



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

January 16, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:01 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 Mustard Seed Faith Center.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lucero and Riyan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Lucero Perez Tomas and Riyan Robinson from Carver Primary School.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. Minutes from the 01-02-24 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. MAYOR COMMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Reappoint Leigh Whatley to the Opelika Planning Commission. New Term expires 02-15-2030.

Mayor Fuller announced he was reappointing Leigh Whatley to the Opelika Planning Commission.

2. December 2023 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.
Mayor Fuller invited Opelika Police Chief Shane Healey, Kathryn Guthrie, Melissa Murrell and others up front. Mayor Fuller thanked Ms. Guthrie, read the proclamation, and presented it to her. Ms. Guthrie stated this was the third year of this, and the Opelika Police Department had been so amazing that she wanted to present an award to them from Worthy Squared. Ms. Guthrie read the award and presented it to the Opelika Police Department. Chief Healey stated this was a team effort, and to see the work being done saving lives in the community, everyone should be proud of them.
4. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then asked Ward 1 Councilman George Allen, members of the Character Council, and Mr. James Hughley, with family, up front to be recognized as the January 2024 Citizen of Excellent Character. Mr. Allen spoke about why he chose Mr. Hughley for the award and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: loyalty. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Hughley.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)

President Smith asked Mr. Jones to present the public hearing.

1. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1018 and 1016 Alabama Avenue, 27,966 square feet, from R-3, GC-P to C-2, GC-P.
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 rezoning. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.

9. AGENDA-RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)

Darryl Forster from Crown Castle Fiber, LLC spoke first. Mr. Forster stated that Crown Castle was the largest shared infrastructure provider, and they have been supporting networks in the state of Alabama for the last ten years. Mr. Forster stated they were excited to partner with the City to help with capacity and coverage gaps for its citizens. Mr. Forster closed by thanking the council and stated he would be happy to answer any of their questions.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 011-24

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

2. Purchase - Scanning Conversion Services for Police Records - Sole Source - PD.

RESOLUTION NO. 012-24

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

3. Approve Agreement with John Randall Wilson, Architect, for GW Carver Hall Repairs - INSP.

RESOLUTION NO. 013-24

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

4. Approve Workers Compensation Proposal with Marsh & McLennan Agency - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 014-24

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

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

President Smith asked if there was a motion to remove the item from the table. Mr. Allen made a motion to remove the item from the table. Mr. Rauch 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 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 motion to approve the appropriation contract. Mr. Aja made a motion to approve. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. During discussion Mr. Aja thanked the Arts Association for sending them a revised executable contract, and then stated that going forward all boards in general should remember that management is there to execute and enter into contracts, but the boards need to make sure that management is doing so because the board is liable for what management does. Mr. Aja also stated that he understands all the great work being done with these annual appropriation funds, and he was looking forward to hearing what these funds are doing for the community.

The following vote was recorded:

RESOLUTION NO. 015-24

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

6. Special Appropriation to the J. W. Darden Foundation.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-24

MOTION TO APPROVE: 3 TO 0

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

AYES: Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

7. Special Appropriation to the Opelika Housing Authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 017-24

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 0

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

AYES: Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

8. Special Appropriation to the Sound Wall Music Initiative for the 5th Annual Songwriters Festival.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-24

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

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1018 and 1016 Alabama Avenue, 27,966 square feet, from R-3, GC-P to C-2, GC-P - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Smith asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Ms. Norris introduced the ordinance.

2. Approve Public ROW Use Agreement with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

President Smith then asked if there was a motion to suspend the rules to have a second reading. Mr. Allen made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Rauch seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: 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

President Smith then asked if there was a motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Aja seconded the motion.

During discussion, Ms. Norris asked for an explanation of the projects Crown Castle would be working on in the city. Mr. Gunter answered that they have a project on the western perimeter of the city and that Mr. Forster from Crown Castle could explain it better. Mr. Forster explained that Crown Castle would be working on pockets in coverage where there were dropped calls and internet, providing a fiber system to most all carriers, that would then be able to provide better coverage to all citizens, and also better reliability for first responders.

The following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 001-24

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

14. APPOINTMENTS

15. SECOND ROSTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
None.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of January 16, 2024 are hereby adopted and approved this the 6th day of February, 2024.

/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 - Loyalty, a strong feeling of support or allegiance. President Smith read the character trait of the month and asked if there was any other business to come before the council. Mr. Aja stated that he would be absent at the first meeting in February due to his obligations in the Navy. President Smith then 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 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 06:30 pm.