MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Regular Session Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. at the City Council Meeting Room. The following members of the City Council present were: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman James Griffin, Councilman Clifford Jackson, Councilwoman Janie Boyd, and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.

Also present were: City Manager Traci Hall, Police Chief Mark Mallory, Attorney Jeff Carter, Public Works Director Jeremy Norris, and Fire Chief Ben Hall.

Also present were: Liz Parrish, Beverly Veress, Trevor Burch, Justin Ford, Joel Edwards, Diana Edwards, Ashley Norris, and Kevin Parrish.

Mayor Shoemake called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Councilwoman Blackburn led the Invocation. Mayor Shoemake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hall presented to Council the Add-on bills to be added to the Agenda. Councilman Griffin made the motion to adopt the Agenda with the additions. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The first item was the approval of the January 2, 2017 Special Minutes, the January 10, 2017 Minutes, the January 17, 2017, January 27, 2017, and the February 6, 2017 Special Minutes. Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Monthly Bills and the Add-on List was presented for action. Councilman Griffin made the motion to pay the monthly bills and the add-on list. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There were no proclamations or awards.

The first item of old business was the Capital Solutions Report. Patrick Bell was unable to attend but provided an update for the Council in their packets. Mrs. Hall advised that Mr. Bell informed her that there was a new ethics bill that has been brought up and he is working diligently to nix it.

Next was the Engineer's Report. Trevor Burch provided an update for Council.

The WWTF Effluent Reuse System Project is moving forward. All of the authorizations required have been received. Geotechnical testing will begin in the coming weeks.

The Angle Street Lift Station Project is nearing completion. The valves that were needed have been installed and the station is now operating at the designed capacity. There are still a few items from the punch list that are being completed.

The erection of the new tank for the Lambert St. Tank Replacement Project is nearly complete. There is a Change Order on the Agenda that is for leveling the foundation for the new tank to sit on. They are estimating a couple more weeks of construction before it is complete. Upon completion of testing, the tank will be placed back online.

The City Paving Project is ongoing and currently is anticipated to be under tonnage. If the project completes under tonnage, there may be more paving that can be done.

Dewberry/Preble-Rish is planning to have a site visit with the M & B Train Restoration conservator in the next week or so.

The City SCOP grant is coming back up soon. If Council will provide a road that is in poor condition by the next meeting that they would like to apply for the grant for, the application can be prepared.

Councilman Griffin asked about the Lift Station Project where the dirt is just piled up around the holes. Mr. Burch advised that they are aware of it and are working to get it restored to the way it should be.

Justin Ford stressed the importance of the SCOP grant application. The applications are due by the end of March and the grant is used for road improvement projects. Projects that are typically awarded are in the $150,000 to $200,000 range.

Mayor Shoemake asked Justin Ford if he knew the status of the River St. project that the County was doing. Mr. Ford advised that a Task Order will be presented at the County Commission meeting and if approved, the design work will begin.

For the first item of new business, Joel Edwards with NAPA Auto Parts and Best Deals on Wheels read a statement to Council regarding his concerns about some Code Enforcement issues he has had. Afterwards, Mr. Edwards thanked Council for their time and Mayor Shoemake thanked Mr. Edwards.

Councilman Jackson questioned what Mr. Edwards' statement was about. Mayor Shoemake advised it was about Code Enforcement. Mr. Edwards has been asked to clean up his lot. Mr. Edwards feels as though he has, but the Code Enforcement Officer does not feel that he has done everything that is needed. Council had discussion of some Code Enforcement issues.

Next, Mrs. Hall advised that R.L. Willoughby with Power Services contacted her requesting Council to consider approving an increase to Power Service's original estimate for providing the Power Supply review/evaluation and negotiations by $5,000. This increase was due to encountering unexpected time and expenses associated with transmission service arrangements. The original agreed upon cost was $30,000 and included travel expenses. Mr. Willoughby's letter noted that one reason for the unexpected work was due to the current transmission service could not just be rolled over since the City has a new supplier. After discussion, Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the $5,000 fee increase and authorize staff to execute the change. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Hall provided Council with a Change Order at a cost of $10,249. This is to cap the existing foundation. The project is still under budget with this Change Order by about $60,000. Mr. Burch with Dewberry/Preble-Rish advised that after speaking with the contractor, he could not foresee any future Change Orders needed. Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the Change Order and authorize staff to execute it. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chief Mallory discussed with Council a request to approve and authorize a $1,000 FDLE JAG Grant to be used to purchase additional shotguns for the Police Department. Councilman Jackson made the motion to approve the grant and authorize staff to execute the grant documents. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next on the agenda, Mrs. Hall presented Resolution 2017-01 BP Oil Spill Funds. Calhoun County is part of the designated Rural Area of Opportunity along with five other rural communities. Opportunity Florida asks these rural inland communities adopt a Resolution supporting efforts to utilize 5% of the funds coming to Florida to be used to help the six non-coastal counties and their communities that were impacted as well. The funds would be pooled together so that they could be used in the future. This Resolution has been passed recently by Jackson County BOCC. Councilman Jackson made the motion to approve Resolution 2017-01. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next, Mrs. Hall discussed a budget for Christmas decor. The City needs approximately12-15 decorations with brackets if we want to decorate River St. and the remainder of Hwy. 71 N. Mrs. Hall requests Council set a budget and she will purchase as many decorations with brackets that she can. Mayor Shoemake discussed purchasing LED lights so that the decorations can be slowly updated to LED. After discussion, Councilwoman Boyd made the motion for Mrs. Hall to have a $2,500 budget to purchase as many LED Christmas decorations and brackets as she could. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Shoemake opened the meeting for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Attorney Jeff Carter discussed with Council the potential sale of "Chicken Corner". Attorney Carter has gone back to Mr. Erwin and discussed various aspects of the sales contract. After discussion, Councilman Griffin made a motion to move forward with the sales contract with the revisions that Attorney Carter has made. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion went to a vote. Councilman Jackson voted no. The motion passed with 4-yays and 1-nay.

Chief Mallory provided Council with an update.

Chief Mallory advised that they would be providing the traffic control for the Black History Parade.

Chief Mallory discussed that the Police Department has a Criminal Justice Information Systems Security audit done every 3 years. This audit has resulted in some things that needed to be done to meet the requirements. Chief Mallory is in the process of getting those items taken care of.

At some point in one of the storms, Chief Mallory believes that the radio antenna brackets on the City's tower were bent. Chief Mallory is working on getting quotes and Mrs. Hall is checking to see if this will be covered under the City's insurance.

Chief Mallory discussed the Sheriff's red light camera with Council. Several months back the pole that the camera was attached to was knocked down and the camera was destroyed. A new pole has been put back up and Sheriff Kimbrel has asked if a new camera can be reinstalled. Chief Mallory advised Council that the Police Department does not have access to the camera feed or video without going through a standard records request from the Sheriff's Department. After discussion, it was a consensus of Council for the Police Department to purchase and install their own camera. Chief Mallory advised he would see if he had the funds

in this current budget year to do it, if not, he would budget for it in the next budget year. It was also a consensus of Council that if the Sheriff's Department wants to have their own camera put up, they need to make a request to the Council.

Chief Mallory spoke with Council regarding the use of an attorney for handling the Police Department's vehicle seizure cases. Chief Mallory would like to use Attorney Carter for this purpose instead of having to use another attorney to handle the seized vehicle cases. This is not something that would fall under Attorney Carter's current agreement with the City and would be in addition to his current obligations. There was a consensus of Council for Chief Mallory to use Attorney Carter for his seized vehicle cases.

Next, Chief Hall provided Council with some Code Enforcement updates.

Prior to the Council meeting there was a Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing for the Anders and Harriman properties. Mr. Anders was given a timeframe to comply and the judge advised he will issue an order for the Harriman property.

The individual that has a camper set up is going to be coming to Council to request authorization.

Chief Hall advised that he has spoken with the individual who owns the old fruit stand on Hwy. 20 and they are wanting to demolish the old building but were unsure of the proper procedures. They were advised that they had to have a licensed contractor demolish the building but were hoping to use some of their staff. Mrs. Hall advised that they need to get a demolition permit to do so, but there is no fee for that. Council does not see any reason why they would have to use a contractor to do that.

Mayor Shoemake expressed that he wants Code Enforcement to be consistent.

Councilwoman Blackburn asked how the Connelly property was progressing. Chief Hall advised that is progressing and they have been working on it. Chief Hall stated that he will be staying on top of it and when he sees that the progression has stopped, he will be writing them a violation and move forward with that.

Chief Hall stated that he is going to be cleaning up around the fire department and the City will be cleaning up around the treatment plant as well.

Public Works Director Jeremy Norris provided Council with an update.

City staff has cut some trees that there were some issues with recently and cleaned out some culverts where there were some problems. Staff has also been working on repairing sidewalks throughout town.

Councilman Griffin expressed that when there are issues presented, they should be taken care of then, and not wait until there is an issue. Councilwoman Blackburn agreed with Councilman Griffin. Things should be done when they are found, not wait until there is an issue.

Mrs. Hall provided Council with some updates.

Since the Christmas decor has been extended up Hwy. 71, would Council like for the flags to be extended as well. If so, there are 15 flags, poles, and brackets that are needed. This will cost approximately $1,010. Councilwoman Boyd made the motion to go ahead and purchase what is needed to extend the flags. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Hall is in the process of gathering some information on a new website for the City since ours is so antiquated. If anyone knows of any sites that they like, please let her know so that she can give them some different style ideas.

Mrs. Hall enclosed information on the Black History Celebration Dinner on February 24 at 6:00 P.M. at the W.T. Neal Civic Center.

As a reminder, the Black History Parade is Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 A.M. The City will have a vehicle in it, so please let her know who wants to be in it so vehicle arrangements can be made.

Mrs. Hall is going to be obtaining quotes to rewire City Hall. The wiring throughout the building is likely the original wiring and really needs to be replaced. The electric department is in the process of installing a pole in front of City Hall. The pole they are replacing had a 3 phase transformer on it, and if City Hall is rewired, it will save the City approximately $6,000 to not have to replace that transformer with another 3 phase transformer. Instead, the $6,000 can be spent towards rewiring City Hall.

One of the outside air conditioning units at City Hall went out after the last Council meeting. Mrs. Hall obtained quotes to replace the unit and she went with the lowest quote as an emergency purchase.

The Chamber of Commerce Banquet is on March 6 and all Council members are invited to attend. The tickets will be at the door.

Mrs. Hall discussed the Southern Light box that Councilman Griffin had expressed concerns about. After speaking with John Michael Halley with Southern Light, they can move the box but they want to make sure it's moved where the City wants it to be moved. Mr. Halley is concerned that it will end up having to be closer to the road and he didn't think the City would want that. As it sits now, the box is flush with the ground. Councilman Griffin was concerned because there were some limbs and debris that was blocking the water flow. Since the limbs have been removed, does Council want to wait until the next water event and see what happens, or does the Council want the box moved? If Council wants it moved, Mr. Halley wants several to meet him there to make sure it gets moved to the right location. Councilman Griffin stated he would go measure the road and see where the right of way is.

Carr, Riggs, and Ingram are finishing up the City's Annual audit report. Chris Johnson will be available to all the Council members to individually sit down and go over the results and answer any questions if they would like.

Mayor Shoemake asked if there was any headway made on the exit out the back of City Hall. Mrs. Hall advised that a survey has been ordered and they are waiting on that.

Councilwoman Boyd thanked City staff for getting the issues taken care of quickly that was discussed at the last meeting.

Councilwoman Blackburn asked if there was a specific timeframe that the City expected to hear back from Mr. Erwin regarding the contract. Attorney Carter advised that he would be in touch with him in the morning, so he expects that it would be very quickly.

Councilwoman Blackburn agreed with Councilwoman Boyd that the City needs to keep the employees heads up and let them know that they do a good job.

Councilman Jackson stated that the guys that did the repairs on the sidewalk on Pear St. did a really good job.

Councilman Jackson advised that there is a training on working with the youth that is funded by the Florida League of Cities and will be held in Orlando for a day or two. The training is either the end of March or first of April and gives ideas on programs for the youth. Councilwoman Boyd asked Attorney Carter if there would be any problems for the City to pay for that. Attorney Carter advised that he was not aware of any problems with it. Councilman Jackson will bring the information to the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Hall stated that she put information on an Ethics training in with the Council packets. This is not the training that is provided by Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, but is another training if anyone would be unable to attend the other one.

Councilwoman Boyd wanted former Councilwoman Veress to know that the Council is not dropping the ball on the Code Enforcement issues in the City.

Mayor Shoemake discussed with Council that if the Council wanted to put deed restrictions on City properties, then the restrictions should be in place prior to trying to sell it.

Mayor Shoemake would like to see the City bring in some people to get ideas and information for the future development of the City.

There being no further business Councilman Griffin made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

BY: _____
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Traci S. Hall, City Manager