

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

**September 3, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**

Mayor Rick Slaughter administered the Oath of Office to new City Clerk Kaci O'Dell. Kaci's husband, Rory O'Dell, held the Bible as she was sworn in.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mayor Rick Slaughter called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Flora to order and City Clerk Kaci O'Dell 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 Kaci O'Dell, 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**

Anna Rounds with the Flora Chamber of Commerce addressed City Council regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Flora Chamber of Commerce Amateur Disc Golf Tournament.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO USE THE FLORA ROTARY DISC GOLF PARK AND REA BUILDING ON OCTOBER 12, 2024, WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 3, 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:

- APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2024
- APPROVE SCHEDULE OF BILLS FOR AUGUST 14, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 27, 2024

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

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

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Blaine Wilhour, Illinois State Representative, was in attendance to present Flora Police Chief Guye Durre a Certificate of Recognition from the Illinois General Assembly for his many years of service as he will retire later this month.

Mayor Rick Slaughter then expressed his appreciation to Flora Police Chief Guye Durre for his many years of dedicated service and on behalf of the City presented him a retirement clock. Chief Durre thanked everyone and noted he is grateful to have always had support from City Council and City Staff. He closed by thanking his family and stated he was thankful for the opportunity to serve this community. Several guests were in attendance to support Chief Durre and everyone rose to their feet to applaud his many years of service.

Next, Mayor Rick Slaughter gave an update on the new Pickleball Courts. He asked for patience as they completed the courts and stated they are open to play as long as no one impedes any workers. Mayor Slaughter thanked Commissioner Spicer for all the years of work she has contributed to this project, City Administrator Stanford for his help on the grant and Mike Bridges with Charleston Engineering for the design and oversight. He also thanked the Flora Bank and Trust for donating the land.

Each commissioner thanked and congratulated Police Chief Durre and former City Clerk Becky Burgess on their retirement and welcomed new City Clerk Kaci O'Dell.

Commissioner Linda Spicer announced that the planning of the Pickleball Courts project started during Covid and she is thrilled to see the community enjoying them. During Commissioner Spicer's comments, retired Sheriff Lee Ryker commented that he first hired Chief Guye Durre and that he was proud of his accomplishments and the direction the City of Flora.

Commissioner Phil Wiley mentioned another water leak over the holiday weekend and wanted to encourage the community to thank City employees for their hard work.

Commissioner Jim Fehrenbacher had one item to present to the council.

**A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3372, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING PROPOSAL TO FURNISH MATERIALS AND APPROVAL OF AWARD (OIL AND CHIPPING) Mt. Carmel Stabilization Group - \$83,546.75 WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.**

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

City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford introduced Seth Flach, Engineer with Fehr Graham, for an update on many City grants. Seth first spoke of the unsewered planning study grant to be released later in 2024. Flach noted a few items that would be helpful from the City, including pictures of failing septic tanks and documentation of foul discharges after large rainfalls. Flach then walked through the other City grants.

Stanford presented several items for Council to consider.

**A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO IMLRMA FOR MINIMUM/MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION (\$67,489.66), 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. 24-3371, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORA, CLAY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CONCERNING THE RECDS INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM AND A LOAN THEREUNDER TO BE MADE TO MICHAEL S. SOUDER, INDIVIDUALLY AND DBA SOUDER SCALE SERVICE AND ARIANE K. SOUDER, AUTHORIZING SUCH LOAN AND THE RELATED LOAN DOCUMENTS MATTERS (\$72,250.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON.**

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

Not listed on the Agenda, Stanford requested the following after receiving a letter of intent to retire from Rick Gindlesberger.

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BID POSTING OF LINEMAN APPRENTICE WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.**

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

City Clerk Kaci O'Dell asked for approval of closed session minutes.

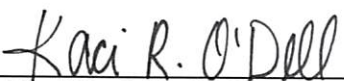
A MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FEHRENBACHER.

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

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 4:54 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.

  
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Kaci R. O'Dell, City Clerk

  
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Rick J. Slaughter, Mayor

Approved by City Council on: September 16, 2024