

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF COVINGTON

ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Andalusia, Alabama, convened in a Regular Meeting on February 3, 2004, at 6:00 P.M., in the auditorium in City Hall at 505 East Three Notch Street. The roll was checked by City Clerk Pam Steele and those present and those absent were as follows:

PRESENT:

Earl V. Johnson, Mayor
Bridges, D. Anderson, Councilman
Michael L. Jones, Jr., Councilman
Andy Alexander, Councilman
Jerry B. Andrews, Councilman
Harry R. Hinson, Councilman
Tom Albritton, City Attorney

ABSENT:

None

Mayor Johnson presided at the meeting and called the meeting to order after which Councilman Alexander voiced the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Hinson, seconded by Councilman Jones, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 20, 2004 as written.

COUNCIL HEARS REPORT ON RESULTS OF WESTSIDE SEWER CDBG MONITORING VISIT:

Mayor Johnson announced that Mr. Johnnie Streeter, of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), conducted a monitoring visit in December 2003 to review the records and on-site activities of the Westside Sewer Community Development Block Grant (#LR-CM-PF-01-020). The Mayor said he recently received a report of Mr. Streeter's findings and reviewed it with the City Council. He said during Mr. Streeter's visit, he examined project records for completeness and compliance with applicable state and federal regulations and guidelines in the areas of citizen participation, program progress, environmental review, civil rights mandates, labor standards, financial management, etc. The Mayor said the report indicates the City is complying with applicable regulations and guidelines in the administration of its CDBG program, and that the City should be commended

on the professional manner in which its grant is being managed.

The Mayor and City Councilmembers commended the City staff responsible for the excellent report.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCES SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES:

Mayor Johnson announced that the City will accept sealed bids for certain vehicles and equipment, previously declared surplus, until 10:00 a.m., February 25, 2004, at the Office of the City Clerk. He said the equipment may be inspected at the Department of Public Works located on East Watson Street during normal business hours.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BIDS FOR CEMETERY MAINTENANCE:

Mayor Johnson announced that the City will accept sealed bids for Cemetery Maintenance for the Andalusia Memorial, Magnolia Memorial, and Marshall Memorial Cemeteries in accordance with prepared specifications. The Mayor said bid forms and specifications are available at the office of the City Clerk and may be returned until until 10:30 a.m., February 13, 2004, at which time they will be publicly opened.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO FURNISH ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR JOHNSON SKATE PARK LWCF PROJECT:

Mayor Johnson announced that the City will accept proposals from qualified firms to provide professional engineering services in conjunction with the Johnson Skate Park Land and Water Conservation Grant Project (#03-LW-814). The Mayor said all responses must be received by 10:00 a.m. on February 13, 2004.

COUNCIL APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR NUTRITION CENTER HOMEBOUND MEALS PROGRAM:

Mayor Johnson stated that Leisure Services Director Dwight Mikel recently received notification from the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging that cuts in their operating budget have forced them to reduce the Andalusia Nutrition Center's homebound meals by 20 each day. The Mayor said that this translates to a 40% reduction in homebound meals provided to our local seniors. He said there are currently 75 local seniors who participate in the homebound meals program; 50 who participate five days per week, and 25 meals distributed daily on a rotation basis. The Mayor said these seniors depend on this service to provide both a nutritional meal and the social contact provided by the City's delivery staff. Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Mikel has requested that the City Council appropriate \$7,800 from the contingency fund to provide for the lost meals through September 2004. He said if the funding crisis still exists in October, Mr. Mikel is considering the possibility of joining with local church or civic groups to provide this much-needed service.

A motion was made by Councilman Andrews, seconded by Councilman Jones, and unanimously voted to appropriate \$7,800 from the contingency fund for the Nutrition Center's homebound meals program.

COUNCIL APPROVES TRANSFER OF A RETAIL BEER LICENSE FOR MCCANN'S LOCATED AT 1901 EAST THREE NOTCH STREET:

Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Hubert T. McCann recently filed an application for an off-premises only retail beer license transfer for his business, McCann's, located at 1901 East Three Notch Street. The Mayor said this location was previously known as Vinny's BP and had a retail beer license already in place.

A motion was made by Councilman Hinson, seconded by Councilman Anderson, and unanimously voted to approve the transfer of the off-premises only retail beer license transfer for McCann's, located at 1901 East Three Notch Street.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES DATE FOR FORMAL CITY HALL DEDICATION:

Mayor Johnson stated that the City Council discussed a possible date for a formal dedication ceremony for City Hall. He said the date of May 2, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. has been proposed as a possible date and time for the dedication and asked everyone to consider whether this date would conflict with anything else previously scheduled. The Mayor said the final date would be announced soon.

COUNCIL APPROVES INSTALLATION OF CURB AND GUTTER FOR BLUEBELL DRIVE:

Mayor Johnson stated that the Public Works Department is in the process of constructing storm drain and street improvements on Bluebell Drive. When \$43,000 in capital improvement funds were approved for this project, the estimate included machine curbing, but in consideration of the unpredictability of the weather and the amount of storm water discharged at this location, Public Works Director Jim Hogg recommends that curb and gutter be used. The Mayor said this would allow for the control of the storm water run-off during the crucial construction stage; preventing the possibility that new pavement might be damaged or destroyed should we be subjected to a heavy rain during that period. He also said that curb and gutter provides much more stability for the street. The Mayor said Mr. Hogg calculates the increased cost of using curb and gutter to be \$9,125, which may not even be needed since Mr. Hogg has paid for some of the improvements through his normal operating budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Andrews, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously voted to approve the installation of curb and gutter on Bluebell Drive and to appropriate \$9,125 from the contingency fund for this purpose. It was also decided that if the additional funds are not needed, they will revert to the contingency fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1) Street Resurfacing Project Report: Mayor Johnson stated that the resurfacing of several streets (Stewart Street, North Cotton Street, and College Street) has begun and will be completed very soon.

2) Proposed Property Swap: Mayor Johnson announced that Mr. Steve Palmer attended the Council Workshop regarding his proposal for a property swap. Mr. Palmer has property located adjacent to the Johnson Park Recreation Facility and he would like to swap it for some property owned by the City on Highway 29 North. The Mayor said appraisals on both of the properties will be commissioned and he will bring this back to the City Council for final consideration.

3) ISO Rating: Mayor Johnson announced that the Insurance Services Office (ISO), recently reported that the City's rating will increase from a Class 5 to a Class 6. The Mayor reviewed the reasons for the rate increase and a cost estimate prepared by the Fire Chief.

4) Worker's Compensation Rates: Mayor Johnson announced that the City's Worker's Compensation Experience Modification Factor (EMF) has been reduced to .97, the best it has been in many years. The Mayor commended City employees for their hard work that helped achieve this new rating.

Councilman Hinson also commended City employees for helping to reduce the City's worker's compensation premiums by approximately \$30,000 from last year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Johnson asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak; there being none and no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned.

THE CITY OF ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA

**BY: _____
Earl V. Johnson, Mayor**

ATTEST:

Pam Steele, City Clerk