



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

February 20, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A 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

Ms. Corbett provided the invocation.

1. Marsha Corbett from The Bridge Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nora and Kinsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Nora Leaf and Kinsley Oliver from West Forest Intermediate School.

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

1. Minutes from the 02-06-24 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. 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. MAYOR COMMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. City's Financial Summary Report for January 2024.

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.

2. January 2024 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Proclamation for National Parent Leadership Month.
Mayor Fuller invited Frazelma Lynn and Churmell Mitchell up front. Ms. Lynn first announced a monthly parenting workshop on March 2 at Covington Recreation Center for anyone in the community that would like to attend. Mr. Mitchell then explained his background, his role on the national board for national parent leadership month and thanked everyone for their support. Mayor Fuller then read the proclamation and presented it to them.
4. Recognize Sam Bailey as ARPA Jim Spain Award Winner.
Mayor Fuller then invited Sam Bailey and Mandy Moore up front. Mayor Fuller recognized Mr. Bailey as the winner of the ARPA Jim Spain award, the Opelika Recycled Teenagers for their ARPA innovative program of the year award, and Ms. Moore with the ARPA community service award for choreographing the Opelika Recycled Teenagers Auburn women's basketball halftime show. Mr. Bailey and Ms. Moore both stated how fortunate they were with the support from the city and the community.
5. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then asked Ward 2 President Pro-Tem Erica Norris, members of the Character Council, and Mrs. Clarinda J. Turner up front to be recognized as the February 2024 Citizen of Excellent Character. Ms. Norris spoke about why she chose Mrs. Turner for the award and how she exemplified the character trait of the month: leadership. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to Mrs. Turner.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Demolition Cost Assessment - 315 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 demolition cost assessment.
Mr. Lewis Gillis of Montgomery spoke against the demolition cost assessment.
President Smith closed the public hearing.
2. Public Hearing - Demolition Cost Assessment - 622 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 demolition cost assessment.
No one came forward to speak.
President Smith closed the public hearing.
3. Public Hearing - Amend Master Plan for Brookstone PUD: 1001 Fox Run Parkway.
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 amendment.
Jane Bostrom of 1078 Woodland Circle spoke against the amendment.

Jeff Neely of 1288 Woodland Circle spoke against the amendment.
President Smith closed the public hearing.

4. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 414 N. 10th Street, 1.24 Acres, from R-2 to I-1.

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.

Ann Renfro Smith of 610 N. 9th Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Evelyn Mickle of 1003 Glenn Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Rett Krome (no address given) spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Garland W. Padgett, Jr. of Montgomery spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Gary Lerude of 408 N. 11th Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Clay Harper of 904 5th Avenue spoke against the rezoning.

Stephen Lock of 501 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Angela George of 106 N. 4th Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Tammy Tatum of 415 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Tony McCarty of 505 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Phyllis McCarty of 505 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

John Denson of 712 6th Avenue spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Julie Lock of 501 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Megan Perdomo of 1015 4th Avenue spoke against the rezoning.

Bob Butson of 3913 Eagle Ridge Lane spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Chip Mayfield of 414 N. 9th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Leigh Whatley of 400 N. 9th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Philip Rowton of 515 N. 10th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Craig Tharpe of 406 N. 9th Street spoke against the rezoning.

Rush Denson of 400 N. 8th Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Sophia George of 106 N. 4th Street spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Aaron Kovak of 1117 W. Collinwood Circle spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Patricia Quinn of 815 6th Avenue spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Emily Key of 614 8th Avenue spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Allison Kovak of 1117 W. Collinwood Circle spoke in favor of the rezoning.

President Smith closed the public hearing.

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

Daniel Holland of 421 Opelika Road, Auburn, spoke about the ordinance to amend the master plan for the Brookstone PUD. Mr. Holland explained that there is a high demand for product in that community, and they would do everything they could to work with the existing residents to make it a success. President Smith asked if Mr. Holland would meet with the gentleman that spoke on behalf of the HOA. Mr. Holland answered that he had just spoken with him and that Holland Homes still runs the HOA. President Smith asked if they had turned the HOA over to the residents yet, and Mr. Holland answered "not yet".

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - Business After Hours Event on 02-29-24.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: Councilman Ward1 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 Downtown Street Closure - Start/Finish of Long Distance Bike Ride on 05-11-24.

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

3. Request Downtown Street Closure - Workout Anytime Opelika "Down the Tracks" 5K Event on 05-25-24.

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

4. Request Downtown Street Closure - Touch-A-Truck Event on 06-08-24.

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

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. LED Flood Lights and Mounting Adapters - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 033-24

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 034-24

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

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 035-24

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 - Amusement Park Train and Rail Services - Sole Source - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 036-24

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

4. Purchase - Eleven (11) Police Car Radios - State of AL Contract - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 037-24

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

5. Purchase - Ten (10) In-car Camera Systems - Sole Source - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 038-24

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

6. Purchase - Police Equipment for Ten (10) 2024 Police Package Automobiles - State of AL Contract - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 039-24

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

7. Approve Alabama "811" Membership Agreement - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 040-24

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

8. Approve Amending the Organizational Chart of Economic Development - HR.
During discussion, Mr. Aja asked if both the positions were currently filled or were they going to be advertised to be filled. John Sweatman, Director of Economic Development, answered that one was currently filled and one would be advertised. Mr. Aja asked which one would be advertised. Mr. Sweatman answered that it would be the Senior Project Manager.

RESOLUTION NO. 041-24

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

9. Approve Naming of Covington Center Water Park in Honor of Robert Flournoy. Before the roll call vote, President Smith thanked Councilman Allen for bringing this recommendation to the Parks & Recreation Board, the Mayor's office, and to the City Council for consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 042-24

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

10. Authorize Grant Application with FEMA - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 043-24

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

11. Authorize Grant Application with AL State Industrial Development Authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 044-24

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

12. Demolition Cost Assessment - 315 S 4th Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 045-24

MOTION TO APPROVE: 3 TO 1

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith,
 Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris
ABSTAIN: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

13. Demolition Cost Assessment - 622 S 4th Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 046-24

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

14. Special Appropriation to the Domestic Violence Intervention Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 047-24

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

15. Special Appropriation to LEAPS, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 048-24

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

13. ORDINANCES

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Master Plan for Brookstone PUD: 24.05 Acres, 1001 Fox Run Parkway -
1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 414 N. 10th Street, 1.24 Acres, from R-2 to I-1 - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

14. APPOINTMENTS

15. SECOND ROSTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)

Priscilla Blythe, Director of Keep Opelika Beautiful, spoke first. Ms. Blythe announced Keep Opelika Beautiful's tree seedling give away on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at West Ridge park. Ms. Blythe invited the community to come out and get a free tree seedling to plant, thanked their sponsors, reminded everyone about their "Be Litter Free" campaign in conjunction with the City, and announced their other upcoming events, such as free Shred Day for the community in March and Garden in the Park in May.

Linburgh B. Jackson of 814 N. College Street, Auburn, Alabama spoke next. Mr. Jackson asked the council to consider making improvements to the end of Alton Court as there is no turnaround or access from the other direction for emergency vehicle access. Mr. Jackson stated he would like to see the road opened up all the way through from S. Long Street to Frederick Road as it had been in the past. Mr. Jackson requested that the Mayor and Public Works department take a look at it and address the issue of access on Alton Court, as there is currently only one way in and one way out.

Evelyn Mickle of 1003 Glenn Street spoke next. Ms. Mickle first thanked the city for paving the parking lot behind the old Brown School for the farmer's market. Ms. Mickle then asked the city to make sure there are wheelchair accessible water fountains and changing facilities for handicapped children in the restrooms at Floral Park. Ms. Mickle closed by asking what the city was going to do about the Taylor apartments being built all the way up to the road on 10th Street.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of February 20, 2024 are hereby adopted and approved this the 5th day of March, 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 - Leadership, the action of leading a group of people or an organization.
President Smith 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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 07:45 pm.