



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

December 3, 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

President Smith provided the invocation.

1. Jarel Fryer from Greater Peace Baptist Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Samantha and LaFrederick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Samantha Blodgett and LaFrederick Spence from Northside Intermediate School.

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

1. Minutes from the 11-19-24 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. Aja made a motion to approve. Mr. Rauch 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. Recognize 2024 Opelika High School Football Team & Coaches.

Mayor Fuller invited Opelika High School Head Football Coach Bryan Moore to come up front. Mayor Fuller and Coach Moore first recognized each of the assistant football coaches on Coach Moore's staff. Mayor Fuller and Coach Moore then recognized each senior football player from the 2024 team that made the AHSAA 7A Football Playoffs for the first time in school history.

2. Recognize Firefighters, Police Officers, and Dispatcher of the Year for 2024.

Mayor Fuller then invited Opelika Police Chief Shane Healey and Major Johnathan Clifton up front. Mayor Fuller and Major Clifton recognized Officer Chase Bridges as the Opelika Police Department's 2024 Officer of the Year, and Kelsie Workman, Katie Whaley, and Haley Bowins as the 2024 Dispatchers of the Year. Mayor Fuller then invited Opelika Fire Chief Shane Boyd up front. Mayor Fuller and Chief Boyd then recognized the nominees for Firefighter of the Year, Lieutenant Blake Smith, Firefighter Paramedic Bradley Flemming, Battalion Chief Tracey Johnson, and announced Battalion Chief Tracey Johnson as the Opelika Fire Department's 2024 Firefighter of the Year.

3. Presentation by the Opelika Pickleball Club.

Mayor Fuller invited Parks & Recreation Director Sam Bailey and President of the Opelika Pickleball Club, Jim Young, up front. Mr. Young stated he was there on behalf of the Opelika Pickleball Club to thank the city for its vision for the sport of pickleball, and then gave some statistics about the number of players, tournaments held, improvements made to the facilities, and the economic impact it has had in the community. Mr. Young then presented Mayor Fuller and the City of Opelika a check in the amount of \$100,000.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Approve the Vacation of a Portion of the ROW of S 6th 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 vacation of ROW. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1001 1st Avenue, 10,890 square foot lot, from C-3, GC-S to C-1, GC-S.

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. Josh O'Neal of 1471 Lee Road 284, Smiths Station, Alabama, spoke in favor of the rezoning. President Smith closed the public hearing.

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

Kathy Cason of 901 McLure Avenue spoke first. Mrs. Cason stated her comments would be in regard to Resolution #6, the proposed extension of Gwin Mill Drive. Mrs. Cason stated that her family has lived in their home for 25 years, and it is adjacent to the property given to the city for the extension of Gwin Mill Drive. Mrs. Cason then stated their proximity to the project made them very interested in its design, and expressed her appreciation to Councilman Tim Aja and City Engineer Scott Parker for taking the time to walk the property and talk with her about the proposed development. Mrs. Cason closed by again expressing her appreciation, and stated that she was looking forward to more conversations

about the project, its future concerning their neighborhood, and the facilities it will serve.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - Christmas in a Railroad Town Event on 12-13-24.

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 345-24

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. Purchase - (624) Toter 96 Gal EVR II Universal/Nestable Carts - Sourcewell Contract #041521-TOT - OES.

RESOLUTION NO. 346-24

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 - One (1) Marathon RJ-250 Self-Contained 30 Cu Yd Compactor - Sourcewell Contract #040621-MEC - OES.

RESOLUTION NO. 347-24

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

4. Purchase - A/V System Updates for Training Room and Courtroom - Sole Source - OPD / MC.

RESOLUTION NO. 348-24

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

5. Accept Sanitary Sewer Easement from Delta Development Group, LLC - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 349-24

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

6. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Harmon Engineering for Design of Gwin Mill Dr. Extension to Calhoun Dr. - ENG.

During discussion, Mr. Aja thanked the Casons, whom he walked the property with that morning, and stated he was looking forward to talking with them more about the project and also working with the city as the project moves forward.

RESOLUTION NO. 350-24

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

7. Approve the Vacation of a Portion of the ROW of S 6th Street - PLAN.

RESOLUTION NO. 351-24

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

8. Reappoint Harold W. Morris to Serve as Public Defender - MC.
During discussion, Ms. Norris stated Mr. Morris had run for another office earlier this year and attended a council meeting during his campaign. Ms. Norris stated that she was very disappointed that Mr. Morris, in his role as a public defender, spoke to and shook hands with the rest of the council, but failed to speak to her and Mr. Allen while attending that meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 352-24

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 1

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

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

NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris

ABSTAIN: None

9. Reappoint John Wesley McCollum, Jr. as Municipal Court Judge - MC.

RESOLUTION NO. 353-24

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

10. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2025 with Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

RESOLUTION NO. 354-24

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. Special Appropriation to Opelika Main Street for 2024 Christmas in a Railroad Town Event on 12-13-24.

RESOLUTION NO. 355-24

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

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1001 1st Avenue, 10,890 square foot lot, from C-3, GC-S to C-1, GC-S - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

2. Approve Annexation Petition by Moore's Construction LLC, 6 Acres, 448 Lee Road 174 (Albright Road) - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

3. Approve First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with the Opelika Chamber of Commerce - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

President Smith then asked for a motion to suspend the rules to have a second reading. Mr. Allen made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Aja seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: 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 if there was a motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Ms. Norris made a motion to approve. Mr. Aja seconded the motion.

During discussion, Mr. Rauch asked Mr. Gunter if he recommended him abstaining because this dealt with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gunter answered "yes". There was no further discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 031-24

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 4 TO 0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

14. APPOINTMENTS

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

Evelyn Mickle of 1003 Glenn Street spoke first. Ms. Mickle stated her concerns about the growth of Opelika and how fast it was happening. Ms. Mickle stated there are some builders that come into Opelika to build and they don't care about how their buildings look compared to the historic district, for example. Ms. Mickle stated that she does not want Opelika to lose what it has, like the small town inclusiveness that she has known for the last 49 years. Ms. Mickle closed by stating that we should have more conversations about what we expect of people who come here.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of December 3, 2024 are hereby adopted and approved this the 17th 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 the Month - Generosity, the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish; the quality of being generous.
President Smith asked if there was any other business to come before the council, 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: 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 06:47 pm.