



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

January 7, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:05 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 Ministries.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Landyn and Paisley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Landyn Rowe and Paisley Farrow from Carver Primary School.

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

1. Minutes from the 12-17-24 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. Rebuild Alabama Funds Report - Scott Parker, City Engineer.

Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Parker to give the report. Mr. Parker gave the report and it is attached to the minutes.

2. Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.
Mayor Fuller then invited Kathryn Guthrie, Worthy Squared board members, and Chief Healey up front. Mayor Fuller read the proclamation and presented it to them.
3. Proclamation for Poverty Awareness Month.
Mayor Fuller invited Dr. Nathaniel Dunlap and members of PRF Institute and Circles up front. Mayor Fuller then read the proclamation and presented it to them.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 900 Block of Lake Condé Road, 12.24 Acres, from R-3 to PUD.
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)
None.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - 2025 Food Truck Friday Nights.
During discussion, Mr. Rauch asked about the status of the food truck ordinance. Mr. Mosley answered there were some changes to the current ordinance that everyone is largely in agreement with, but there were still a few things that needed more discussion before bringing it before the council for approval. Mr. Rauch asked if they could make it a priority. Mr. Mosley answered yes. Mr. Allen then asked why the council would be voting on this before getting the updated ordinance. President Smith answered this was to approve the dates for the chamber's events. Mr. Mosley stated there are still ongoing discussions about how to handle food trucks related to downtown street closures, and he recommended the council go ahead and approve this request before considering a new ordinance. Ms. Norris then asked for Mr. Mosley to explain what the issue with food trucks was again. Mr. Mosley explained that they had been reviewing the current ordinance that regulates food trucks throughout the whole city, and there had been some disagreement when it comes to the C-1 zone (downtown) and Tigertown areas where they are not allowed by the ordinance. Mr. Mosley stated that this was originally done to protect the brick and mortar restaurants in these areas, and there is not yet complete agreement on whether or not to allow food trucks to be in the downtown area at any time. Ms. Norris asked if Mr. Mosley could send the council a copy of the new ordinance he was working on. Mr. Mosley answered yes.

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

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. Five (5) 2025 Chevy Police Tahoes - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 001-25

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Emergency Repair - Spring Villa Bridge - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-25

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. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-25

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 - In-Car Camera Systems and Body Cameras with Related Equipment - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-25

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 - Two-Way Radios and Related Equipment - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-25

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. Purchase - Police Equipment for Police Package Automobiles - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-25

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. Purchase - Two (2) 2025 Ford F350 Super Cab 4x4 Chassis Cab X3F Trucks - State of AL - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-25

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 Agreement with Pratt Recycling, Inc. for Supply of Recyclable Materials - OES.
- During discussion, Mr. Aja asked if glass could be included in the curbside recycling per this agreement. Jasen Spoon, Director of Environmental Services, answered that unfortunately this single stream provider in Columbus, Georgia was not able to take glass, but there are other places that do take glass that are located in Birmingham or Montgomery and would be more expensive. Mr. Spoon explained that they can still take glass recyclables to the recycling centers in town but not at the curb yet.

RESOLUTION NO. 008-25

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

8. Special Appropriation to the J. W. Darden Foundation.
- During discussion, President Smith reminded everyone to RSVP for the J. W. Darden event with Mr. Jones if they planned to attend.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 0

RESULT: Passed

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

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

AYES: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend City Code of Ordinances: Chapter 7 Article II - Flood Damage Prevention - 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. Aja made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Norris seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: 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

President Smith asked if there was a motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Mr. Allen made a motion to approve. Ms. Norris seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Norris stated that she was very happy and excited about this, and that it would give the citizens of Opelika a tremendous opportunity to be able to resolve these issues in regards to flooding. There was no further discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 001-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 900 Block Lake Condry Road, 12.24 Acres, from R-3 to PUD - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

14. **APPOINTMENTS**

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

Stephanie Strickland of 1007 Alton Court spoke first. Ms. Strickland voiced her concerns about not having the police escorts for funeral processions anymore. Ms. Strickland explained that she was personally almost involved in an accident where someone did not respect the funeral procession she was in and almost hit her. Ms. Strickland asked if the city could go back to having the police escorts for funeral processions because people have been killed in other places where there was not an escort and its dangerous.

William Bowhall of 2016 Old Lafayette Parkway spoke next. Mr. Bowhall expressed his concerns about the city using public funds frivolously by purchasing new public pools and installing new lights for the high school football field. Mr. Bowhall stated that someone should be in charge of these lights at the high school because they are left on over nights and weekends when there is no one using the field, and that is a waste of tax payer dollars. Mr. Bowhall also stated that he had spoken with the Board of Education, the high school principal, and Mr. Rauch about this issue, but it still keeps happening. Mr. Bowhall closed

by asking the council to look into this light issue and the traffic issues at Opelika High School and Morris Avenue Intermediate School.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of January 7, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 23rd day of January, 2025.

/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 - Patience, the quality of being patient; such as the ability to wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset.
President Smith first asked if there was any other business to come before the council. Ms. Norris asked if the council could circle back around on the dissolution of the funeral escort services ordinance. Ms. Norris stated that she voted against it because the ministerial alliance was opposed to it, and at the time of its passage there was mention of other alternatives to possibly providing these services without involving the police department, and asked if they could have more discussion about those options. President Smith agreed.
President Smith then 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 06:40 pm.