



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

November 16, 2021

TIME: 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 07:00 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, Todd Rauch, Eddie Smith

3. INVOCATION

Jarel Fryer provided the invocation.

1. Jarel Fryer from Greater Peace Baptist Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jordan Greathouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Jordan Greathouse from Southview Primary.

5. READING OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the 11-02-21 council meeting.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Fuller first announced that, pending city council approval later in the agenda, Cumberland Plastic Systems would be expanding their existing manufacturing facility in Opelika's northeast industrial park, and the planned \$5.7 million expansion would create 60,000 square feet of new warehouse space and 25 new jobs.

1. October 2021 Monthly Building Report.

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

2. Recognize Cory Bracknell, Brandon Lee, and Kevin Baxter with Certificates of Bravery.

Mayor Fuller asked Opelika Police Chief Healey, Captain Clifton, Sergeant Alfred White, Victim Services Coordinator Melissa Cupit, Lee County District Attorney Jessica Ventiere along with Mr. Bracknell, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Baxter to all come up front. Mayor Fuller then read a description of an incident involving a female victim of domestic violence abuse, where all three men were able to help rescue the victim from her abuser, saving her life, and then subsequently all testify to help bring the accused to justice. Sergeant White stated that all three were good Samaritans and did what all good "Opelicians" would do. Captain Clifton and Chief Healey also echoed that they saved a life and appreciate them for their selfless actions. District Attorney Ventiere also thanked Chief Assistant District Attorney Clay Thomas for prosecuting the case and getting the desired outcome for the victim, as well as thanking the Opelika Police Department for their work as well. Mayor Fuller closed by thanking Mr. Bracknell, Mr. Lee and Mr. Baxter for a job well done.

3. Proclamation for November 2021 as National Home Care Month.

Mayor Fuller then invited Donnie Matthews and Brooke Wascom from Home Care of East Alabama Medical Center up front. Mayor Fuller then read and presented Mr. Matthews and Ms. Wascom the proclamation.

4. Recognize OHS Cheerleaders for winning the State of Alabama South Regional Championship.

Mayor Fuller then invited Dr. Seymore, Coach Emmaree Wilson, Coach Dayna Justice and the entire Opelika High Cheerleading Squad up front. Mayor Fuller then asked Coach Wilson to introduce each member as he passed out a gift bag to them. Dr. Seymore then congratulated them and stated they had done something that no other cheerleading team from Opelika has done before by winning the South Region and going to the State Championship in cheerleading.

5. Keep Opelika Beautiful - Yard of the Year Awards.

Mayor Fuller then asked Tipi Miller to come up front. Tipi Miller also brought Teresa Ogletree and Bruce Heath from Keep Opelika Beautiful up front to present the awards. Mayor Fuller then called out the winners from each ward and they each were presented a plaque.

6. Appoint John Sweatman to the Opelika Planning Commission.

Mayor Fuller informed the City Council he would be appointing John Sweatman to the Planning Commission to replace Derek Lee as the city employee.

8. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

(Limit comments to five minutes or less)

Paul Willis, Chairman of the Board for Storybook Farm, spoke first. Mr. Willis stated he was opposed to the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and listed many reasons including a lack of communication from Trademark Quality Homes on requests made by Storybook Farm. Mr. Willis stated that if Trademark Quality Homes wanted to be a good neighbor they should have no problem with a postponement of the vote, and also asked the council to consider a postponement to allow them more time for discussion with Trademark on their requests.

Marty Williams, CPA and Board Member for Storybook Farm, spoke next. Mr. Williams stated he was the treasurer for Storybook Farm and has been on the board for thirteen years, seeing a lot of ups and downs for the farm over the years, including as of October this year being in the red \$112,000. Mr. Williams stated he was opposed to the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm for safety and financial reasons.

Brasher Miller of 3309 Stonybrook Lane spoke next. Mr. Miller stated he was in favor of the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and development of the property, and then listed many reasons including it being an economic win for the City of Opelika, including up to \$250,000 in annual property taxes and all homes being built being worth about \$70 million. Mr. Miller also stated that one of the main concerns of Storybook Farm is that there would be confusion caused to the horses by the construction and/or traffic noise, but he has over the past four years attended Auburn University equestrian meets where a public address loud speaker system and upwards of 600 people would be within 10 feet of an arena filled with horses and riders competing, and there have been no incidents.

Madison Howard, a local special education teacher and associate board member of Storybook Farm, spoke next. Ms. Howard stated she was opposed to the rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and listed many reasons including asking the council for a postponement of the vote. Ms. Howard also stated she has seen first hand how Storybook Farm has impacted special-needs children and does not want to see the proposed development impact the farm negatively in any way. Ms. Howard then stated that without Storybook Farm many children would be hopeless, overcome by their adversity, and as these children continue to face life's many challenges, they would not have access to a place that devoted their time to inspire hope.

Michael Kay, from Smiths Station, Alabama, spoke next. Mr. Kay stated he was an advocate for development as much as an advocate for Storybook Farm, but didn't really understand all the interests and prejudices involved in this issue. Mr. Kay then stated that having a special-needs child is complicated and wanted to explain what that is like to the council, including when his child is at Storybook Farm he can be himself more than in most situations and how therapeutic the farm is for him. Mr. Kay again stated he is unfamiliar with what the issues are, but would like for there to be more meaningful dialogue going forward to resolve the issues.

Danny Barrow of 1303 Harper Street spoke next. Mr. Barrow thanked the Mayor and council for all of the handicapped sidewalks they have provided in his neighborhood, but the issue he has is with the curb being extended beyond the handicapped ramp, and it is acting like a big speed bump. Mr. Barrow requested the city to look at the curbing and also stated he had spoken with Mr. Allen about it. Mayor Fuller stated he would follow up with Mr. Barrow.

Susan Haynes, owner of the 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm, spoke next. Ms. Hayes stated she was in favor of the proposed rezoning of

166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and listed many reasons including selling 25 acres of property to Dena Little to begin Storybook Farm, and also giving her a first right of refusal to purchase an additional 25 acres of land, which she did, causing a previous interested buyer to not purchase the rest of their land. Ms. Haynes then stated the family was happy Storybook Farm purchased the land for the children to enjoy, even at the expense of not being able to sell the rest of their land at the time. Ms. Haynes also stated they are in a position where they need to sell the land across the street from the farm, and they feel the proposed neighborhood will benefit the entire community, including Storybook Farm.

Jack Swarthout of 4230 Anderson Road spoke next. Mr. Swarthout stated he is an adjacent property owner and was opposed to the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and listed many reasons including making an entrance to the property off of Highway 431. Mr. Swarthout also stated the property should be developed, but it needed to be developed the right way, and it would fix everyone's problem with an entrance/exit off of Highway 431, but if not, then just let the property be developed zoned as an R-1, low density/rural residential.

Ann Monley of 3453 Lakeshore Drive spoke next. Ms. Monley requested that the city take over maintenance of Lakeshore Drive, a private drive, as a public road. Ms. Monley stated that she was coming before the council in no official capacity as a representative of the homeowner's association, but as a concerned homeowner trying to gain information as to the process of making the road a public road instead of a private drive. Ms. Monley also compared the length of road to the amount of property taxes being paid per home in the neighborhood, versus other roads the city maintains, and stated per square foot they are paying more in taxes and the city should be able to afford to make the road public. President Smith asked Ms. Monley to see City Administrator Joey Motley for an answer to her question.

Charles Taylor spoke next. Mr. Taylor stated he was opposed to the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and his main reason was to ask for more time to plan. Mr. Taylor stated he was looking to move to Opelika and would appreciate there being more new homes built, especially near Storybook Farm, but doesn't see what it would hurt to take more time to plan, and challenged the council to go out to Storybook and see what they do, if they had not already, before deciding.

Dena Little, founder and Executive Director of Storybook Farm, spoke next. Ms. Little stated she was opposed to the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and her main reason was to ask the council for a postponement of the vote. Ms. Little did state that she is in support of the proposed development but also in support of Storybook Farm as the proposed zoning changes are incompatible with Storybook's programs and with its mission. Ms. Little then stated that Storybook Farm can not successfully coexist with the proposed development as it has been presented to them, and continue to contribute to the health of the community. Ms. Little also stated she moved from Auburn in 2003, from a high density neighborhood that was not compatible with the mission of Storybook Farm to its location in Opelika, only to now fight the very same battle. Ms. Little then stated that for 20 years Storybook Farm has been a community partner for any child, for any reason, who can find relief from hardships that they face every day, and they can leave the farm empowered. Ms. Little continued that their goal has been and will always be to offer the highest level of programming, education, and opportunity in a safe, welcoming, and

tranquil environment where they can do their job at no cost to any child who wants to participate. Ms. Little stated she was grateful that Susan Haynes was present, and is very grateful to own a beautiful piece of property that can be used for a greater purpose than just a home or a farm, but as a therapeutic setting for kids that can not speak for themselves. Ms. Little then stated that the vote is about the children that have been a part of the farm and will or won't be a part of the farm in the future, the many volunteers, including 250 weekly college students and local high school students, and it's about the disadvantaged kids that don't have access to books in their homes but have access to them at Storybook. Ms. Little also stated that in 20 years they have cultivated a controlled environment where they have had no accidents putting tiny children on 1,500 pound horses, and they can look parents in the eye and guarantee the safety of each child. Ms. Little closed by stating she is not against the development, but is asking for more time to communicate and collaborate with the developer. Steven Ward from Trademark Quality Homes spoke next. Mr. Ward stated he was in favor of the proposed rezoning of 166 acres on Cusseta Road adjacent to Storybook Farm and listed many reasons including the growth, quality of schools, and quality of people in Opelika being what attracts them to develop here. Mr. Ward stated they certainly respect and appreciate what Storybook Farm does for the community, and has even decided, in trying to make a good effort to be a good neighbor, to double the proposed buffer from 25 feet to 50 feet and even add in fencing, at their own expense, to each home on Cusseta Road to accommodate some of the requests made by Storybook Farm. Mr. Ward closed by stating that they recognize Storybook as an asset of Opelika, and Trademark Quality Homes will support Storybook Farm along the way, but asked the council to take into consideration the process that's been taken, the recommendation and approval from the Planning Commission, and go ahead and vote on the item so they can put this behind them and move forward together, and be good neighbors. Blake Rice from Barrett Simpson Engineering spoke last. Mr. Rice stated he wanted to mention a couple of things to the council about the development itself, being that they don't usually see lots of this size being developed in Opelika, and at least two-thirds of the property's lots would be at least 150 feet wide. Mr. Rice then stated the developer intends to develop the lots as right-of-way grade only in the project, which means they will leave existing trees while building and not mass grade the entire property, which in turn will be more in harmony with the existing topography, allowing the developer to leave the existing timber even on Cusseta Road. Mr. Rice closed by stating a lot has been said about a potential connection to Highway 431 solving an issue, but being that there is a different property owner between this property being developed and Highway 431, that the developer does not have access to, it would not be feasible at this time, but that does not mean the developer will not continue to try and get access or even that ALDOT would allow an access there.

9. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 504 S 4th Street.
Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Smith opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said weed abatement. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.
2. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 454 S 10th Street.
Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Smith opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said weed abatement. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.
3. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 814 Donald Avenue.
Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Smith opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said weed abatement. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.
4. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 707 Grove Avenue.
Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Smith opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said weed abatement. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.

12. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - PW.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Purchase - Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 - Sourcewell Contract #122220-PSI - FD.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Approve Certain Tax Abatements and Exemptions for Cumberland Plastic Systems, LLC. - ED.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. Approve Employment Contract with Brent Poteet - OPS.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. Approve Professional Services Agreement with ESG Engineering, Inc. - PW.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. Weed Abatement Assessment - 504 S 4th Street.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Weed Abatement Assessment - 454 S 10th Street.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Weed Abatement Assessment - 814 Donald Avenue.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Weed Abatement Assessment - 707 Grove Avenue.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2022 with A-O Discover!.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

11. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2022 with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

12. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2022 with East Alabama Healthcare Authority - EMS.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2022 with Valley Haven School.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

14. Special Appropriation to A-O Discover!.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

15. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2022 with East Alabama Arts Association.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

16. Special Appropriation to Arturo Menefee from Ward 2 Reserve Discretionary Fund.

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 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: 3.2 Acres, 1200 block South Fox Run Parkway - 2nd Reading.

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance - Sections 2.2, 6.4, 7.3, 7.6, 7.8, 8.14, 8.18.1, 8.24, 8.26, 8.27 and Section IX and specifically by adopting new Sign Regulations – 2nd Reading

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 166 Acres, Hwy 431 & Cusseta Road - 2nd Reading.

During Discussion, Ms. Norris stated that she would encourage the gentleman that spoke on behalf of Trademark Quality Homes to take into consideration the requests that were made by Storybook Farm and to have additional conversations about those requests. Ms. Norris closed by stating she would have been for tabling this for another two weeks for more discussion between the two parties before voting, but as a motion and second to approve had already been made, she would appreciate it if they would still consider having those discussions after the meeting. Mr. Rauch then stated he had received numerous phone calls about this rezoning, that were personally disturbing, accusing him and the city of not including Storybook Farm, pushing them away, and not involving them in conversations about this property rezoning. Mr. Rauch stated those accusations were simply not true as there has been plenty of time to discuss these issues and plenty of discussion has taken place in meetings with the Mayor, himself, and President Smith. Mr. Rauch also stated Trademark Quality Homes has been a good neighbor by being very responsive to every call, email, and meeting they have been asked to attend, there is nothing more that can be done in discussing this, from his point of view, and it is extremely frustrating when people call and basically accuse him and the city of not listening to the public on this development. Mr. Rauch then explained that if the council does not approve this rezoning, the property could still be developed and that would create an even bigger problem with 23 driveways that could go on Cusseta Road instead of 2 entrances as proposed, and what comes with that is the residential living environment with 23 trash cans on the side of the road once a week and that would be huge risk that he is not willing to take as city councilman of Ward 5. Mr. Rauch stated that this rezoning is the most prudent thing to do, to let Trademark come in and do their work, and yes there will be growing pains, but the biggest issue from the first meeting was the buffer and noise, and Trademark has since proposed doubling that buffer and adding fencing. Mr. Rauch closed by asking for patience and willingness to work with Trademark Quality Homes as he has seen nothing but good stewards in their service, in the meetings, and in talks about wanting to do good for Opelika and the community, and again asked that they be open and willing to give them that chance. Mr. Allen then stated that from the information he has received, and the conversations he has had, he truly believes they can coexist and it will be better for the City of Opelika.

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 3 TO 1

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

AYES: Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris

ABSTAIN: None

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of November 16, 2021 are hereby adopted and approved this the 7th day of December, 2021.

/s/ Eddie Smith

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones

Russell A. Jones
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 asked if there was any other business to come before the council. Ms. Norris asked if she could make an announcement. President Smith answered yes. Ms. Norris invited everyone to a zoom meeting for diversity, inclusion, and equity on Saturday November 20, 2021 at 9:00 am. President Smith then read the character trait of the month and asked for 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 8:37 pm.