**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

***Regular Meeting April 19, 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 April 5, 2021 regular meeting were presented by Kim Harris. Motion was made by Bruce Hughes to accept the minutes as written. Sara Day 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:** No report.

**Sara Day / Walking Trail and Community Events:** Sara Day reported the Valley Grande City Park is now back open and work is complete. Sara also stated that the Easter Egg Hunt was a success, and our Parks & Recreation manager, Bubba Holley, did a great job organizing the City event. Sara reported the contract has been signed on the 4th of July Event and half of the cost has been paid and the other half is due after the show takes place on July 3, 2021.

**Jane Harris / Zoning, Annexation, Beautification and Education:** No report.

**Bruce Hughes / Sewer System and Public Safety:** Bruce Hughes reported that FEMA is done with the pickup of debris on the roadsides. He stated that they will not be picking up anymore rubbish or debris on the side of the roads and suggest that we share on social media so that no one puts out any more debris and expects it to be picked up. Bruce also stated that the road coming out of the dump area has been destroyed and suggest the residence on that road and the community contact the County Commissioner in this area.

**Robbie Rose / Parks and Recreation, Sports Complex:** Robbie Rose spoke to Chuck Yeargan last week about the rough drawings again on the concession stand and he stated that Chuck had turned in rough drawings earlier in the year, but it was quickly decided that it was a different drawing that was needed for the construction on the concession stand. Mayor Labbe will organize a meeting between all parties involved to get a more detailed drawing for the project. Discussion was made between Mayor Labbe and Boyd Pugh about the video cameras at the walking trail, although the cameras are back up functioning, some cameras are still not recording properly, and that possible interference of limbs would be the reason for the cameras still going off and on during different times of the day.

**Reports of Officers:**

Boyd Pugh /Public Safety Director: Boyd Pugh reported 5 calls so far this month. Boyd also stated that all the fire trucks passed the annual pump test that lasted 12 hours on Saturday April 17, 2021.

Sam Smitherman/Building Inspector: Sam Smitherman reported 12 active permits this month.

Bubba Holley/ Parks & Recreation – Absent, no report.

Kim Harris / City Clerk-Treasurer – Kim Harris presented the council with a Profit and Loss report with a Budget to Actual spending report through March 2021 of this fiscal year for the council to review.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**  Mayor Labbe presented the council with the current sewer rates and profit & loss statement for the Overlook Hills Sewer Lagoon. Discussion was made between the council members about details of the recent high-cost improvements, cost increase of maintaining the sewer lagoon and the bad debt accrued from residence not paying their sewer fees. The council proposed an increase to break even on the cost increases and to notify the residence of the increase. Bruce Hughes made a motion to a $10.00 per month rate increase on the Overlook Hills Sewer Lagoon beginning July 1, 2021. Kay Davidson 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

Mayor Labbe presented the council with the Retirement System of Alabama’s Employer plan to increase Tier 1 benefits to Tier 2 employees. Discussion was made between the council members about the details of the benefits and the cost of the plan. A deadline of May 8, 2021 was issued for a Resolution to either increase tier one benefits to tier two employees or not increase the benefits by the Retirement System of Alabama. Bruce Hughes made a motion to increase Tier 1 benefits to Tier 2 employees. Sara Day 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

Mayor Labbe presented the council with Resolution 2021-128 to apply for the ALDOT TAP Grant. Kay Davidson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-128. Bruce Hughes made the second. Motion carried by unanimous consent of the council by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEA NAY

Wayne Labbe X

Kay Davidson X

Sara Day X

Jane Harris X

Bruce Hughes X

Robbie Rose X

Mayor Labbe declared Resolution 2021-128 adopted as attached to these minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-128

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CIVIL SOUTHEAST, LLC**

**TO MAKE APPLICATION TO ALDOT FOR**

**SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Valley Grande, Alabama is interested in applying under Alabama Department of Transportation’s, Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for sidewalk improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, Civil Southeast has the staff and expertise to prepare the City of Valley Grande’s application;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council that a TAP Application be submitted to ALDOT and that the Council commits to 20% of the Construction Cost plus the Engineering cost and authorizes the Mayor to execute all required documents.

*Passed this 19th day of April 2021, by the Council of the City of Valley Grande.*

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Kim Harris Wayne Labbe

City Clerk Mayor

**Public Comment:**  Sara Day spoke about community concerns regarding the drainage at the ballpark. The council discussed the details of the drainage problems and the work that was done in the past to fix the issues did not resolve the problems. The cost to repair the problem would be costly and the council will investigate future grants to repair the problem. Sara also stated the community would like to see the City of Valley Grande Ball join other programs so that different cities could play our teams and possibly grow the program.

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Labbe reported to the council that we received the annual capital improvement fund in the amount of $43,198.73 which cannot be co-mingled with other funds. Mayor Labbe is expecting to receive funds from the American Restoration program soon.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

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

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

Kim Harris, City Clerk