**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

***Regular Meeting April 18, 2022***

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

Meeting held at Valley Grande City Hall

Minutes submitted by Kim Harris, City Clerk

Presiding: Mayor Wayne Labbe

Invocation: Jane Harris

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 4, 2022 regular meeting were presented by Kim Harris. Motion was made by Jane Harris to accept the minutes as written. Robbie Rose made the second. Motion carried by unanimous consent of the council members present 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, However, Kay Davidson inquired about the $2,500.00 signage grant from Alabama Power that we received.

**Sara Day / Walking Trail and Community Events:** Sara Day reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success, finding 5,000 eggs in a short period of time. Sara Day also reported that she has vendors signing up and has reached out to several artist for Art in the Park which will be on May 7, 2022 from 9:00-1:00 and stating that everything is falling into place.

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

**Bruce Hughes / Sewer System and Public Safety:** No report.

**Robbie Rose / Parks and Recreation, Sports Complex:** No report.

**Reports of Officers:**

Boyd Pugh / Public Safety Director: Boyd Pugh reported 3 fire calls so far this month.

Sam Smitherman / Building Inspector: Sam Smitherman reported 9 active permits.

Bubba Holley / Parks & Recreation: Absent.

Kim Harris / City Clerk-Treasurer: Kim Harris presented the council with a Profit and Loss including Budget vs Actual spending report and Balance Sheet for this fiscal year for the council to review. Kim Harris also reminded the council to submit their statement of economic interest forms and that she will be at clerk school from April 27, 2022 – April 29, 2022 if anyone needs her assistance before then.

**Old Business:** Mayor Labbe requested an update from Bruce Hughes on the park security gate and the culverts at the park. Bruce Hughes stated that he has not received anything back on the gate as of today, but he will call them back next week, Bruce also stated that he hasn’t received an email back from the county. He stated that the material was still on back order and gave details on the culvert status.

**New Business:** Mayor Labbe presented the council with a request from the Vol. Fire Department to clarify some issues from the last meeting regarding the increases they thought were for the department. However, the increases that were given, were for the employees of the city. Mayor Labbe gave the floor to the Vol. Fire Department to help explain such issues.

Kevin Box, Chief of Summerfield Vol. Fire Department, presented the council with details of how the monthly fire call pay helps with things such as gas money and time missed from work when going out on emergency calls. Mr. Box stated that he would like to see an increase for each different level fireman.

Jane Harris stated that she spoke to the fire chief in Marion and he stated that when the council gives our fireman pay increases, it hurts the other fire departments.

Justin Barnes stated that the ISO ratings are better and that we need to take care of our people and not worry about other cities.

Kevin Box explained the issues and revenue that other departments have outside of the volunteer departments in our area.

Billy Barrett reminded the council of the expense of clothes that must be replaced.

Jane Harris stated that she made her decision, if we are going to pay this kind of money why not co-op with Selma, Dale Duke stated that Selma does not have enough to take care of that area and you would have to unincorporate. Jane Harris thanked the volunteer fireman for their service, but stated that it is volunteer work regardless of the money.

After further discussion between the council and the fire fighters, Mayor Labbe presented the council with a reasonable Fire Fighter Response Pay Scale that he had Boyd Pugh put together for the council to consider.

Fire Chief - $80.00 per call

Asst. Fire Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant - $70.00 per call

Fire Fighter Driver - $60.00 per call

Fire Fighter - $50.00 per call

Departments are allowed one rank each above Fire Fighter Driver

Bruce Hughes made a motion to adopt the pay scale as presented. Robbie Rose made the second. Motion carried by majority vote of the council members present 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

**Public Comment:** Robert Stewart, who is running for State Senate District 23, was introduced by Jane Harris to the council. Robert Stewart presented the council with details of his goals and platform for his candidacy at the state legislative level.

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Labbe thanked everyone for coming out to the Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Labbe also thanked the fire department for everything they do for our community.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

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

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

Kim Harris, City Clerk