



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

November 7, 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

Mr. Cobb provided the invocation.

1. Daryl Cobb from the Mustard Seed Faith Center.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ann Bradley and Konner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Ann Bradley Warren and Konner Key from Jeter Primary School.

5. READING OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the 10-17-23 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. Aja 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

Mayor Fuller reminded everyone that all city buildings would be closed on Friday November 10, 2023, for Veterans Day. Mayor Fuller then invited all veterans in the community to the Opelika Public Library for a complimentary

breakfast at 9:00 am and a program at 10:00 am on Friday, November 10, 2023, featuring Ward 3 Councilman and Navy Reserve Commander Timothy "Tang" Aja, as the keynote speaker.

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

Linburgh B. Jackson of 814 N. College Street, Auburn, Alabama spoke first. Mr. Jackson first gave some handouts to the Mayor and council and then stated that the handout was a plan and probable solution to the problems at 1900 S Long Street. Mr. Jackson stated the contractor involved with the plan was very qualified and could most likely remedy the ongoing situation. Mr. Jackson then informed the council that due to this issue with Mrs. Jones not being able to finish the addition to her business over the last 3 months, she had to start another job at night so that she could stay at home with her disabled husband during the day. Mr. Jackson also stated that Mrs. Jones would need to pay an additional one thousand dollars before the contractor began to implement the plan before them. Mr. Jackson then stated this entire situation could easily be resolved by doing the right thing and Mrs. Jones deserved to be treated fairly. Mr. Jackson also thanked Mr. Allen and Ms. Norris for showing up and taking interest. Mr. Jackson closed by stating that he had a problem with the city refusing to deal with him because he didn't have a license, he had known Mrs. Jones since they were children and had been trying to help a friend, and they needed to help her out as a tax-paying citizen.

Ali Rauch, President and CEO of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, of 2240 Lakeview Drive spoke next. Mrs. Rauch stated that they had contacted all businesses and residents that would be affected by the street closures for the Christmas Parade/Snopelika event. Mrs. Rauch also stated they were asking to close the streets a little earlier than last year due to the increased number of people that attended last year and for safety purposes recommended by the Opelika Police Department and Lee County Emergency Management Agency. Mrs. Rauch then stated they also had secured a temporary Verizon tower that would be placed downtown so that the police network would not go down again as it did last year due to the number of people downtown, and they were also considering a shuttle service due to the issues with parking last year as well. Mrs. Rauch closed by stating they would love for the Mayor and council to all join them for the parade and read the poem before the tree lighting, and requested them to please RSVP.

9. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request from The Surcie Shoppe for Special Event on 11-11-23.

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. Request from Red Clay Brewing Company for Special Event on 11-15-23.

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

3. Request from Opelika Chamber of Commerce for the Annual Christmas Parade, Snopelika, and Tree Lighting on 12-01-23.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
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

12. **AWARDING OF BIDS**

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. Southern Yellow Pine Wooden Utility Poles - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 321-23

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

2. Opelika Police Department Landscaping Project - PD.

RESOLUTION NO. 322-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

3. South 10th Street and Avenue C Infrastructure Improvement Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 323-23

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. Intersection Improvements to Cunningham Drive and Frederick Road - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 324-23

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

13. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 325-23

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

2. Purchase - Seventeen (17) Sets of Turn Out Gear - HGACBuy Contract #EE08-19 - FD.

RESOLUTION NO. 326-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
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. Purchase - VMWare Subscription License - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 327-23

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

4. Purchase - Duo Advantage Subscription License - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 328-23

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

5. Purchase - One (1) John Deere 5060E Cab Utility Tractor for P&R - Sourcewell Contract #110719-JDC - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 329-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

6. Purchase - Two (2) 2023 Ford F150 Supercab Pickup Trucks - State of AL Contract #T191 - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 330-23

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

7. Purchase - Two (2) E35 25HP R2-Series Bobcat Compact Excavators - Sourcewell Contract #040319-CEC - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 331-23

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

8. Approve Application for ATRIP II Grant Funds for the Intersection Improvement of Frederick Road and Gateway Drive - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 332-23

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

9. Approve Maintenance Agreement with ALDOT for New Columbus Parkway North Access Road - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 333-23

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

10. Approve Certain Tax Abatement and Exemptions for Pharmavite, LLC - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 334-23

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

11. Authorize Engagement Letter with Himmelwright, Huguley, & Boles, LLC for Annual Auditing Services - ACCT.

RESOLUTION NO. 335-23

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

12. Authorize Loan to the Indian Pines Public Park Authority - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 336-23

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

13. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2024 with American Red Cross - East Alabama Chapter.

RESOLUTION NO. 337-23

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

14. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2024 with Arts Association of East Alabama - (Tabled).

Mr. Gunter presented the resolution. President Smith reminded the council that the item was still on the table, and without a motion to remove it from the table, it would remain there. President Smith then asked if anyone had received any of the information requested from the Arts Association. There was no answer, and no motion was given.

15. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2024 with Keep Opelika Beautiful.

RESOLUTION NO. 338-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

16. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2024 with Opelika Main Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 339-23

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

17. Special Appropriation to the Opelika Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

RESOLUTION NO. 340-23

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. Approve Annexation Petition by Deidre W. Jones and Jason F. Jones, .75 Acres, 6551 Highway 431 North - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Smith asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Allen introduced the ordinance.

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of November 7, 2023 are hereby adopted and approved this the 14th day of November, 2023.

/s/ Eddie Smith

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, CMC

City Clerk

- 1. Character Trait of the Month - Gratitude, the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.
President Smith read the character trait of the month, asked if there was any other business to come before the council, and then 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 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

The council meeting ended at 06:25 pm.