



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

August 19, 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, Chief of Police Guye Durre, City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford, City Clerk Becky Burgess, City Treasurer Kim Adair, Building and Zoning Official Chad Bayles and Superintendent of Public Services Toby Rinehart. Two media representatives and several guests were also in attendance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Carruthers with the Clay County Health Department addressed City Council to seek approval to use the REA Building at Charley Brown Park. Carruthers plans to invite the public for a Trick-or-Treat Street Seussibration.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO USE THE REA BUILDING AT CHARLEY BROWN PARK ON OCTOBER 24, 2024, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

Anna Rounds with the Flora Chamber of Commerce addressed City Council regarding the Halloween Parade. Rounds requested approval to host the Halloween Parade, along with permission to close the same roads that were closed last year for the parade.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD THE HALLOWEEN PARADE ON OCTOBER 26, 2024 (RAIN DATE - OCTOBER 27, 2024), WITH APPROVED ROAD CLOSURES, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

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

Mayor Rick Slaughter stated that he asked Matt Hargis if he would like to come and speak to Council about his recent incident. Hargis gave a brief description of his accident on August 3rd while working on a large water leak on North State Street. He specifically thanked several City employees, noting that City employees do not always get the recognition they deserve.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 19, 2024, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE CITY OF FLORA WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; 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:

- ACCEPT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JULY 2024
- ACCEPT BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT FOR JULY 2024
- APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2024
- APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2024
- APPROVE SCHEDULE OF BILLS FOR JULY 31, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 13, 2024
- SET TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR OCTOBER 31, 2024 (6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.)
- APPROVE REQUEST FROM OSCAR GARCIA TO USE REA BUILDING AT CHARLEY BROWN PARK ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 (ALL AMERICAN CIRCUS)

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

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mayor Rick Slaughter announced that the City, in cooperation with the Clay County Ministerial Alliance, has established a Utility Relief Fund. The fund will be totally managed by the Ministerial Alliance. If you would like to donate to the fund, you may denote a contribution on your utility bill. The ability to donate is also available to those who utilize ACH.

Commissioner Phil Wiley reminded everyone about the Ford Town Fun Fest that will be held on September 20 and 21, 2024. Wiley outlined many of the events that are planned.

Commissioner Jim Fehrenbacher noted that school is back in session and reminded everyone to be safe and watch out for the school children.

City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford introduced Matt Johnson, Engineer with Fehr Graham, for an update on the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. Johnson noted that things are progressing well and he is currently working on obtaining the IPEA permit. Johnson continued to explain the process after obtaining the permit. He noted that if all goes well, we will be looking at Spring of 2025 to begin construction on the project and tentative completion is scheduled for sometime in 2027.

Johnson answered several questions from Commissioner Henderson and explained the difference between the Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) versus the oxidation style design. Johnson stated that several places in Illinois are in the design phase throughout the State of Illinois which will operate under the SBR design, which is the type of system planned for our City. Johnson explained that the SBR system is approximately \$1.3 million cheaper than the oxidation style system. It was noted by Henderson that the cost difference noted by Mr. Johnson was significantly different than Johnson had mentioned within email correspondence. Johnson noted that even though this is a major investment, it will still need to be maintained. He expressed that the amount of water received at the Waste Water Treatment Plant when it storms is a serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Stanford explained that the City has been exploring the water infiltration issue, so that we avoid treating unnecessary water.

Stanford then gave updates on the tennis courts and pickleball courts, as well as mentioning that he will be meeting with Howell Paving to analyze the next step in repairing North State Road.

Stanford presented several items for Council to consider.

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3364, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORA, CLAY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CONCERNING THE RECDS INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM AND A LOAN THEREUNDER TO BE MADE TO COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE, LLC, DEVIN L. DANNELLS AND DESTINY DANNELLS, AUTHORIZING SUCH LOAN AND THE RELATED LOAN DOCUMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS (\$15,000.00) 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. 24-3368, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLORA AND THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, REGARDING MATT HARGIS, 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. 24-3369, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LED SERVICE LINE INVENTORY GRANT PROGRAM 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. 24-3370, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNSEWERED COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT 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 had a couple items to present to Council.

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3365, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE TO RODNEY HAWKINS AND GLORIA HAWKINS (301 W. NORTH AVENUE) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3366, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE – 220 W. 2ND STREET, FLORA, ILLINOIS, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

Bayles took the time to acknowledge and thank North American Lighting employees who volunteered to paint the playground equipment at Rotary Park as part of Honda service week.

Superintendent of Public Services Toby Rinehart presented the selected bid for painting.

A MOTION TO ORDINANCE NO. 24-3367, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A BID FOR THE EXTERIOR PAINTING OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY (MITCH'S PAINTING SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,600.00, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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

Rinehart thanked Chuck Behnke, Chief Operator of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, praising him for the amount of work he has done over the years. Rinehart noted that if it wasn't for Behnke, the current Waste Water Treatment Plant would not still be operable today.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Slaughter requested a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to:

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

AT APPROXIMATELY 5:10 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

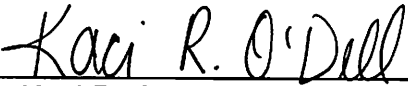
OPEN SESSION

At approximately 5:42 p.m., Council entered back into Open Session.

ADJOURN

At approximately 5:43 p.m. with no further business to discuss, Mayor Slaughter requested a motion to adjourn.

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



 Kaci R. O'Dell, City Clerk



 Rick J. Slaughter, Mayor

Approved by City Council on: September 3, 2024