



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

January 23, 2025

TIME: 2:30 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 02:33 pm and asked Mr. Jones to call the roll.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Fuller, Ms. Norris, Mr. Aja, Mr. Rauch and President Smith were present. Mr. Allen was absent.

1. George Allen, Erica Norris, Tim Aja, Todd Rauch, Eddie Smith

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Tippet provided the invocation.

1. Tom Tippet from Christian Care Ministries.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Russell A. Jones, MMC - City Clerk.

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

1. Minutes from the 01-07-25 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

Mayor Fuller first recognized and thanked Opelika Police, Fire, Power, Public Works, and Lee County Emergency Management Agency for their hard work and efforts over the previous few days during the winter storm.

1. Reappoint Sheldon Whittelsey to the Opelika Planning Commission. New Term expires 02-15-2031.

Mayor Fuller announced he was reappointing Sheldon Whittelsey to the Opelika Planning Commission.

2. City's Financial Summary Reports for December 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.

3. December 2024 Monthly Building Report.

Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.

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

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

1. Request Alcohol License - Casa Maria's Bar and Grill, Restaurant Retail Liquor, Wine, and Beer On Premise.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

AYES: 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 Alcohol License - HP Opelika LLC DBA M and M Grocery, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

AYES: 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 - Opelika Songwriters Festival on 03-27-25.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES: 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. 011-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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 - Verkada Hardware for Floral Park - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 012-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

4. Purchase - Cisco Meraki Wi-Fi Enabled Cameras for Floral Park - IT.
RESOLUTION NO. 013-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS
RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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 - Rubrik Cloud Vault, Cyber Recovery, and Support - IT.
RESOLUTION NO. 014-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS
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: None
6. Purchase - Vertosoft Urban SDK Software - IT.
RESOLUTION NO. 015-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS
RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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. Purchase - One (1) 2025 23-Yd CollecStar Automated Side Loader - OES.
RESOLUTION NO. 016-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS
RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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 Change Order #1 for G. W. Carver Hall Roofing Project - INSP.
RESOLUTION NO. 017-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES: 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 Change Order #1 for Floral Park Renovations - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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 Change Order #1 for N. 7th Street Storm Drainage Updates Project -
ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES: 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 Termination of Lease Agreement with the Opelika Chamber of
Commerce at 601 Avenue A - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 3 TO 0

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman
 Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

12. Authorize Retirement and Disposition of Police Service Dog - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES: 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. Request Refund of Occupational Taxes Paid in Error - Local Management - REV.

RESOLUTION NO. 022-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES: 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. Request Refund of Occupational Taxes Paid in Error - Mike Hilyer - REV.
During discussion, Mr. Rauch asked if Mr. Hilyer still lived in Opelika. President Smith answered that he still owned property in Opelika but also has a different address. Mr. Rauch asked if Mr. Hilyer was still on the Planning Commission. President Smith answered yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 023-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

15. Special Appropriation to Greater Peace Community Development Corporation from Ward 4 Reserve Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 024-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

16. Special Appropriation to J. W. Darden Foundation from Ward 4 Reserve Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 025-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

17. Special Appropriation to Lee County Youth Development Center from Ward 4 Reserve Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 026-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

18. Special Appropriation to The Exodus Ranch from Ward 4 Reserve Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 027-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris
AYES: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman
 Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman
 Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

19. Special Appropriation to The Sound Wall Music Initiative for the 6th Annual Songwriters Festival.

RESOLUTION NO. 028-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 002-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

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

AYES: 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. **APPOINTMENTS**

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Appoint Morgan Vickers to the Opelika Redevelopment Authority. Existing Term expires 08-07-2028.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

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: None

2. Appoint Davis Pemberton to the Lee Russell Council of Governments MPO Citizen Advisory Committee. New Term expires 01-01-2027.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

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: None

15. **SECOND ROSTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
None.

16. **ADJOURN**

The City Council meeting minutes of January 23, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 4th day of February, 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 asked if there was any other business to come before the council. President Pro-Tem Norris asked to be placed on the next work session agenda to give an update on the Alabama Council on Human Relations. President Smith agreed. Mr. Rauch thanked Police Chief Shane Healey for the winter storm statistics handout he gave the council, stated how much it shows the impact Opelika's public safety teams have in the community, and thanked them all for their hard work keeping everyone safe. President Smith echoed Mr. Rauch by also thanking everyone that was involved in keeping everyone safe during the storm. Mr. Rauch also thanked Brent Poteet and Opelika Power Services for keeping everyone's power on. President Smith closed by thanking the Mayor and his staff as well.
President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rauch made a motion to adjourn. Before asking for a second, President Smith read the character trait of the month. President Smith then asked if there was a second to the motion. Ms. Norris seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded:

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: 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 02:56 pm.