MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Regular Session Tuesday, February 13, 2018 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 Sheila Blackburn, and Councilwoman Mert Stephens.

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: April Bailey, Trevor Burch, Doris Traylor, Tony Arrant, James Grant, and Arzella Smith.

Mayor Shoemake called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Mayor Shoemake led the Invocation. Councilwoman Stephens 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. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The first item was the approval of the January 9, 2018 Minutes and January 16, 2018 Workshop Minutes. Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no proclamations or awards.

The first item of old business was the Capital Solutions Report. Mr. Patrick Bell was unable to attend and provided an update for the Council in their packets.

Next was the Engineer's Report. Mr. Trevor Burch provided an update for the Council. Mr. Burch stated the meeting to discuss the WWTF Effluent Disposal System project went well.

Mr. Burch provided Council an update on the City Paving Project. Mr. Burch stated they are currently waiting for the waterline on the western end of Evans to be completed to start paving.

Mr. Burch stated he has contacted the School Board to discuss an easement on the Eastside of Evans to avoid breaking side walk. Mr. Burch stated at the last meeting the School Board has directed their attorney to contact the City Attorney Carter to work on an agreement.

Mr. Burch provided Council an update on the Pear Street Lift Station project. Mr. Burch stated the permit application has been submitted and he hopes to have the project advertised and ready to go out for bid next month.

Mr. Burch stated the State Historic Preservation Office has not announced when the grant window is going to open. The project is to replace the track under the M & B Train on Main Street.

Mr. Burch stated the EPA has rolled out new guidelines for waste water plants if any Mercury is detected at all in the waste water at the effluent in the plant. Mr. Burch stated a Mercury Minimization Plan for the WWTP is needed The plan consisted of is a series of best management practices that have to be submitted to local dentist offices, schools, and hospitals to inform them of ways they can help prevent mercury being added to the system. Mr. Burch stated he is working to develop the Mercury Minimization plan and will bring plan next month for Council approval.

Mr. Burch stated there is a minor modification at the WWTP for drying beds the he is currently working on. The WWTP operator has shown interest in reusing space at the plant for drying beds.

Mr. Burch stated SCOP applications are due at the end of March. After discussion, Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to apply for SCOP with two applications, one for Azalea and another for Railroad. Councilman Griffin seconded motion. Motion passed. Council decided Railroad Street would be prioritized first and Azalea second.

The first item of new business was Ms. Teresa Boyd. Ms Boyd was absent.

Next in new business was an add on item. Resolution 2018-01- Relating to the sale of City Property and Abandonment of an Easment on the Northwest corner of the intersection of Highways 20 and 71. Councilman Jackson made a motion to accept Resolution 2018-01. Councilman Griffin seconded motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Shoemake opened for public comment.

Mr. James Grant stated he would like to discuss the recent situation with the pole on Azalea. The City as a Public Utility asks him to go and look at services that have been disconnect for more than 12 months. Mr. Grant stated he would like clarification on what the City expects of him when he is conducting inspections. Mr. Grant stated there is a National Electrical Code. Building Officials enforce the National Electrical Code, but you do not enforce it until there is work being done or a permit being pulled for it. Until then you do not have the authority and you leave it alone. In relation to this pole the electrical on that pole falls under the National Electrical Code, the pole itself falls under the National Electrical Safety Code. It is adopted by the Florida Public Service Commission for Public Utilities. In this case the pole and line going to it means that the City is obligated to follow that Code, and is responsible for whatever goes on it in that respect. The electrical on that pole and going to the mobile home/any type of home is under the Electrical Code. Mr. Grant stated when he goes to look at a location for the City, he has been looking at it from the basis of the City is hooking a line to this, is it substantial for the City's line. That is the National Electrical Safety Code. Mr. Grant stated he does not look at it from the stand point of the Nation Electrical Code because there is not a permit. It may be that the City as a Public Utility, may want him to go a little further and look for things such as is it safe to property and humans reasonably safe. Mr. Grant stated the property may not meet the National Electrical Code to the "T", but is it safe to humans and property. Mr. Grant stated if we go a little further

with these inspections, we may be able to keep the Fire Department from having to go to a fire or the ambulance to go pick up someone who has been electrocuted. Mr. Grant stated he needs more direction from the Council. After discussion, Council decided Mr. Grant, as the Building Official is to look at the service at the address and the electrical panel. Attorney Carter stated from a liability stand point, anything that Mr. Grant learns or any knowledge Mr. Grant has is going to be imputed to the City whether Mr. Grant has an obligation to go any further or not. If you do see something and you do know it, the City is deemed to know it as well, the City needs to be told. Mayor Shoemake stated from this point forward if you do not have access to the inside panel or whatever panel you need wherever it is located, the power is not turned on until Mr. Grant has access to what he needs. Mr. Grant stated that is the way to make things safer. Mr. Grant thanked Council and stated he has a better understanding of what he is being asked to do.

Mayor Shoemake closed public comment.

Mayor Shoemake opened the meeting for City Staff Reports.

City Attorney Jeff Carter stated everything is signed and finalized for "Chicken Corner" the title work is in progress, the property should close next week and be a done deal.

Attorney Carter stated Alltel, doing business as Verizon, has offered the City $20k in exchange for extending the extension in the original lease for 30 years. After discussion, Council decided to table the tower lease offer for next month.

Police Chief Mark Mallory stated Police Chief James Baggett from the town of Altha had a few questions for the City Attorney regarding the animal control agreement between Blountstown Police Department and Altha Police Department. After discussion, it was discovered Police Chief Baggett did not have the updated version of the animal control agreement. Attorney Cater stated he would be glad to get Chief Baggett the updated agreement. Police Chief Baggett thanked Council for helping the town of Altha.

Chief Mallory stated he was asked in the past from a Councilmember about speed bumps on Ray Avenue. Chief Mallory stated a speed study was completed on Ray Avenue for 3 days and revealed out of 101 cars, 8 cars were speeding none over 40 miles per hour. The speeding range was between 36 and 40 miles per hour. Chief Mallory stated the area is posted at 35 miles per hour, which is what it should be in that area. Councilwoman Blackburn asked Chief Mallory if he could get her a copy of the print out from the speed study. Councilwoman Blackburn stated she would like to give it to the person that turned the petition in. Chief Mallory stated he would get a copy of the print out from the speed study to Councilwoman Blackburn.

Fire Chief Hall provided the Council with a Code Enforcement update. Mayor Shoemake asked Chief Hall what is being done about a property on Elmore Avenue. Chief Hall stated he does not have anything to do with that property at this time. Chief Hall stated he would be glad to check it out.

Chief Hall stated the county has an ordinance on 911 addresses. Chief Hall stated he and Attorney Carter are working on having everything together for a version adapted to the City and have 1st reading next month.

Chief Hall stated 8 locations are scheduled for hearing on the 28th of this month.

Public Works Director, Jeremy Norris provided Council with an update. Mr. Norris brought a sample of what the manholes were lined with by Gulf Coast Underground. Councilwoman Blackburn asked if all manholes were complete. Mr. Norris stated all 9 manholes requested to be lined were complete.

Mr. Norris stated he had gotten information on the used truck, the truck has 51k miles on it. Mr. Norris stated a new truck would be better because we knew what we would be getting. Mr. Norris stated the new truck went up 11k after the fiscal year budget. Mrs. Hall stated the current bucket truck the City has is safe and functional for use. Mrs. Hall suggested during the next budget time roll the 120k already allotted for the new bucket truck and add 11k to purchase the new bucket truck. The current contract states it is good for 3 years. After discussion, it was decided to purchase a new bucket truck during the next budget year, by rolling over the 120k already allotted for the new bucket truck an add 11k to purchase the new bucket truck.

Councilman Griffin stated the manholes lined have made such a difference by the hospital. Councilman Griffin stated it would be a great idea to have more manholes lined in the future. After discussion, it was decided Mr. Norris would get a cost for more manholes to be lined in the future for Council.

Mrs. Hall provided Council with an update. Mrs. Hall reminded Council the annual Black History Parade will be Saturday at 10:00.

Mrs. Hall stated Gulf Power has scheduled their transmission repair for the week of March 5th. Mrs. Hall stated a gentleman would be coming here from Power Services to make sure there are no issues with the transmission repair.

Mrs. Hall stated she has given everyone an invitation to the Chamber Banquet on March 5th.

Mrs. Hall stated she emailed DOT about hanging decorations on the Lake Hilda Bridge. DOT would like to be provided a Google Earth map of the bridge, photos, and an explanation of how the City would like to hang decorations on the bridge. Mrs. Hall and Mr. Norris are in the process of getting to information to DOT for an answer regarding hanging decorations on the Lake Hilda Bridge.

Mrs. Hall stated she has emailed her contact about the Christmas tree in Magnolia Square and he stated it would be cheaper for the City to buy a new Christmas tree rather than him try to refurbish the one the City currently has. Mrs. Hall stated she asked for a quote and was given a quote that was good until March. Mrs. Hall asked if the City could trade in the current tree for any kind of credit and was told they do not take trees for trade any longer. Councilman Griffin asked if someone could pick the tree up to save on shipping. Mrs. Hall stated yes the tree would defiantly be able to be picked up. After discussion, Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to

buy a new Christmas tree for Magnolia Square. Councilman Jackson seconded motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Shoemake closed City Staff Reports.

Mayor Shoemake opened for Councilmember Comments.

Councilwoman Stephens had none.

Councilman Griffin had none.

Councilwoman Blackburn stated it was a good meeting.

Councilman Jackson stated around Christmas he was given incorrect information and it is all taken care of now.

Councilman Jackson stated he would like to see one of the buildings from Bay Ford that will be moved in the future be used for the new animal shelter. Chief Mallory stated he had not heard from Mr. McMillian in reference to the animal shelter.

Councilman Jackson stated he would like to have a workshop soon to discuss options for the Bay Ford property purchased by the City. Councilman Jackson stated he would like to see something that let people know this is Blountstown.

Mayor Shoemake asked when the sidewalks on Finlay going to be fixed/replaced. Mr. Norris stated it is in the works to be fixed. Mayor Shoemake asked if the City would have to pay for the sidewalk to be fixed. Mrs. Hall stated the sidewalk would be paid for with a grant. Mayor Shoemake asked if Mr. Norris has a list of the sidewalks in the City that need work. Mr. Norris stated yes, he has a list of the sidewalks in the City that need work. Mayor Shoemake stated he would like to see the sidewalk fixed in a timely manner.

There being no further business Councilman Griffin made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 6:25 P.M.

BY: Tony Shoemake
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

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