



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

APRIL 15, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Due to a Public Hearing regarding the proposed budget, the Council Meeting was called to order a little later than normal. At approximately 4:40 p.m., 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 and Commissioner Phil Wiley. Commissioner Jim Fehrenbacher was absent.

Others in attendance were City Attorney Bob Coble, Chief of Police Guye Durre, City Administrator/Economic Development Director Mike Stanford, City Clerk Becky Burgess, 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

Mark Smith addressed Council on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance. Mr. Smith voiced his concerns regarding video gaming and the impact it has on individuals, as well as the role it plays in regards to the poverty level. He stated that the root of the issue needs addressed. Smith encouraged Council to create a fund, using a portion of the revenue generated by gaming parlors, to help residents who face hardships. Smith explained that gaming can impact mental health and drain financial resources. Mr. Smith noted that the Ministerial Alliance has a benevolence fund that helps individuals, but the funds are limited. Slaughter thanked the Ministerial Alliance for providing funds to Clay County residents who are in need of help. Slaughter thanked Mr. Smith for his comments and stated that Council will take the matter presented under advisement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 15, 2024, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE CITY OF FLORA WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed under the Consent Agenda:

- ACCEPT POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR MARCH 2024
- ACCEPT BUILDING AND ZONING REPORT FOR MARCH 2024
- APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2024
- APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2024
- APPROVE SCHEDULE OF BILLS FOR PERIOD ENDING APRIL 10, 2024

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

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mayor Rick Slaughter presented a Proclamation declaring the week of April 14th through April 20th as Public Safety Telecommunications Week and thanked all of the City of Flora's Telecommunicators for the role they play, noting that it is a thankless job. Slaughter then presented a resolution regarding a budget officer.

A MOTION TO PASS A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CITY OF FLORA BUDGET OFFICER WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

Mayor Slaughter took the time to acknowledge the Ministerial Alliance and all they do with the Food Pantry, which helps a lot of people in Clay County. Slaughter noted that the Ministerial Alliance provides the funding for the Food Pantry for the entire County and that the City of Flora residents pay for all of the utilities at the Food Pantry. He continued by stating that over half of the individuals that visit the Food Pantry are outside the City limits.

Commissioner Linda Spicer took the time to thank Stanford, Wiley and Slaughter, the Tourism and Chamber members, the Police Department, and all others that helped during the Eclipse event. She noted that it was a unified effort that took a lot of preparation for the event, as well as a lot of clean-up after the event.

Commissioner Phil Wiley reiterated Spicer's comments and explained that there were many individuals traveling from many different states who were very grateful to use the parks, ballfields, etc. to witness the Eclipse.

Chief of Police Guy Durre requested the purchase of a new vehicle.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 FORD INTERCEPTOR FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM MORROW BROTHERS FORD, INC., (\$49,445.00) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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

Chief Durre then took a minute to thank the Telecommunicators, noting that they deal with a lot of stress and are very much appreciated. Durre stated the department has changed over time, noting that calls used to be handwritten. Durre concluded by stating that the Telecommunicators are definitely an asset in our community.

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

A MOTION TO APPROVE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING OF THE TENNIS COURTS WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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

A MOTION TO APPROVE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE PARKING LOT AT THE TENNIS COURTS WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

A MOTION TO APPROVE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE PARKING LOT AT THE BASKETBALL COURTS WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON.

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

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3340, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE WITH CLAY GROUP LIMITED PARTNERSHIP WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3341, A SPECIAL ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CEDING OF PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDING AUTHORITY WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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

Ordinance No. 24-3343, An Ordinance Adopting the City of Flora Annual Budget 2024-2025 Fiscal Year was listed on the Agenda, however there are a few changes that need to be made to the budget. Within the next two weeks, a special meeting will be held regarding the adoption of the new budget.

Stanford announced that the Pickleball Courts have been postponed, pending better weather. Stanford then thanked everyone involved in helping with the Eclipse events, noting that there have been some appreciative e-mails that have been received by the City.

Building and Zoning Official Chad Bayles presented an agreement for consideration.

A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 24-3342, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLORA, ILLINOIS AND FRANK LUSK AND KIM LUSK (KEL-KAY-CAM'S TREATS) WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILEY; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SPICER.

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

Superintendent of Public Services Toby Rinehart made a request.

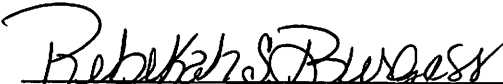
A MOTION TO APPROVE REJECTING ALL PREVIOUS BIDS ON THE DUMP TRUCK CONVERSION AND REBIDDING IT USING DIFFERENT PARAMETERS WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SPICER; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILEY.

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


ADJOURN

At approximately 5:02 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: May 6, 2024