



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

November 19, 2024

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:01 pm and asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Motley as the Clerk pro-tem for the meeting. Mr. Rauch made a motion to appoint Mr. Motley. Ms. Norris seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO APPOINT CLERK PRO-TEM: 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

After the roll call vote to appoint Mr. Motley clerk for the meeting, President Smith asked Mr. Motley 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. Eason provided the invocation.

1. Laura Eason from East Alabama Medical Center.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Taylin and Matthew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Taylin Cook-Ford and Matthew Ledoux from Southview Primary School.

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

1. Minutes from the 11-05-24 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. City's Financial Summary Reports for October 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. October 2024 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Recognize Opelika Housing Authority.
Mayor Fuller invited Matthew McClammey and the Opelika Housing Authority staff up front to be recognized. Mayor Fuller stated the housing authority received 5 awards at the 84th annual Alabama Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities Conference for their work in the community. These awards included best newsletter, best website, and best practices for the YouthBuild Program. Mayor Fuller also stated that in addition to these awards, Opelika Housing Authority resident Valestine Penn was named Resident Volunteer of the Year and Timothy Dumas was named Maintenance Employee of the Year. Mr. McClammey closed by recognizing how deserving Ms. Penn, Mr. Dumas, and the entire staff were of these awards and what a great job they do for their community.
4. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then asked Ward 5 Councilman Todd Rauch, members of the Character Council, and Preston and Deborah Brazell up front to be recognized as the November 2024 Citizens of Excellent Character. Mr. Rauch spoke about why he chose Mr. and Mrs. Brazell for the award and how they exemplified the character trait of the month: Gratitude. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to them.

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

9. AGENDA-RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
None.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Ross to present the bids.

1. One (1) Fiber Optic Splicing Trailer - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 330-24

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. West Ridge Park and Bandy Park LED Lighting Retrofit- P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 331-24

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 332-24

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 0

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

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

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 333-24

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

3. Purchase - One (1) 2025 Crown Lift Truck - Sourcewell Contract #011723-CAT - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 334-24

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

4. Purchase - SportsCluster Lighting for Bandy Park - Sourcewell - P&R.
During discussion, Ms. Norris thanked Mayor Fuller, Mr. Motley, and President Smith for working with her on these improvements to Bandy Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 335-24

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

5. Purchase - SportsCluster Lighting for West Ridge Park - Sourcewell - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 336-24

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

6. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Barrett Simpson for the Sportsplex Pkwy Extension Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 337-24

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 Professional Services Agreement with Barge for a Bridge Design related to the Sportsplex Pkwy Extension Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 338-24

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

8. Approve Revised Professional Services Agreement with Barrett Simpson for Veterans Pkwy Extension Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 339-24

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

9. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Barge for a Bridge Design related to the Veterans Pkwy Extension Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 340-24

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

10. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Sain Assoc. for a Signal and Intersection Design for 2nd Ave. and N. 3rd Street - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 341-24

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

11. Approve Contract for Services FY2025 with The Dream Day Foundation, Inc. During discussion, Ms. Norris thanked Mayor Fuller, Mr. Motley, and President Smith for working with her on this to provide much-needed resources for the foundation and the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 342-24

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

12. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2025 with Domestic Violence Intervention Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 343-24

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

13. Special Appropriation to the Domestic Violence Intervention Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 344-24

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

14. APPOINTMENTS

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Appoint Keri Hallford to the Library Board. New Term expires 10-19-2028.

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

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

Ali Rauch of 2240 Lakeview Drive spoke first. Mrs. Rauch as President and CEO of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce invited the council to participate in their annual Christmas Parade, Snopelika, and Tree Lighting ceremony on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Bryan Stone of 1851 Hunt Lane spoke next. Mr. Stone spoke about a specific city building code that was adopted 15 to 20 years ago, and asked if they would consider taking a look at changing it for various reasons. Mr. Stone explained that this specific electrical code is only in Opelika, it is locally enforced beyond the National Electrical Code, and it can add up to 5% to the total cost of building a commercial building in Opelika. Mr. Stone further explained that the reason this has become a problem recently is because of inflation between the two types of wiring in the last 2 to 3 years. President Smith asked if Mr. Stone had spoken with Jeff Kappelman, Chief Building Inspector. Mr. Stone stated he had spoken with Jeff, and they normally are in agreement on most things, but Mr. Kappelman is in disagreement with him about this local code being enforced as it is from a safety standpoint. Ms. Norris asked what the cost difference would be if the code was changed. Mr. Stone stated it would save them about \$30,000 per commercial building in Opelika essentially doubling the cost of the electrical wiring needed. Mr. Rauch asked if the difference between the two wires was the fire rating. Mr. Stone stated it was the fire rating. President Smith asked Mr. Motley to talk to Mr. Kappelman and update the council about this issue. Mr. Motley stated he would be glad to.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of November 19, 2024, are hereby adopted and approved this the 3rd day of December, 2024.

/s/ Eddie Smith

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

City Clerk

1. Character Trait of 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.

Mr. Rauch addressed the constituents of Opelika and expressed concerns about anonymous letters being sent to council members with concerns to be addressed. Mr. Rauch asked that if any constituent sends correspondence about concerns to be addressed, that they kindly put their contact information on the correspondence so that the council members can contact them directly in an effort to more expeditiously address their issues.

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 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 06:36 pm.