

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

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**Regular Meeting**

**February 1, 2016**

Call to order by Mayor Wayne Labbe at 6:00 PM

Meeting held at Valley Grande City Hall

Minutes submitted by: Janet Frasier, City Clerk

Presiding: Mayor Wayne Labbe

Invocation: Jane Craig

**In Attendance:**

Wayne Labbe, Mayor	Present
Tim White	Present
Ronald Sawyer	Present
Donna Downs	Absent
Jane Craig	Present
Kenneth Martin	Present

Quorum was made with five council members present. Donna Downs was absent from the meeting.

The minutes from the January 19, 2016 regular meeting were presented by Janet Frasier. Motion was made by Ronnie Sawyer to receive the minutes as read. Tim White made the second. Motion carried by unanimous consent of the council members present by a show of hands vote.

<u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Wayne Labbe	X	
Tim White	X	
Ronald Sawyer	X	
Donna Downs	Absent	
Jane Craig	X	
Kenneth Martin	X	

**Committee Reports:**

Jane Craig/Public Safety Work Committee: Jane Craig reported that the Public Safety Work Committee met January 25, 2016 at 5:30 pm. She stated that she told the committee the main thing the City needed was additional protection but we also needed a way to enforce ordinances that the City already had on the books. She stated that Randy Pugh explained the Sherriff's department could not enforce those ordinances, the City would need a Code Enforcement Officer. She explained that she had spoken with Judge Armstrong and he had agreed to accept any cases resulting from the code enforcement in his court. She stated that she felt that Boyd Pugh would be the best choice for the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Labbe asked if any job qualifications were discussed for the Code Enforcement Officer. Jane stated that none were needed, he could be sworn in, use the car that the city owns and enforce the ordinances.

Jane further reported that she felt that creating a police department was out of range at this point. The committee suggested that we get two part time people for a total of 40 hours a week to patrol in Valley Grande. The Sherriff's department would need to hire an additional part time deputy because they do not have enough deputies to cover the extra hours. The cost would be \$28 per hour to cover all expenses. This would total \$58,000 per year. There would be not contract involved. This would be in addition to the business detail that the Sherriff's department currently provides. The Sherriff's department would continue to have regular patrol in Valley Grande.

Mayor Labbe stated that the plan was the same as the City had in place with the Sherriff's department during October, November and December of 2015. Mayor Labbe asked if the Sherriff's department would be able to back up the Code Enforcement Officer. Jane explained that the Sherriff's office could not enforce codes. The Code enforcement would be turned over to Judge Armstrong's court. Mayor Labbe had several questions regarding fines and court costs that need to be addressed. He asked Jane to check on how the entire process would work and report back to the council.

Tim White asked about having a Town Hall meeting for the residents of Valley Grande. Jane stated that Mike Granthum had agreed to lead the meeting and asked the council to decide a date and time. Kenneth Martin stated that he has spoken to Les Boley at Martin Middle School and had procured the gym to have a bigger venue so more people could attend. Mayor Labbe asked Kenneth to check with Mr. Boley to schedule a time around the first or second week in March.

Mayor Labbe stated that we would need to make a decision within the next few weeks because the Sherriff's department would need to hire an additional deputy. He asked that the council think about it and the \$58,000 that it would cost.

Jane Craig made a motion that we move forward with the committee's recommendation. Ronnie Sawyer made the second.

<u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Wayne Labbe		X
Tim White		X
Ronald Sawyer	X	
Donna Downs	Absent	
Jane Craig	X	
Kenneth Martin		X

Motion failed with 3 Nay votes.

Mayor Labbe stated that the issue needs to be brought back to the council before summer and vacation time begins.

**Reports of Officers:**

Boyd Pugh /Public Safety Director: Boyd Pugh reported 6 fire calls so far for the month of January.

Sam Smitherman/Building Inspector: Sam Smitherman reported having 1 house in new construction and 4 others still on the books.

Harvey Holley/Sports and Recreation Coordinator: Harvey Holley was not present. Mayor Labbe reported that he has given out 1600 flyers for baseball and softball. Registration will February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

Tim White /Public Safety & Beautification Advisory Group: Mayor Labbe asked Tim White to follow up on the lights at the pavilion.

Ronald Sawyer /Parks & Recreation Advisory Group: Ronnie Sawyer stated that he spoke with Bob Morrow regarding the fencing, John Brian Hale regarding the signs and Cheyenne Bradford regarding the scoreboards.

Donna Downs/Business/Community Development & Education Advisory Group: No report.

Jane Craig /Annexation & Zoning Advisory Group: No report.

Kenneth Martin /Public Relations & History Advisory Group: No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Mayor Labbe presented Resolution 2016-41 Fair Housing Resolution. A motion was made by Ronnie Sawyer to adopt Resolution 2016-41. Kenneth Martin made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council members present by a roll call vote.

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Wayne Labbe	X	
Tim White	X	
Ronald Sawyer	X	
Donna Downs	Absent	
Jane Craig	X	
Kenneth Martin	X	

Mayor Labbe declared Resolution 2016-41 adopted as attached to these minutes.

Resolution #2016-41  
City of Valley Grande

**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the City of Valley Grande that discrimination in the sale, lease, advertisement or financing of housing, or in the provision of real estate brokerage services, because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status, is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. Furthermore, it is the policy of the City of Valley Grande to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status. Therefore, the City of Valley Grande does hereby pass the following Resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED that within the available resources of the City of Valley Grande, all persons who feel that they have been discriminated against in any housing or real estate purchase, conveyance or transaction because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status, will be assisted to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the Atlanta Office of Regional Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Valley Grande shall publicize this Resolution and through this posting it in City Hall, the City of Valley Grande shall cause owners of real estate, builders, developers, and mortgage lenders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under Federal Fair Housing legislation, and all other applicable state or local laws or ordinances.

SAID PROGRAM SHALL AT A MINIMUM include, but shall not be limited to: (1) the publicizing of this policy and other applicable fair housing information through posting, as well as distribution to community organizations, and businesses engaged in the sale, lease, financing, or development of housing; and (2) the distribution of posters, flyers, and any other means which will bring to the attention of those affected the knowledge of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning equal opportunity in housing.

READ AND ADOPTED this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2016.

Mayor Labbe presented Resolution 2016-42 to adopt Section 504 Plan and Plan for Minimizing Displacement. A motion was made by Kenneth Martin to adopt Resolution 2016-42. Ronnie Sawyer made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council members present by a show of hands vote.

<u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Wayne Labbe	X	
Tim White	X	
Ronald Sawyer	X	
Donna Downs	Absent	
Jane Craig	X	
Kenneth Martin	X	

Mayor Labbe declared Resolution 2016-42 adopted as attached to these minutes.

**RESOLUTION #2016-42**

**CITY OF VALLEY GRANDE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Valley Grande would like to participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Valley Grande recognizes that it must adopt certain procedures and policies in order to participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program with regards to Section 504 and Minimizing Displacement;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Valley Grande adopts the attached Section 504 Plan and Plan for Minimizing Displacement.

**DONE THIS** 1st **DAY of** February **2016.**

Mayor Labbe presented Resolution 2016-43 to adopt the Dallas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. A motion was made by Kenneth Martin to adopt Resolution 2016-42. Ronnie Sawyer made the second. Motion carried with unanimous consent of the council members present by a show of hands vote.

<u>SHOW OF HANDS VOTE</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Wayne Labbe	X	
Tim White	X	
Ronald Sawyer	X	
Donna Downs	Absent	
Jane Craig	X	
Kenneth Martin	X	

Mayor Labbe declared Resolution 2016-43 adopted as attached to these minutes.

**RESOLUTION #2016-43**  
City of Valley Grande  
**A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE**  
**DALLAS COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS** the Dallas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee has prepared a recommended updated Dallas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; and  
**WHEREAS** the City of Valley Grande has participated in the preparation of the updated Dallas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; and  
**WHEREAS** the Dallas County EMA has received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the plan is approvable pending adoption;  
**WHEREAS**, the City of Valley Grande supports the enhancement and refinement of the Plan in accordance with guidance from Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.  
**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that the updated Dallas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Valley Grande.

Done this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2016.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Labbe reported that the annual check from Alabama Power has been received in the amount of \$145,868.00. We are expected the check from Alabama Gas and the cable company all of which go into the general fund.

Career day at Martin Middle School will be held February 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 12:00. He encouraged all council members to participate.

Mayor Labbe, Tim White, Donna Downs and Barry Hillman attended the ALDOT meeting last week. Mayor Labbe was then invited to attend a meeting in Dothan with Mayors, Probate Judges, County Commissioners, County Engineers and Alabama Department of Transportation Committee. Mayor Labbe explained that the State of Alabama is out of money therefore, the committee is having these regional meetings to discuss what can be done in each region. There are counties that desperately need repairs to bridges and roads. The Legislature is trying to pass an additional fuel tax to cover some of these expenses.

Mayor Labbe stated that he will be having an organizational meeting tomorrow, with Frank Dobson and Brandy Wilkerson of the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission to start the process of the sewer grant.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Kenneth Martin. Ronnie Sawyer made the second. The motion was carried by unanimous consent of the council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Labbe, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Frasier, City Clerk