

**CITY OF FLORENCE
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
January 8, 2013**

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 8, 2013. 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: Dave Smith, William D. Jordan, Hermon T. Graham, Barry Morris, Blake Edwards and Andrew Betterton.

AMENDED AGENDA
CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2013
5:00 P.M.

1. Meeting called to order - President
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 760-6400 for questions on Consent Agenda items prior to the Council meeting.

- (a) Approval of minutes of the December 18, 2012 Meeting.
- (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.
- (c) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with TekLinks, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary for software upgrades to the domain controllers which handle all the user accounts, IP addressing and Domain Name Service for the City, in the amount of \$2,500.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account #391 -- FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), sponsored by Steve Price.
- (d) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Sutherland Sight and Sound, LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary for the City Hall Auditorium sound system reinforcement upgrades, in the amount of \$12,716.00, to be expensed to 1147-41112, sponsored by Bob Leyde.

- (e) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary for the operation and closure of the Florence Landfill, to be paid according to a fee schedule and expensed to Account #267-43200, sponsored by David Koonce. **(This item was moved to Regular Agenda Item 12(b))**
- (f) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Shoals Earth Month Committee to conduct the Earth Day Festival in Wilson Park in the month of May 2013, in the amount of \$350.00, \$175.00 to be paid from the Mayor's Special Projects Account #398-41111 and \$175.00 from the Council's Special Projects Account #398-41112, sponsored by Mayor Haddock and the Florence City Council.
- (g) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into an Agreement with New Rock Church of God in Christ Youth Department to organize and host the Sixth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament, in the amount of \$200.00, \$100.00 to be paid from the Mayor's Special Projects Account #398-41111 and \$100.00 from the Council's Special Projects Account #398-41112, sponsored by Mayor Haddock and the Florence City Council.
- (h) Resolution to advance and reimburse Travel Expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.

12. Regular Agenda:

- (a) Resolution to appoint Ben Graves as the Municipal Judge of the City of Florence for a term of office of two (2) years ending on December 31, 2014.
- (b) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary for the operation and closure of the Florence Landfill, to be paid according to a fee schedule and expensed to Account #267-43200, sponsored by David Koonce. **(This item was moved from Consent Agenda Item 11 (e))**
- (c) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary to perform a independent review of the groundwater monitoring system at the Florence Landfill, sponsored by David Koonce. **(This item as added to the Regular Agenda)**
- (d) Resolution authorizing the City to declare the Florence Country Club property surplus and to negotiate a real estate purchase agreement with Guizehou Shenqi Group, sponsored by William D. Jordan. **(This item was added to the Regular Agenda)**

13. General Business:

- (a) Board Openings within the next 90 days or less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expire</u>
Agri-Business Center	Terry Tipper	07/06/06	11/15/12
Housing & Construction Appeals Board	Fitzgerald Hill	09/06/05	09/30/11
	Jack Reid	09/06/05	09/30/12
	William T. Wynne	09/06/05	09/30/11
	Thomas G. Pigg	09/06/05	09/30/11
Tree Commission	Lavetta Adams	01/02/07	11/03/12
	Nancy Muse	05/01/07	11/03/12

14. Business from the public (5-minute time limit).
15. Council Members reports and/or comments (5-minute time limit).

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

16. Motion to Adjourn.

President Jordan noted that the City Council decided at it's earlier work session to move Consent Agenda Item 11 (e) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary for the operation and closure of the Florence Landfill to Regular Agenda Item 12 (b). President Jordan further noted that Regular Agenda Item 12 (c) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary to perform a independent review of the groundwater monitoring system at the Florence Landfill and Regular Agenda Item 12 (d) Resolution authorizing the City to declare the Florence Country Club property surplus and to negotiate a real estate purchase agreement with Guizehou Shenqi Group were added to tonight's agenda.

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the amended agenda. Councilmember Smith moved for approval of the amended agenda. Councilmember Betterton seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote taken thereon resulted as follows:

Ayes: Dave Smith
Hermon T. Graham
William D. Jordan
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: None

Message from the Mayor:

Mayor Haddock thanked all the candidates that applied for the position of Municipal Judge. Mayor Haddock also thanked those who assisted in this process.

Mayor Haddock made comments regarding ATRIP. Mayor Haddock noted that he recently attended a meeting in Montgomery to discuss the ATRIP funds. Mayor Haddock stated that we

should know very soon exactly how much money will be available to Florence and Lauderdale County.

Report of Department Heads: None

Report of Standing Committee: None

Public Hearing: None

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

Mr. John Crowder, 421 Nottingham Road, appeared and made comments regarding Regular Agenda Item 12 (b) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary for the operation and closure of the Florence Landfill, to be paid according to a fee schedule and expensed to Account #267-43200, sponsored by David Koonce. Mr. Crowder noted that the contract states that the City of Florence must abide by the Code of the Common Wealth of Virginia pertaining to a drug free workplace because Joyce Engineering is located in Virginia.

Mr. Bart Cannon, 303 Ashwoody Drive, appeared and made comments regarding Regular Agenda Item 12 (d). Mr. Cannon stated that the Council should consider how the City will replace the current facilities that are located at the Club. Mr. Cannon stated that the Council needs to take its time and make sure that this is the correct decision.

Consent Agenda:

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda items.
Councilmember Morris 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 a Resolution to appoint Ben Graves as the Municipal Judge of the City of Florence for a term of office of two (2) years ending on December 31, 2014. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Morris moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing resolution.

Councilmember Betterton 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 resolution. Councilmember Betterton 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 authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary for the operation and closure of the Florence Landfill, to be paid according to a fee schedule and expensed to Account #267-43200, sponsored by David Koonce. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Morris moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing resolution.

Councilmember Smith 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 Morris 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: Dave Smith
William D. Jordan
Barry Morris
Blake Edwards
Andrew Betterton

Noes: Hermon T. Graham

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Joyce Engineering, Inc., to provide professional services necessary to perform a independent review of the groundwater monitoring system at the Florence Landfill, sponsored by David Koonce. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Graham moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing resolution.

Councilmember Morris 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 Morris moved for adoption of the foregoing resolution. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilmember Graham stated that this study is for up gradient wells and that this is very important.

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

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, presented a Resolution authorizing the City to declare the Florence Country Club property surplus and to negotiate a real estate purchase agreement with Guizehou Shenqi Group, sponsored by William D. Jordan. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Betterton moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing resolution.

Councilmember Morris 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 resolution. Councilmember Betterton seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilmember Morris stated that declaring property as surplus allows Mayor Haddock and proper City officials and employees to negotiate a purchase agreement.

President Jordan stated that this project could have an economic impact as big as the RSA project.

Councilmember Morris stated that this proposal is a win/win for our City. Councilmember Morris further stated that the economic impact could be quite large.

Councilmember Edwards noted that the City does not own the cemetery that is located on the property, therefore it is not included in the sale of the property.

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:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expire</u>
Agri-Business Center	Terry Tipper	07/06/06	11/15/12
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	William T. Wynne	09/06/05	09/30/11
	Thomas G. Pigg	09/06/05	09/30/11
Tree Commission	Lavetta Adams	01/02/07	11/03/12
	Nancy Muse	05/01/07	11/03/12

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

Mr. John Crowder, 421 Nottingham Road, appeared and made comments regarding the City Code Book. Mr. Crowder stated that the City Code needs to be accessible on the City's web page.

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and stated that there are some people who are trying to shut down our government. Mr. Simpson further stated that there is a need for unity through this Nation.

Mr. John Hargett, North Wood Avenue, appeared and made comments regarding the Constitution. Mr. Hargett stated that the City of Florence does not need to be in the housing business.

Mr. Billy Sledge, 107 Hickory Lane, Iron City, TN, appeared and made comments regarding the cemetery that is located on the old Florence Golf & Country Club property. Mr. Sledge stated that the City needs to let those who are interested in purchasing the Country Club property know that there is a cemetery located on that property and that the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery needs to be discussed.

Dr. Cale, President, University of North Alabama, appeared and thanked the Council for allowing the City to move forward with the sale of the former Country Club property.

Council Reports and/or Comments:

Councilmember Betterton stated that he is very proud that the Mayor and City Council are moving forward with the sale of the Florence Golf & Country Club property. Councilmember Betterton applauded everyone who has been working with Guizehou Shenqi Group.

Councilmember Smith noted that on Sunday, January 13, Kappa Alpha Psi will host a Founders Day program at the Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum and the Mayor of Tuskegee will be the guest of honor.

Councilmember Graham stated that education is a very important economic tool.

Councilmember Graham further stated that he is very proud of the Council's vote regarding the Florence Golf & Country Club property. Councilmember Graham stated that this Mayor and Council are working for the betterment of Florence.

Councilmember Morris congratulated Mr. Ben Graves on his appointment as City Judge.

Councilmember Edwards congratulated Mr. Gary Muns, License Inspector, on his recent retirement with the City. Councilmember Edwards also congratulated Mr. Ben Graves on his appointment.

Councilmember Edwards made comments regarding the sale of the Florence Golf & Country Club property. Councilmember Edwards stated that the potential for our City is unlimited.

Councilmember Smith reminded everyone of the District 1 Community meeting on Friday, January 25, at the Handy Recreation Center.

Councilmember Graham reminded everyone of the District 3 Community meeting on Thursday, January 31, at the Broadway Recreation Center.

President Jordan noted that the next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Graham presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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