**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

***Regular Meeting February 22, 2021***

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

Meeting held at Valley Grande City Hall

Minutes submitted: Kim Harris, City Clerk

Presiding: Mayor Wayne Labbe

Invocation: Mayor Wayne Labbe

In Attendance:

Wayne Labbe, Mayor Present

Kay Davidson Present

Sara Day Present

Jane Harris Present

Bruce Hughes Present

Robbie Rose Present

Quorum was made with all council members present.

The minutes from the February 1, 2021 regular meeting were presented by Kim Harris. Motion was made by Robbie Rose to accept the minutes as written. Bruce Hughes made the second. Motion carried by unanimous consent of the council by a show of hands vote.

SHOW OF HANDS VOTE YEA NAY

Wayne Labbe X

Kay Davidson X

Sara Day X

Jane Harris X

Bruce Hughes X

Robbie Rose X

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Kay Davidson / Business and Community Development:**  Kay Davidson reported that she spoke to Will Barrett at the beginning of February about the details of the 80/20 ALDOT Tap Grant for sidewalks, lighting, and trails. In the packet, included a map detailing a sidewalk going from the City Park to Martin Middle School. Mayor Labbe gave details of the grant and suggested that the council look over the grant packet that was presented by Kay and have discussions later to decide before the deadline draws near. Kay Davidson also stated the grant for the roads should have been announced in the middle of February and she would contact Will Barrett for an update.

**Sara Day / Walking Trail and Community Events:** Sara Day reported that she spoke to Keith Chandler and he stated that he would be starting on the repaving at the walking trail toward the end of February or first of March.

**Jane Harris / Zoning, Annexation, Beautification and Education:** No report. Mayor Labbe asked Jane to contact someone at ALDOT about lowering the speed limit on Hwy 22 from sign to sign, due to the excessive speed especially from log trucks. Mayor Labbe stated that Boyd has agreed to contact the Sheriff’s Dept about strictly enforcing the new speed limits once they are set in place.

**Bruce Hughes / Sewer System and Public Safety:** Bruce Hughes reported that the Volunteer Fire Department has been having problems with the radio antenna that was damaged in the hurricane for approximately four months, and they are having an issue with it being repaired. The damage is preventing four Volunteer Fire Departments from being able to receive calls through their radio. Bruce stated that he would contact the Forestry Commission to get it resolved.

**Robbie Rose / Parks and Recreation, Sports Complex:** Robbie Rose stated that he spoke to Bubba Holley and the repairs to the dug outs have started today. Mayor Labbe stated that a new quote came in from Yeargen Construction and was three thousand dollars cheaper than the only other quote we received. Mayor Labbe also mentioned that Yeargan Construction repaired the leak at City Hall at no charge. Mayor Labbe stated that he would like to have a meeting with Robbie, Harvey and Chuck Yeargen about possible improvements to the concession stand.

**Reports of Officers:**

Boyd Pugh /Public Safety Director: Boyd Pugh reported 6 fire calls with 1 call being a wreck involving an 18-wheeler so far this month. Boyd Pugh also stated that the heater in the truck hall has been out for three to four weeks. The company that he recommends repairing it is now on the council which is possibly a conflict of interest. Boyd stated that he contacted another company to repair the heater and it continued to go out and the company recommended purchasing a new one. Boyd also stated that the heater must be in service for our ISO rating.

Sam Smitherman/Building Inspector: Sam Smitherman reported 10 permits left after closing out one permit this week.

Bubba Holley/ Parks & Recreation – Bubba Holley reported that we had our first sign-ups for ball this weekend and we had approximately 80-85 participants so far. He stated that we will be having another registration this weekend and excepts to have a large turnout. He also informed the council that the delivery of the infield mix is expected to come in tomorrow. Bubba Holley presented the council with a packet with prices for a new pitching machine. He gave details of the cost comparison and the benefits it would give to our community. Mayor Labbe recommend it be added to the agenda as old business for the next council meeting on March 1st and vote on it at that time.

Kim Harris / City Clerk-Treasurer – Kim Harris presented the council with the Budget to Actual report and financials for the current year. Mayor Labbe informed the council that we have already received our license fees from Alabama Power, Spire Energy and Charter Communications for this fiscal year.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**  Mayor Wayne Labbe and Robbie Rose brought before the Council, the cutting of the hay on City property. Discussion was made on leasing and the possibilities of bidding it out. Mayor Labbe gave details of the pros and cons of leasing and bidding, and the limitations the City would have as far as losing control of the property. At this time, it is only being maintained and cut for the hay. Robbie Rose and Jane Harris suggested that we explore the possibilities of trying to acquire revenue from the property by leasing the hay only and not the field. Mayor Labbe suggested to bid it out with a minimum bid. The Council will discuss it more in a future planning session.

Mayor Wayne Labbe presented the council with a letter from District Attorney, Michael Jackson for a donation of $10,000.00 to the Drug Task Force. Mayor Labbe suggested making a smaller donation and asked the Council to review and decide at the next meeting.

Mayor Labbe stated that the ALDOT Tap Grant was discussed in detail in Kay Davidson’s report and will be discussed at the next council meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Labbe reported that he will be setting a planning session to discuss business license and the salary schedule.

Mayor Labbe introduced Wanda Champion as the new Asst. City Clerk/Treasurer.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Hughes. Sara Day made the second. The motion was carried by unanimous consent of the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

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

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kim Harris, City Clerk