MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Regular Session Tuesday, March 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, and Public Works Director Jeremy Norris.

Also present were: Liz Parrish, Trevor Burch, Doris Traylor, and Tony Arrant.

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

Mrs. Hall presented to Council the Add-on bills and a Grant Agreement for the Water Management District to be added to the Agenda. Councilman Griffin made the motion to adopt the Agenda with the additions. Councilwoman Boyd 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. Councilwoman Boyd made the motion to pay the monthly bills and the add-on list. Councilman Griffin 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. The Legislature is pushing hard to change the financial disclosure forms required for local officers and wanted Council to be aware of that.

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

The WWTF Effluent Reuse System Project is moving forward. The onsite testings have been completed and additional testing will be done sometime this week.

The construction for the Lambert St. Tank Replacement Project has been completed. They will be running some testing and upon completion of testing, the tank will be placed back online.

The City Paving Project is ongoing. The sod is expected to be laid within the next week.

Dewberry/Preble-Rish had a site visit with the M & B Train Restoration conservator. The conservator is preparing project information for review and planning, and is enthusiastic about the project.

Mr. Burch advised that they need a road recommendation from Council for the City SCOP grant application that is due before the end of the month. There was discussion by Council of several areas that could be done.

Mayor Shoemake asked when the manholes will be raised on the roads that have already been done. Mr. Burch will get some information on it and will get an answer to Mrs. Hall.

Mayor Shoemake asked Mr. Burch if he had any information about when FDOT was going to make the old bridge a one lane bridge. Mr. Burch stated he would check on that.

After discussion and reviewing the Paving Priority list, Councilman Jackson made the motion to apply for funding for Pennington Ave., from Angle St. to Charlie Johns St., for paving and drainage on the SCOP grant application. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Griffin would like to see Blount St. added to the paving list. This street was on the list before and it was moved down the list to do other roads that were in need at that time. It was discussed that Blount St. may be able to be done with the tonnage that was left over from the current paving project.

For the first item of new business, Chris Johnson of Carr, Riggs, & Ingram reviewed the findings of the City's Annual Financial Audit with the Council. The Council members have met with Mr. Johnson individually and Mr. Johnson is available for any questions. Mr. Johnson advised Council that the City is in a very healthy financial position and is in good shape. The Gas and Sanitation departments lost money. Council had no questions. Councilwoman Boyd made the motion to accept the City's Annual Financial Audit. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Shoemake opened the meeting for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Attorney Jeff Carter advised Council that he is in the process of drafting a new lease for the firing range and animal shelter and working on how to identify the portion the City will be using out of the larger tract.

Mr. Carter provided a brief update to Council on the Dawson case.

Chief Mallory provided Council with an update.

After the last Special Magistrate Hearing, the Magistrate Judge has sent an order for a $108,000 fine on the Harriman property. At this point, this is complete as far as Code Enforcement goes. Now it is up to the Council to decide how to proceed.

Chief Mallory discussed various Code Enforcement issues.

Mayor Shoemake asked what can be done for places when they have a continuous cycle of code violations. Attorney Carter will look into options for the City and what other Cities are doing.

Chief Mallory informed Council that he has received a quote to repair the wind damage to the communications tower. The maximum cost to repair the damage is $3,246.75. Councilwoman Boyd asked if there was a way to reinforce it or replace the damaged items with something stronger. After discussion, it was a consensus of Council to get the items replaced or repaired with something stronger at a total cost to not exceed $4,000. Chief Mallory will get with Mrs. Hall to review the purchasing policy.

Chief Mallory received the survey back on Mr. Norris' property. According to the survey, there is a dispute between the survey and what Mr. Veress believes his survey shows. At this point in time, Attorney Carter advised that this will be a civil matter for the parties to

resolve. Once the correct property lines have been determined by the courts, then the City can move forward with any Code Enforcement issues.

Chief Mallory advised Council that if Council has any questions about some of the claims in the Dawson case, they can meet with him individually and he will discuss it with them.

Chief Mallory provided Council with an update on the Occupational License renewals. After discussion, for those that have not renewed they are to be hand delivered letters by the Police Department, giving them 3 days to respond before the fines go into effect. Council asks that once the letter is composed, they be provided a copy of the letter.

Public Works Director Jeremy Norris provided Council with an update.

City crews will start picking up amnesty items in April for Amnesty Month.

Mr. Norris informed Council that he is needing to purchase some more oil for generators and such, so if they see a large purchase they know what it is for. Councilman Griffin advised Mr. Norris that he needs to check and see the price difference on purchasing the oil by the drum instead of by the gallon. Mr. Norris will check the prices.

Mrs. Hall provided Council with some updates.

Mrs. Hall asked Council if they had any City websites that they liked and would like for us to use a similar format. If so, please let her know.

Mrs. Hall questioned if Council wanted to keep the meetings at 5:00 P.M. since the time has changed. It was a consensus of Council to keep the monthly meetings at 5:00 P.M.

Mrs. Glenda Steven's last day with the City is Wednesday, March 29. She did not want a retirement party, she wanted the office ladies to go out to dinner together, so there will be a cake at City Hall that day. Everyone is invited to come by and eat cake with us.

Mrs. Hall discussed the issues of some customers in the City having more than one garbage can being placed at the road on a frequent basis. In general, if the customer's going to use more than one can each week, they must pay for the additional service. Mrs. Hall will do a letter to the citizens to be included in the upcoming mail outs, to remind them that effective June 1, additional cans will not be picked up and they will need to have an additional can added to their account. This does not apply to times where it's a rare event such as after a birthday party or at Christmas time, this is more for those who use more than one can consistently.

Mrs. Hall informed Council that the Christmas lights have been ordered and she was able to order 6 LED lights.

Mrs. Hall discussed the "Chicken Corner" deal. There were some issues with some of the property being located in a flood zone. Once the contract is drafted, it will be forwarded to Attorney Carter.

Mrs. Hall advised Council that Mr. Gainer is still in the process of meeting with Ford to try to do something with the local Ford dealership.

Councilwoman Boyd discussed a citizen that had the Building Inspector come by and tell him that he had to have a permit and had to have a licensed contractor to perform the work. There was discussion about the building permit process and requirements. Mrs. Hall will check with Mr. Grant and get some more information.

Councilman Griffin advised that Mr. Anders is in the process of tearing down the old Anders building. Chief Mallory stated that there is an order in effect for that and therefore Mr. Anders only has a set time to have it done by.

Councilwoman Blackburn stated that Code Enforcement is working and is moving in the right direction. Councilwoman Blackburn is proud of the audit results and the City staff.

Councilman Jackson asked what is going to happen with the old water tower on River St. He feels that it is an eyesore to the community. Council discussed that it had been decided in the past to sell it or have someone take it down for scrap. Councilman Jackson asked who's land it is on. Mrs. Hall advised that it is on City property. Councilman Jackson would like to see flowers or plantings done on the property once it is gone to make it look better. After discussion, it was a consensus of Council to look at different options for having it removed.

Mayor Shoemake discussed the turn lane on Hwy. 20 and how large trucks use it as a parking place for them to run in the local restaurants. The Police Department has done a good job on trying to stop that.

There being no further business Councilman Griffin made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

BY: Tony Shoemake
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: Traci S. Hall
Traci S. Hall, City Manager