**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**VALLEY GRANDE, ALABAMA**

***Regular Meeting February 6, 2023***

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 January 17, 2022 regular meeting were presented by Kim Harris. Motion was made by Bruce Hughes 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.

**Sara Day / Walking Trail and Community Events:**Sara Day reported that the contract for the Fireworks Show has been signed and the first half of the invoice has been paid and the final invoice will be due at the time of the show. The Fireworks Show is scheduled for July 3, 2023 at 9:00pm.

**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: Absent.

Sam Smitherman / Building Inspector: Absent.

Bubba Holley / Parks & Recreation: Bubba Holley reported that he has been getting ready for signups this week and registration forms are done and on our website. Bubba Holley stated that the banners are out, and he will be handing out packets to the schools throughout Dallas County. Registration will be Feb. 16 & 18th at Valley Grande Baptist Church and Feb. 23-25th will be at City Hall.

Kim Harris / City Clerk-Treasurer: Kim Harris reported to the council that she received an email on behalf of Blackbelt Benefit Group regarding the $2,500.00 donation that was voted on at the previous council meeting. The email expressed their deepest gratitude to the city for its generosity. Josh Wilkerson, President of the Blackbelt Benefit Group stated in the email that the funds will go towards providing essential resources and support for those effected by the storm and will help in rebuilding efforts.

**Old Business:** Mayor Wayne Labbe presented the council with the Williamson Subdivision for approval. Bruce Hughes stated that he did not feel that all the subdivision requirements were presented to the council and when it is presented the council will need time to review it and go over the details. A detailed discussion regarding the subdivision rules were made between the Mayor and Council along with citizens, Paul Duke, Mary Duke, Christy Baggett, Otis Baggett, and Brian Williamson. Robbie Rose and Sara Day suggested adding a line item #15 to the Williamson Subdivision Proposed Restrictive Covenants to be presented as: All sections of Valley Grande Ordinance No. 2015-39 will apply, and the City Ordinance be attached to the Covenants contingent with the approval of the subdivision. Once the council and Brian Williamson agreed to the adjustment to the covenants, Jane Harris made a motion to approve the Williamson Subdivision. Robbie Rose made the second. Motion carried by majority of the council members present by a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE YEA NAY

Wayne Labbe X

Kay Davidson X

Sara Day X

Jane Harris X

Bruce Hughes Abstain

Robbie Rose X

**New Business:** Mayor Wayne Labbe presented the council with a request for a concession stand bid date for the upcoming ball season. Mayor Labbe and the council agreed to begin the bidding on Feb. 7, 2023, and end the bidding on Feb. 21, 2023 at 10:00. Jane Harris made the motion to post the bid as presented. Bruce Hughes 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

Mayor Wayne Labbe presented the council with details of the invoices for the 3% sales tax reimbursements on the construction materials for the new Dave’s Market building, totaling $188.50 Robbie Rose made a motion to accept the reimbursement as presented. Kay Davidson 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

Bruce Hughes presented the council with a quote from Selma Fence in the amount of $8,865.00 for the fencing around the gate at the Walking Trail. Bruce Hughes gave details of the diagram on the quote. Bruce Hughes made a motion to accept the quote as presented. 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

Mayor Labbe introduced Paxton Reiss with Civil Southeast Engineering to the council. Mayor Labbe stated that Will Barrett is no longer with the company and that Mr. Reiss will be taking over the project as the new engineer. Paxton Reiss updated the council with details of the application process and what the next steps will be, such as possibly accepting bids in April or May. Mayor Labbe stated that Aubrey Carter is working on the lighting through Alabama Power Co.

Paxton Reiss suggested the council apply for a $250,000.00 grant from ALDOT RAA for 2023, this yearly application is for roadway improvements. The matching fee for the city will be the engineering fee. Bruce Hughes made a motion to apply for the grant. Kay Davidson 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

**Public Comment:** None

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Labbe wanted to thank the VGVFD and the SVFD for their countless hours spent on the storm damage and disaster relief efforts.

Mayor Labbe reported that the city has received the franchise fees from Alabama Power & Spire and that we are waiting on the fees to come in from Charter. Once they are all received, the city will be giving the annual donations to the Volunteer Fire Departments.

Mayor Labbe also stated that the CD’s for the City will be maturing on the 1st of April and since the annual rates are increasing, he will be chasing these rates at several banks.

Mayor Labbe presented the council with a request for the annual increases for the employees and gave each member a copy of his proposal to review and vote on at the next council meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

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

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

Kim Harris, City Clerk