

**CITY OF FLORENCE  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
January 21, 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, January 21, 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**

**January 21, 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) Proposed rezoning of approximately 6.94 acres located on Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, to be rezoned from B-2 (General Business District) to R-3/CO (Multi-Family Residential/Conditional Overlay District), as requested by Plantation Partners, LLC.
    - (b) Alcohol beverage license application for an Event Center Retail Liquor License submitted by Shady Lane, LLC, d/b/a Historic Sweetwater Depot, located at 502 South Royal Avenue.
  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 January 7, 2014 meeting.
    - (b) Confirm payment of bills by the City Treasurer.

- (c) Resolution approving an Agreement for Utility and Construction between the City and the Alabama Department of Transportation for Project STPOA-UR14, Project Reference Numbers 100061521 and 100061522, for Mall Road and Hough Road Rehabilitation and Intersection Improvements, to be paid with 80% federal funds and 20% City funds, sponsored by Bill Batson.
  - (d) Resolution approving an Agreement for Right-of-Way Acquisition between the City and the Alabama Department of Transportation for Project STPOA-UR14, Project Reference Number 100061520, for Mall Road and Hough Road Rehabilitation and Intersection Improvements, to be paid with 80% federal funds and 20% City funds, sponsored by Bill Batson.
  - (e) Resolution approving an Agreement for Preliminary Engineering between the City and the Alabama Department of Transportation for Project STPOA-UR14, Project Reference Number 100061519, for Mall Road and Hough Road Rehabilitation and Intersection Improvements, to be paid with 80% federal funds and 20% City funds, sponsored by Bill Batson.
  - (f) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Johnson & Associates, Inc., to provide professional civil engineering and surveying services for the Sweetwater Intersection Improvements: Royal Avenue at Huntsville Road Project, sponsored by Bill Batson. **(This item was removed)**
  - (g) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with White, Lynn, Collins & Associates, Inc., to provide professional civil engineering and surveying services for the Jackson Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project, sponsored by Bill Batson.
  - (h) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Civil Group, LLC, to provide professional civil engineering and surveying services for the ATRIP Bridge Replacement on Mars Hill Road, sponsored by Bill Batson.
  - (i) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Shoals MPE, LLC, to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install a new in-ground freeze proof hydrant, brass ball valve and handle on a ball valve at the existing meter at the Royal Avenue Pool, in the amount of \$2,000.00, to be paid from budgeted funds, Account 44410-260, sponsored by Todd Nix.
  - (j) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with WPI Roofing & Construction, Inc., to provide labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary to install a new HVAC unit at 926 West College Street, in the amount of \$5,500.00, to be paid from budgeted Community Development Block Grant funds, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
  - (k) Resolution to advance and reimburse Travel Expenses to City employees, sponsored by Mayor Haddock.
12. Regular Agenda:
- (a) Ordinance rezoning approximately 6.94 acres located on Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Boulevard and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, from B-2 (General Business) to R-3/CO (Multi-Family Residential/Conditional Overlay District), as requested by Plantation Partners, LLC, sponsored by Melissa Bailey.
13. General Business:
- (a) Resolution approving an alcohol beverage license for the operation of an Event Center (Special Retail-More Than 30 Days, License #160, For State Purposes) with On-Premises Liquor, Beer & Wine for Shady Lane, LLC, d/b/a Historic Sweetwater Depot, located at 502 South Royal Avenue, Florence, Alabama 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 Center	Vacant		
Beautification Board	3- Vacancies		
Parks and Recreation	Randy Chapin Rick Collins	12/19/06 02/02/93	10/30/13 10/30/13
Scope 310	Reginald Owens Vacant	04/03/01	07/21/13

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 Consent Agenda Item 11 (f) Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Johnson & Associates, Inc., to provide professional civil engineering and surveying services for the Sweetwater Intersection Improvements: Royal Avenue at Huntsville Road Project, sponsored by Bill Batson.

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 Graham 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 expressed his concern regarding the abnormally cold temperatures this month. Mayor Haddock asked everyone to check on their neighbors.

Mayor Haddock announced that the City of Florence is sponsoring a chili cook-off on Wednesday, January 28. Mayor Haddock stated that this is a fund raiser for United Way.

**Report of Department Heads: None**

**Report of Standing Committee: None**

**Public Hearing:**

President Jordan noted that this is the date and time advertised for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of approximately 6.94 acres located on Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Blvd and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, to be rezoned from B-2 (General Business District) to R-3/CO (Multi-Family Residential/Conditional Overlay District), as requested by Plantation Partners, LLC.

Melissa Bailey, Planning Director, noted that this rezoning is the first with a conditional overlay. Ms. Bailey stated that a conditional overlay adds flexibility with the developer and also with adjoining property owners. Ms. Bailey further stated that Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend this rezoning to the City Council. Ms. Bailey noted that there are some conditions that are required with this rezoning and if approved tonight will be included in the recorded plat at the Lauderdale County Courthouse.

Councilmember Graham stated that there are conditions in this rezoning that must be followed and the property owner has stated that if he cannot secure funding for these apartments then he will request the rezoning revert back to B-2 zone.

President Jordan also noted that this is the date and time advertised for a Public Hearing regarding the application for alcohol beverage license for an Event Center Retail Liquor license submitted by Shady Lane, LLC d/b/a Historic Sweetwater Depot, located at 502 South Royal Avenue.

City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, noted that this license will allow them to serve liquor, beer and wine at events that are being held at the Historic Sweetwater Depot. City Clerk, Robert M. Leyde, further noted that this is not a lounge license and that the Historic Sweetwater Depot is not open to the public, but this is for events such as weddings, graduation parties etc.

There being no further comments, President Jordan closed the public hearing portion of the City Council meeting.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

President Jordan asked for a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Councilmember Smith 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 rezoning approximately 6.94 acres located on Sweetwater Avenue, South of Florence Boulevard and adjacent to the Sweetwater Plantation Home, from B-2 (General Business) to R-3/CO (Multi-Family Residential/Conditional Overlay District), as requested by Plantation Partners, LLC, 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 approving an alcohol beverage license for the operation of an Event Center (Special Retail-More Than 30 Days, License #160, For State Purposes) with On-Premises Liquor, Beer & Wine for Shady Lane, LLC, d/b/a Historic Sweetwater Depot, located at 502 South Royal Avenue, Florence, Alabama 35630, sponsored by Robert M. Leyde. Said Resolution follows, to wit:

Councilmember Smith moved for immediate consideration of the foregoing Resolution.

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 Betterton moved for adoption of the foregoing Resolution. 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

(b) Board Openings within the next 90 days Ordinance less:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Agri-Business Center	Vacant		
Beautification Board	3- Vacancies		
Parks and Recreation	Randy Chapin	12/19/06	10/30/13
	Rick Collins	02/02/93	10/30/13
Scope 310	Reginald Owens	04/03/01	07/21/13
	Vacant		



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

Mr. John Crowder, 421 Nottingham Road, appeared and made comments regarding scam telephone solicitors. Mr. Crowder stated there are a lot of scams regarding charitable organizations. Mr. Crowder recommended checking with the web-site [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org) that has a list of reputable charities before donating any money.

Ms. Alison Benson, 24015 County Road 14, appeared and made comments in support of Debbie Rappuhn, Director of Volunteers for Animal Control. Ms. Benson comments follow, to wit:

Mr. Billy Ray Simpson, 755 West Alabama Street, appeared and made comments regarding “hate speech.” Mr. Simpson stated that we need to monitor that type of speech. Mr. Simpson further stated that “hate speech” corrupts good manners. Mr. Simpson stated that we can hate people’s polices and opinions, but we should not hate people.

**Council Reports and Comments:**

Councilmember Morris made comments regarding the issues that were discussed at the earlier work session. Councilmember Morris stated that the Council has a work session prior to each meeting to discuss all items that are on the agenda. Councilmember Morris thanked Mr. Crowder for his comments and information regarding scam telephone solicitors.

Councilmember Graham thanked everyone especially the students that were in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Councilmember Graham reminded everyone of the District 3 Community meeting that will be held on Thursday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the Broadway Recreation Center. Councilmember Graham stated that the “round about” that was removed from tonight’s agenda will be discussed at the Community meeting.

Councilmember Edwards welcome the students to tonight’s meeting. Councilmember Edwards stated that there are a lot of good things going on in the City. Councilmember Edwards noted that there have been several new businesses that have opened recently.

Councilmember Edwards stated that this Council is concerned with the need for a new Animal Shelter and a new Senior Center.

Councilmember Betterton also thanked the students for their attendance tonight. Councilmember Betterton noted that there are a lot of ATRIP projects that will begin very soon. Councilmember Betterton stated that he is also concerned with the need for a new Animal Control Shelter and a new Senior Center. Councilmember Betterton stated that the City, HASRA and Paws need to continue to work together and move forward.

Councilmember Smith stated that the City is making a positive impact on surrounding communities.

President Jordan noted that the City has a lot of projects going on. President Jordan also thanked the students for their attendance tonight.

Councilmember Edwards presented the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

---

---

---

---

---

---

ATTEST:

---

CITY CLERK



