home Restorations, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to replace the roof at Pope's Tavern, in the amount of \$27,000.00, of which \$24,000.00 will be paid from budgeted Fund 117 Capital Project and \$3,000.00 will be paid from Grant Alabama Historical Association, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (e) Resolution to approve a contract with John Johnson, d/b/a as Johnny's Home Restorations to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to replace three (3) logs at the Handy Museum, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be paid from budgeted Fund 117 Capital list, sponsored by Todd Nix.
- (f) Resolution to approve a contract with Moore's Heating & Air, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to replace a 3.5 ton air conditioning unit at the Florence Police Department, in the amount of \$6,000.00, to be expensed to Fund 188, Account #1142-42100, sponsored by Ron Tyler.
- (g) Resolution to approve a contract with Lambert Ezell Durham Architecture, LLC, to provide plans, specifications and contract documents required for the construction of additional offices in the Operations/Dispatch Center of the Electricity Department, to be paid according to the schedule of compensation from budgeted funds, Account #390.00 - Structures and Improvements, sponsored by Richard Morrissey.
- (h) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated March 26, 1992, recorded at Fiche 92-95, Frame A01, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (i) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated April 17, 1992, recorded at Fiche 92-124, Frame F11, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (j) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated July 3, 1992, recorded at Fiche 92-222, Frame 67, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (k) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated July 3, 1992, recorded at Fiche 92-223, Frame 1, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (l) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated July 3, 1992, recorded at Fiche 92-223, Frame 5, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (m) Resolution to approve a Satisfaction of Mortgage from the City to William E. Blankenship and wife, Sara N. Blankenship, dated January 7, 1993, recorded at Fiche 93-08, Frame 53, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. **(Removed)**
- (n) Resolution to approve the contract with White, Lynn, Collins & Associates, Inc., to provide civil engineering services for Downtown Streetscape Phase 3 and E. College Street Streetscape Phase 1, to be paid according to the fee schedule from General Obligation Warrants, Series 2013, sponsored by Dick Jordan.
- (o) Resolution to approve the grant from the 200 Alabama Bicentennial Foundation for \$2,500.00 to apply towards the purchase of the "Founding of Florence" historical marker, sponsored by Mayor Holt.
- (p) Resolution to advance and reimburse travel expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Holt.

12. Regular Agenda:

- (a) Ordinance to rezone .49 acres of unnamed property located behind 2487 Mall Road to the west, at the end of the unimproved Tuscumbia Street right-of-way, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-B (Residential Business District) by Michael Hames, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.

13. General Business:

(a) Resolution - Alcohol Beverage License Application for the operation of a Grocery Store with Off-Premises Beer & Wine by JMBL, INC., d/b/a FOODLAND #116, located at 1708 DARBY DRIVE, FLORENCE, AL 35630, sponsored by Robert M. Leyde.

(b)	<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
	Library Board (Reg)	Margaret Bobo	05/12/15	01/28/18
	SCOPE 310	Josh Webster	08/21/12	07/21/15

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 remove Items 11 (h) thru 11(m).

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  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

**Message from the Mayor:**

Mayor Holt introduced Ms. Pat Burney, Chairperson of the Bicentennial Committee. Ms. Burney noted that a number of items such as coffee mugs and calendars that celebrates the Bicentennial are for sale in Mayor Holt's office. Ms. Burney further noted that on March 12 at 3:00 p.m. there will be a birthday celebration in Wilson Park to celebrate the City of Florence's two hundredth birthday.

Mayor Holt noted that the 2018 "Firefighters and Paws" calendars are currently being sold to provide extra financial support for the Animal Shelter.

**Report of Department Heads:** none

**Report of Standing Committee:** none

**Public Hearing:**

President Jordan noted that this is the day and time advertised for a public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of property located behind 2487 Mall Road to the west, at the end of the unimproved Tuscumbia Street right-of-way, to be rezoned from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-B (Residential Business District) by Michael Hames.

Melissa Bailey, Planning Director, appeared and stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend the rezoning to the Council.

President Jordan noted that there will be a 30 foot buffer on this project.

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

**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 Betterton moved for approval of the ordinances and resolutions as follow, to-wit:

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

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented an Ordinance to rezone .49 acres of unnamed property located behind 2487 Mall Road to the west, at the end of the unimproved Tuscumbia Street right-of-way, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-B (Residential Business District) by Michael Hames, sponsored by Melissa Bailey. Said Ordinance follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Ordinance.

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 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 a Resolution - Alcohol Beverage License Application for the operation of a Grocery Store with Off-Premises Beer & Wine by JMBL, INC., d/b/a FOODLAND #116, located at 1708 DARBY DRIVE, FLORENCE, AL 35630, sponsored by Robert M. Leyde. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Eubanks 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 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  
David Bradley  
Michelle Eubanks  
Blake Edwards  
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

(b)	<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
	Library Board (Reg)	Margaret Bobo	05/12/15	01/28/18
	SCOPE 310	Josh Webster	08/21/12	07/21/15

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

Mr. Jones Colcock, 518 Riverview Drive, appeared and made comments in opposition to Consent Agenda Item 11 (n) Resolution to approve the contract with White, Lynn, Collins & Associates, Inc., to provide civil engineering services for Downtown Streetscape Phase 3 and E. College Street Streetscape Phase 1, to be paid according to the fee schedule from General Obligation Warrants, Series 2013. Mr. Colcock stated that the City is moving ahead with the completion of the downtown Streetscape project at the expense of the East Florence Streetscape project. Mr. Colcock further stated that the City needs to do the East Florence Streetscape project at the same time as ALDOT builds the roundabout on Huntsville Road. Mr. Colcock further stated if the projects are done separately then this would be very disruptive to the business owners in the area.

Ms. Janet Spencer, 518 Riverview Drive, appeared and reiterated Mr. Colcock's comments. Ms. Spencer stated that the Council should reconsider the \$600,000.00 that was taken from the East Florence Streetscape project to complete the downtown project. Ms. Spencer further stated that to complete the Tennessee Streetscape project will only benefit four businesses. Ms. Spencer stated that the East Florence Streetscape project should be completed before the new hospital is completed. Ms. Spencer further stated that there are other areas of Florence that are in desperate need of work.

Ms. Eva Knight, 2810 Waldrige Street, appeared and thanked the City Council for approving the contract to replace flooring at the Senior Center. Ms. Knight asked if any progress has been made regarding the signage at the Center.

Mr. Sam Pendleton, 1934 Maple Avenue, appeared and stated that Councilmember Bradley needs to support Police Chief Ron Tyler. Mr. Pendleton further stated that the City has one of the best police chiefs around. Mr. Pendleton noted that he would rather have police officers and not need them rather than to need them and not have them. Mr. Pendleton stated that the Council needs to ride around in West Florence and East Florence and see how they compare to the other districts. Mr. Pendleton further stated this City will not grow with neglect. Mr. Pendleton stated that in 1995 the Council voted to approve a one cent sales tax. Mr. Pendleton stated that he is trying to help Mayor Holt and he does not want his help. Mr. Pendleton further stated that Councilmember Bradley needs to listen to Mr. Colcock because he knows what he is talking about.

Mr. Pendleton stated that the Council needs to approve an increase in sales tax and also lodging tax and use the money for the Fire Department and Police Department. Mr. Pendleton further stated that

he was not afraid to approve increases in taxes and that he always try to do what is right. Mr. Pendleton further stated that the extra tax revenue is needed for paving streets and to correct flooding problems. Mr. Pendleton stated that the Council needs to do what is right and not worry about be reelected.

Ms. Mary Mitchell, owner of Season's Restaurant located on Huntsville Road, appeared and made comments regarding the proposed roundabout and streetscape project in East Florence. Ms. Mitchell asked the Council to do both projects at the same time. Ms. Mitchell stated that doing the projects at the same time would shorten the down time for the businesses located near the proposed project site.

Mr. Norman Allen, 1025 Pruitt Street, appeared and made comments regarding prostitution in City parks especially McFarland Park. Mr. Allen stated that the parks are for adults and children to enjoy. Mr. Allen further stated that if the Police ignore the small issues then it will grow to be bigger issues.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and stated that the people who spoke at tonight's meeting are here to enhance the Councilmembers' job. Mr. Simpson further stated that he believes the Mayor and Council are trying to do the best that they can. Mr. Simpson stated that the citizens are here to help enhance the Council's work.

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

Councilmember Bradley thanked everyone for coming tonight. Councilmember Bradley thanked everyone who spoke tonight. Councilmember Bradley stated that he also has concerns regarding the East Florence Streetscape and the roundabout. Councilmember Bradley noted that he would like to see the Tennessee Street Streetscape project completed but not at the expense of East Florence Streetscape project. Councilmember Bradley stated that College Street and Poplar Street has his support but at a later date when the East Florence Streetscape is completed. Councilmember Bradley further stated that he is working with the Engineering Department regarding the parking near the roundabout project. Councilmember Bradley stated that he does support the Police Chief and his department. Councilmember Bradley noted that he is not opposed to increasing taxes but he wants to look at all avenues before that

Councilmember Eubanks thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Councilmember Eubanks expressed her appreciation for Ms. Pat Burney and her work on the Bicentennial celebration. Councilmember Eubanks congratulated Phil Stevenson, Purchasing Agent, on his retirement.

Councilmember Edwards asked everyone to be mindful of neighbors and pets during the extremely cold weather. Councilmember Edwards also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Burney for her work.

Councilmember Betterton had no comments.

Councilmember Simmons expressed her condolences to Councilmember Edwards on the recent death of his mother-in-law. Councilmember Simmons stated that she is committed to do what she was elected to do.

President Jordan stated that he is very proud of the Tennessee Streetscape project, funds that were given to the University of North Alabama for the construction of a Science Building, construction of the Indian Mound Museum and the new Animal Shelter which is underway. President Jordan further stated that several new businesses have opened due to the Tennessee Street Streetscape. President Jordan stated that funds had been set aside in reserves to extend Tennessee Street Streetscape project from Poplar Street to Dr. Hicks Blvd. President Jordan noted that the roundabout project and the streetscape projects are funded from two different revenue sources. President Jordan further noted that the roundabout is an ATRIP project which was approved by the State that is an 80/20 match with the City providing twenty percent of the funds. President Jordan stated that the Streetscape projects are separate from the roundabout project. President Jordan further stated that he is very proud of the whole City and when you help downtown Florence you also help the surrounding areas such as North Florence and West Florence.

Councilmember Betterton presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK