



# **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**300 Martin Luther King Blvd.**

**August 20, 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. Fryer provided the invocation.

1. Jarel Fryer from Greater Peace Baptist Church.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Boy Scout Troop 356 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Beauregard Boy Scout Troop 356.

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

1. Minutes from the 08-06-24 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 Reports for July 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. July 2024 Monthly Building Report.  
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.  
Mayor Fuller then asked Ward 2 Councilwoman Erica Norris, members of the Character Council, and Ms. Evelyn Mickle to come up front to be recognized as the August 2024 Citizen of Excellent Character. Ms. Norris spoke about why she chose Ms. Mickle for the award and how she exemplified the character trait of the moth: Responsibility. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to Ms. Mickle.
4. Recognize the new 20 Under Forty Class for 2024 - 2025.  
Mayor Fuller asked Ali Rauch, President and CEO of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, to come up front. Mrs. Rauch then spoke about the new class and the goals of the program. Mrs. Rauch then called each member of the 2024-2025 20 Under Forty class up front to be recognized.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 120 Chester 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.
2. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 2789 Arlee 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.
3. Public Hearing - Weed Abatement Assessment - 3603 Maple Creek Court.  
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.

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

None.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Brewing Food Truck Events on 09-12-24 and 10-10-24.

**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

2. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Brewing Bike Night Event on 09-19-24.

**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

3. Request Downtown Street Closure - Flags for Vets Benefit Concert on 11-23-24.

**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

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

**RESOLUTION NO. 205-24**

**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

2. Purchase - One (1) 2025 Ford Explorer - State of AL Contract #T191L - REV.

**RESOLUTION NO. 206-24**

**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

3. Purchase - Zendesk IT Helpdesk Ticketing System - 3-Yr. Contract - Omnia Partners Contract #2018011-02 - IT.

**RESOLUTION NO. 207-24**

**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

4. Purchase - Five (5) 48-port Cisco Catalyst Switches - Omnia Partners Contract #2018011-01 - IT.

**RESOLUTION NO. 208-24**

**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. Approve Amending the Organizational Charts of Various Departments - HR.

**RESOLUTION NO. 209-24**

**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

6. Approve City Budget for FY 2025.

During discussion, Mr. Rauch thanked the city council and city administration for separating the annual Chamber of Commerce appropriation contract from the annual budget so that he would be able to vote on the budget. Ms. Norris also thanked the Mayor and city administration for re-arranging their schedules at the last minute to meet with her, discuss the budget, and answer all of her questions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 210-24**

**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

7. Approve Certain Tax Abatements and Exemptions for Pharmavite, LLC - ED.

**RESOLUTION NO. 211-24**

**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

8. Authorize Agreement with ALDOT for Pepperell Parkway Improvements Project and Payment of Local Match - ENG.

**RESOLUTION NO. 212-24**

**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

9. Authorize Grant Application with the Alabama Forestry Commission for a Trees 4AL Grant - PLAN.

**RESOLUTION NO. 213-24**

**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

10. Weed Abatement Assessment - 120 Chester Avenue.

**RESOLUTION NO. 214-24**

**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

11. Weed Abatement Assessment - 2789 Arlee Avenue.

**RESOLUTION NO. 215-24**

**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

12. Weed Abatement Assessment - 3603 Maple Creek Court.

**RESOLUTION NO. 216-24**

**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

13. Special Appropriation to P&R Sportsplex for the Annual Health Fair on 10-01-24.

**RESOLUTION NO. 217-24**

**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

13. ORDINANCES

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Chapter 14 of the City Code of Ordinances: Exempting City Sales and Use Tax on the Sale of Hearing Instruments - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 017-24**

**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

2. Amend Chapter 26 of the City Code of Ordinances: Relating to Encampment in Public Places - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 018-24**

**SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 704 1st Ave, 104 N 7th Street, and a lot on N 7th Street, from C-2 to C-1, 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 019-24**

**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

4. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 711 Pleasant Drive, 22,450 square feet, from R-5M to C-2 - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 020-24**

**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

5. Approve Annexation Petition by Prestige Worldwide Rentals, LLC, 109.9 Acres, Lee Rd 171 (Wigdon Road) - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 021-24**

**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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

6. Establish Public Records Policies to Comply with the Alabama Public Records Act - 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**

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Reappoint Henry J. Stern, Jr. to the Celebrate Alabama Cooperative District. New Term expires 08-27-2028.

**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

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

Evelyn Mickle of 1003 Glenn Street spoke first. Ms. Mickle stated that she was very concerned about 10th Street and it not being widened where the new apartments are being built. Ms. Mickle also stated she was concerned about the traffic getting into and out of the new apartments. Ms. Mickle closed by stating the city still had not done anything to Glenn Street yet besides constructing a new sidewalk and the traffic was so bad, with cars speeding, that she has a hard time backing out of her driveway.

Mattie Clark of 706 Orchard Avenue spoke next. Ms. Clark stated that 7th Street at the fire department should be a 4-way stop and not a 2-way stop because it is now a dangerous intersection after the red light was removed. Ms. Clark then stated that apparently she missed the letter about putting all the other trash, besides the canned trash, out in front of their house instead of where they had been putting it for years, and she did not understand why the change. Ms. Clark closed by stating that she did get in touch with the right people about the house

on West Street and the bricks off Auburn Street, but she had not heard anything for the last 3 or 4 weeks, and she assumed that nothing would be done about that either.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of August 20, 2024 are hereby adopted and approved this the 3rd day of September, 2024.

/s/ Eddie Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of City Council  
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Responsibility, a moral obligation to behave correctly toward or in respect of.  
President Smith read the character trait of the month and asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
2. Motion to Adjourn.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 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

The council meeting ended at 06:37 pm.