



**CITY OF FLORA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
131 EAST SECOND STREET**

February 20, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Rick Slaughter called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Flora to order and City Clerk Becky Burgess called roll. Present were Mayor Rick Slaughter, Commissioner Linda Spicer, Commissioner Jeremy Henderson, Commissioner Phil Wiley and Commissioner Jim Fehrenbacher.

Others in attendance were City Attorney Bob Coble, City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford, Chief of Police Guye Durre, City Clerk Becky Burgess, Superintendent of Public Services Toby Rinehart and Building and Zoning Official Chad Bayles. Two media representatives and three guests, who were presenting requests, were also in attendance.

Mayor Rick Slaughter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Phil Wiley offered the Invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On behalf of Clay County Extension, Megan Pierson requested the use of Charley Brown Park facilities for two separate dates.

A MOTION TO ALLOW CLAY COUNTY EXTENSION TO USE CHARLEY BROWN PARK ON MAY 2, 2024 (CONSERVATION DAY) AND ON JUNE 6, 2024 (4-H CLOVERBUD CAMP) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- **Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher**
- No – None**
- Abstain – None; Absent – None**

Anna Rounds, Flora Chamber of Commerce, made two requests to use Charley Brown Park.

A MOTION TO ALLOW THE FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO USE CHARLEY BROWN PARK ON APRIL 13, 2024 (HOME & GARDEN SHOW) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

- **Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher**
- No – None**
- Abstain – None; Absent – None**

A MOTION TO ALLOW THE FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO USE CHARLEY BROWN PARK ON APRIL 7 & 8, 2024 (SOLAR ECLIPSE EVENT) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- **Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher**
- No – None**
- Abstain – None; Absent – None**

ESDA Coordinator Steve Lewis outlined the ESDA activities for the year 2023, noting that ESDA handled 657 callouts. Between callouts, community events and training, ESDA members logged well over 1800 hours for 2023. Lewis stated that all in all it was a pretty good year.

Lewis then discussed the Solar Eclipse that is slated to take place on April 8, 2024. He is actively spreading the word so that the county can be prepared in case there is an influx of people. Southern Illinois is considered a prime location to be able to observe the eclipse at its fullest. Lewis has met with the Sheriff and plans to meet with Chief Durre regarding their plans with the higher traffic areas. Lewis stated that if the weather is rainy, cloudy and cold, it will change things drastically. He stated that he is planning for the worst and hoping for the best. He will be talking to the owners of gas stations and restaurants to make sure plenty of fuel and food are available. Clay County Hospital is having additional staff on hand that day.

City Administrator Mike Stanford noted that he has been talking to the school and other businesses as well and participating in several meetings to discuss the eclipse and different events that will be going on during this time. Stanford stated we are looking at opening up camp spots at Charley Brown Park for the event.

Lewis concluded by explaining that he will keep in close communication with the State Police, local Sheriff's office and Chief Durre's office, as well as the Command Center at Salem.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE CITY OF FLORA WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed under the Consent Agenda:

- SET CITY WIDE RUMMAGE SALES FOR MAY 17 & MAY 18, 2024
- SET CITY'S SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK – MAY 20 – 24, 2024
- ACCEPT REQUEST FROM KARI THACKREY, FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL FLORA'S 6K FOR WATER – MAY 18, 2024 (6K PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE LAWS REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLIC STREETS)
- ACCEPT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024
- ACCEPT BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024
- APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024
- APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2024
- APPROVE SCHEDULE OF BILLS FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 2024

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mayor Rick Slaughter presented an ordinance regarding a change in liquor licenses requirements.

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3325, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5(A) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

Commissioner Linda Spicer presented a resolution for approval.

A MOTION TO PASS A RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SIGNATORIES WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

Commissioner Phil Wiley presented a resolution regarding gas purchases.

A MOTION TO PASS A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SALES AGREEMENT CONFIRMATION WITH CONSTELLATION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

Mayor Slaughter provided an update on the property tax refund checks. Slaughter stated that the checks are ready to be dispersed. Slaughter thanked the County for their help in providing the necessary information to process them and thanked the City staff for their help as well. Refund checks may be picked up beginning tomorrow at City Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A photo ID will be required and individuals will need to sign before releasing the checks. If the interest amount is \$10.00 or more, a W-9 will need to be completed by the recipient. If you prefer your check to be mailed, call City Hall and it will be mailed out that day. Any checks that are not picked up by February 29, 2024, will be mailed out.

Mayor Slaughter apologized for the error.

City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford presented several items for Council's consideration.

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3321, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND RATIFYING A GRANT UNDER THE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR STORM BREWING, LLC (NOT TO EXCEED \$7,966.75) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3322, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CHARLESTON ENGINEERING, INC. WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3323, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE AND RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 23-3308 (549 W. 5TH STREET TO LUTTRELL REAL ESTATE, LLC - \$50.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3324, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER WITH WINTERROWD EXCAVATING & CONSTRUCTION (\$2,860.00 INCREASE) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3326, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CATALIS (4 YEAR CONTRACT – \$11,373.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3328, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE BID FOR THE SALE OF 611 W. 4TH STREET (AND ENTERPRISES, LLC - \$251.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

Stanford announced that the Pickleball Courts are slated to begin by or before April 1st and completed by or before July 1st.

Superintendent of Public Services Toby Rinehart presented a proposal for crushing and recycling concrete.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM MATHIS EXCAVATING, INC. FOR CRUSHING AND RECYCLING CONCRETE (NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

Building and Zoning Official Chad Bayles presented a new hire.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF KYLE NICHOLSON AS A PARK DEPARTMENT LABORER, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2024, AT THE RATE OF \$26.82 PER HOUR PER UNION CONTRACT, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Slaughter requested a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to (c)(3), to then be corrected to (c)(1):

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

AT APPROXIMATELY 5:02 P.M., COMMISSIONER WILEY MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

- Vote: Yes – Slaughter, Spicer, Henderson, Wiley, Fehrenbacher
- No – None
- Abstain – None; Absent – None

OPEN SESSION

At approximately 5:09 p.m., Council entered back into Open Session.

Commissioner Linda Spicer reiterated that the amount of work and number of entries that City staff made to prepare for the tax refunds was a large undertaking and she was very thankful for their work. Slaughter thanked those who signed the checks as well, noting that it was a lot of signatures.

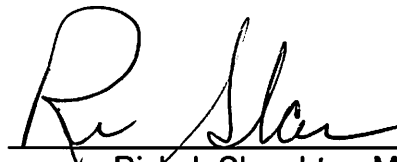
ADJOURN

At approximately 5:10 p.m. with no further business to discuss, Mayor Slaughter requested a motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER WILEY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER. COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCURRED AND MAYOR SLAUGHTER DECLARED SAID MEETING ADJOURNED.



Rebekah S. Burgess, City Clerk



Rick J. Slaughter, Mayor

Approved by City Council on: March 4, 2024