



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

November 14, 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. Barnes provided the invocation.

1. Hamlet Barnes from Mustard Seed Faith Center.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Turner and Laia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Turner Anderson and Laia Foster from Jeter Primary.

5. READING OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the 11-07-23 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. October 2023 Monthly Building Report.

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

2. Recognize Firefighters, Police Officers, and Dispatcher of the Year for 2023. Mayor Fuller then invited Opelika Fire Chief Shane Boyd up front. Mayor Fuller recognized each runner-up, Chris Moore and Shane Chandler, for Firefighter of the Year with Chief Boyd. Mayor Fuller then recognized the Firefighter of the Year, Ronnie Brundage, with Chief Boyd. Mayor Fuller then asked Opelika Police Chief Shane Healey, Captain Johnathan Clifton, and Captain John Hester to come up front. Mayor Fuller recognized the Opelika Telecommunicator of the Year, Gabby Santiesteban, with Chief Healey. Mayor Fuller then recognized the Opelika Police Officer of the Year, Lieutenant Alfred White, with Chief Healey.
3. Recognize Character Council Citizens of Excellent Character. Mayor Fuller then invited President Smith, members of the Character Council, and Henry Gibson, Jr. and Annie Gibson up front to be recognized as the November 2023 Citizens of Excellent Character. President Smith spoke about why he chose Henry and Annie Gibson for the award and how they exemplified the character trait of the month: gratitude. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to Henry and Annie Gibson.

8. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS (Limit comments to five minutes or less)
Sherry Cook of 409 Wittel Avenue spoke first. Ms. Cook stated that, on behalf of the Opelika Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, she wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for their continued support this year for the Chief Shane Healey Rodeo Roundup. Ms. Cook stated that because of their and others' generosity, they were able to raise their goal of \$10,000 to support those in the community affected by homelessness.

9. REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Temporary Street Closure - Victorian Front Porch Walking Tour 12-09-23.

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

2. Appeal Hearing - Denial of Alcohol License for Shandalika 1971, Inc.

Mr. Jones presented the appeal hearing as a due process hearing. President Smith opened the appeal hearing and asked Opelika Police Chief Shane Healey to speak first on behalf of the City. Chief Healey presented evidence in support of the City's case against approving the request for approval of an alcohol license to the council. President Smith then asked if there was anyone present representing Shandalika 1971, Inc. that would like to speak to the council. No one representing Shandalika 1971, Inc. was present. President Smith closed the appeal hearing.

President Smith then stated that the council had before them a resolution denying the appeal and asked if there was a motion to add the item to the agenda. Mr. Aja made a motion to add the item to the agenda. Mr. Rauch seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO ADD ITEM TO THE AGENDA: 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

President Smith then asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution denying the appeal. Mr. Aja made a motion to approve. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

RESOLUTION NO. 341-23

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

3. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 1916 1st 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 - 121 N. 20th 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.

12. AWARDING OF BIDS

13. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 342-23

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

2. Purchase - Approve Quote from CDW Government for Cisco Switch, Cameras and Hardware at Opelika Public Library - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 343-23

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. Purchase - Approve Quote from CDW Government for Nutanix Server Cluster at Opelika Police Dept. Data Center - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 344-23

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

4. Approve Equipment Lease Agreement with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, LLC - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 345-23

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

5. Approve Partial Funding of a Special Operations Response Vehicle for the LCSO - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 346-23

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. Approve Second Amendment to Medical Services Agreement with Premise Health - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 347-23

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

7. Approve Shelton Village Sewer Agreement with the City of Auburn - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 348-23

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

8. Reappoint Kisha Abercrombie as an Assistant Municipal Prosecutor - MC.

RESOLUTION NO. 349-23

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

9. Weed Abatement Assessment - 1916 1st Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 350-23

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

10. Weed Abatement Assessment - 121 N. 20th Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 351-23

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

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

Mr. Gunter explained that the item was on the table, and without a motion to remove it from the table, it would remain there. President Smith stated it was recommended by the city's administration to leave the item on the table. No motion was given.

12. Special Appropriation to Opelika Main Street for 2023 Christmas in a Railroad Town Event on 12-08-23.

RESOLUTION NO. 352-23

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

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 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 031-23

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of November 14, 2023 are hereby adopted and approved this the 5th day of December, 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 asked if there was any other business to come before the council, read the character trait of the month, and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

2. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 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

The council meeting ended at 06:42 pm.