CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
300 Martin Luther King Blvd.
July 18, 2023
TIME: 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER
   President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:00 pm and asked Mr. Jones to call the roll.

2. ROLL CALL
   The Mayor and all City Council members were present.
   1. George Allen, Erica Norris, Tim Aja, Todd Rauch, Eddie Smith

3. INVOCATION
   President Smith provided the invocation.
   1. C. E. "Eddie" Smith, Jr. - City Council President.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   Mr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.
   1. Russell A. Jones, CMC - City Clerk.

5. READING OF MINUTES
   1. Minutes from the 07-11-23 council meeting.
      President Smith stated that a copy of the minutes had been previously received by the council and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. President Smith then asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. President Smith stated having no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR
   1. City's Financial Summary Report for June 2023.

Mayor Fuller asked if the council had any questions about the city's financial summary report to ask Cindy Boyd, Mr. Motley or himself about it.
Mayor Fuller also reminded everyone that the coming weekend would be the "Tax Free, Back to School" shopping weekend.

2. June 2023 Monthly Building Report.

Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the June 2023 monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.

8. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS (Limit comments to five minutes or less)

None.

9. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

President Smith asked Mr. Jones to present the general business.

1. Request Alcohol License - Big Dad LLC dba Big Dad Grocery, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

2. Request Alcohol License - Big Dad LLC dba Big Dad Package, Lounge Retail Liquor Class 2 (Package Store).

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

3. Request Downtown Street Closure for the 4th Annual Songwriters Festival on 10-06 and 10-07-23.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

12. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Lanorris Jones to present the bids.

1. Columbus Parkway North Access Road - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 185-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

2. Uniform Cleaning - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 186-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

3. Sportsplex Aquatic Center Lighting Project - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 187-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

13. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Emergency Purchase - Sewer Line Repair near Arrowhead Subdivision - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 188-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

2. Purchase - Meraki Cameras and Equipment - Omnia Contract #2018011-01 - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 189-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

3. Approve Amending Resolution 126-23; Arrangement Letter with Critical Insights Consulting, LLC - ADMIN.

During discussion, Ms. Norris stated that she was absent when resolution 126-23 was approved by the council giving Critical Insights almost $700,000 for a third time. Ms. Norris then stated that she was told after the first time they were given that amount of money, Dr. Evans would be turning the program over to the individuals involved and her group would not be involved any longer. Ms. Norris continued that the second year the same amount came before the council again, and she questioned it because the program had been in place for a year, and the amount did not decrease, which was concerning to her. Ms. Norris explained she was told by city administration that the second time would be the last time Critical Insights would be requesting this amount of money from the city, and now here we are again for a third time. Ms. Norris closed by stating she does believe it is great to have the opioid settlement money pay for a portion of this, but she simply is questioning giving almost $2 million to this group, and she doesn't see $2 million worth of results. Mr. Rauch stated that a few months ago he was at the Regional Council of Governments Association annual convention with Dr. Evans, Chief Healey, and Captain Amerson, and there are so many other communities in the state that look to Opelika as a beacon in community policing and building relationships. Mr. Rauch closed by stating that he has seen it first hand from the communities that don't have a Dr. Evans, a Chief Healey, and a Captain Amerson, that they very much want to emulate this program because of it's success. President Smith then asked Mr. Gunter to reintroduce the resolution. Mr. Gunter reintroduced the resolution stating that the only amendment to the original resolution would be that instead of 100% of the funds to be paid coming from the unassigned fund balance, this would now be 75% coming from the unassigned fund balance and 25% coming from the opioid settlement fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 190-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

4. Approve Engagement Letter with Samford & Denson, LLP - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 191-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

5. Approve Project Agreement with Opelika City Schools for Improvements to Bulldog Stadium and Bulldog Baseball Field - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 192-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

6. Approve MOU with Opelika City Schools for School Resource Officer Program - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 193-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

7. Approve Nomination of Steven Chapman to the Lee County Board of Equalization.

RESOLUTION NO. 194-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

8. Repeal Resolution 173-23 and Approve New Agreement with Valley Rescue Mission, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 195-23
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

14. ORDINANCES

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: Gateway Drive & Interstate 85, 14.86 Acres, from C-2 to PUD - 2nd Reading - (Tabled).

President Smith asked if there was motion to remove the item from the table. Mr. Allen made a motion to remove the item from the table. Mr. Aja seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO REMOVE ITEM FROM THE TABLE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

President Smith then asked if there was a motion to approve the rezoning. Mr. Aja made a motion to approve. Ms. Norris seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-23
SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

2. Rename Media General Drive to Wyndham Industrial Court - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 022-23

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of July 18, 2023 are hereby adopted and approved this the 1st day of August, 2023.

/s/ Eddie Smith

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President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:
/s/ Russell A. Jones, CMC

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City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Courage, the choice and willingness to confront agony, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation.

   President Smith read the character trait of the month and asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

2. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

The council meeting ended at 06:21 pm.