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**STATE OF ALABAMA  
ANDALUSIA CITY HALL  
COUNTY OF COVINGTON**

**ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA  
MARCH 18, 2014**

**REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

Earl V. Johnson, Mayor  
Will Sconiers, Councilmember  
Kenneth C. Mount, Councilmember  
Hazel Griffin, Councilmember  
Ralph Wells, Councilmember  
Terry Powell, Councilmember  
Mark Christensen, City Attorney

**ABSENT:**

None

The City Council of the City of Andalusia, Alabama, met in room 340 at city hall for a work session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of planning and finalizing the agenda.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

Earl V. Johnson, Mayor  
Will Sconiers, Councilmember  
Kenneth C. Mount, Councilmember  
Hazel Griffin, Councilmember  
Ralph Wells, Councilmember  
Terry Powell, Councilmember  
Mark Christensen, City Attorney

**ABSENT:**

None

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all. Councilmember Wells led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Johnson presented the minutes from the regular meeting, March 4, 2014. Councilmember Griffin moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Sconiers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL APPROVES HR 2014-002, PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Mayor Johnson presented HR 2014-002, Personnel Changes for Police Department.

Councilmember Powell moved to approve HR 2014 – 002. Councilmember Wells seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2014 – 03, FOREVER WILD DESIGNATION FOR TRAIL PROJECT:**

Mayor Johnson presented Resolution No. 2014-03, Forever Wild Designation For Trail Project.

**THE CITY OF ANDALUSIA  
ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014 – 03**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FOREVER WILD PROPOSAL  
REGARDING RAIL TO TRAIL OPPORTUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alabama is a place of exceptional natural beauty with abundant untapped outdoor recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, for nature lovers, 71% of the state is covered in forests that are home to roughly 900 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish including a variety of endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, for water lovers, there are over 77,000 miles of rivers and streams, including the Pea and Yellow rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, state residents and nonresidents, alike, spent \$2.7 billion on wildlife recreation in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabamians have enjoyed this rich endowment for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama and Florida Railway is abandoning its rail line and has pulled up most of its tracks, ties, and other improvements; and

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**WHEREAS**, CSX Corporation is the property holder and any agreement to purchase this rail line has to be conducted through CSX; and

**WHEREAS**, this rail corridor is 43.8 miles long and will be one of the longest Rails to Trails projects in the Southeast United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities abutting this "to be abandoned rail line" have an opportunity to leverage the economic potential these assets represent; and

**WHEREAS**, a long distance Rail Trail can drive economic development through tourism and be advantageous to the communities along the corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown, through connecting the communities through walking, hiking, biking and horseback riding, that rail trail projects have a positive benefit to the businesses and lives of the citizens in these communities, will improve their tax base, their entrepreneurship and the opportunity to create tourism as a business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANDALUSIA**, that the communities that are directly affected by the abandonment of the Alabama and Florida Railway, held by CSX, would like to support the Alabama Trails Commission in seeking funding to purchase this rail line. In supporting this economic opportunity for our communities, we also reserve the opportunity to make the final decision on the funding details.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

**THE CITY OF ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Earl V. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John M. Thompson, City Clerk – Treasurer

Councilmember Griffin moved to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 03. Councilmember Mount seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2014 – 02, BACK TO SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY FOR AUGUST, 2014:**

Mayor Johnson presented Ordinance No. 2014 – 02, Back to School Sales Tax Holiday, to the council for a first reading.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Mayor Johnson called the meeting adjourned.

**THE CITY OF ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA**

**BY: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Earl V. Johnson, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Thompson City Clerk - Treasurer**