



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

February 18, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:00 pm and asked Mr. Jones to call the roll.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Nolan provided the invocation.

1. Terrance Nolan from The Bridge Church of Alabama.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bryson McGlynn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Emunah Weaver and Bryson McGlynn from Opelika Middle School.

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

1. Minutes from the 02-04-25 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. 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 January 2025.

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. January 2025 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Recognize the Opelika School Teachers of the Year.
Mayor Fuller invited Dr. Farrell Seymore, Superintendent of Opelika City Schools, up front to join him in recognizing the School Teachers of the Year. Mayor Fuller then invited each school principal, with their respective teachers, up front to say a few words about why they were selected as a teacher of the year, and then presented each of them with a gift.
4. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then asked President Smith, members of the Character Council, and Scott Slocum to come up front to be recognized as the February 2024 Citizen of Excellent Character. President Smith spoke about why he chose Mr. Slocum for the award and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Compassion. Mayor Fuller then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Slocum.

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 - Harihare 2 LLC DBA Neighborhood Market, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Request Alcohol License - Jay Maa Bhavani Inc DBA Tiger Town Eagle, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Request Alcohol License - Marsh Hospitality Group LLC DBA Piedmont on Piedmont, Restaurant Retail Liquor, Wine, Beer On Premise and Wine Off Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. Request Alcohol License - Mojila 724 DBA Wild Wing Cafe, Restaurant Retail Liquor, Wine, and Beer On Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. Request Alcohol License - Pakhi Inc DBA Opelika Mart, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. Request Alcohol License - PYR Inc DBA Ron Damon Mexican Sports Bar and Grill, Restaurant Retail Liquor and Beer On Premise.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Bike Night Event on 03-20-25.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Request Downtown Parade - Walk With A Purpose (WWAP) Youth Walk on 04-05-25.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Request Downtown Street Closure - On Tap Craft Beer Festival on 04-05-25.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Request Downtown Street Closure - Start/Finish of Long Distance Bike Ride on 04-12-25.

During discussion, Ms. Norris noted the date for this was April 12, 2025, and not April 25, 2025, as announced by Mr. Jones.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

11. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Food Truck Event on 05-02-25.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

12. Request Temporary Street Closure - Sportsplex Triathlon for Kids on 08-02-25.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

13. Request for Collinwood Christmas Luminaries on 12-12-25.

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 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. 041-25

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 042-25

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 4 - President Smith,
 Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. Emergency Purchase - Two (2) Pumps at Oak Bowery Lift Stations - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 043-25

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 4 - President Smith,
 Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Purchase - One (1) Kubota U35-4R1A Mini Excavator - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 044-25

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 4 - President Smith,
 Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 045-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 4 - President Smith,
 Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Request Refund of Occupational Taxes Paid in Error - Cynthia Kelly - REV.

RESOLUTION NO. 046-25

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Request Refund of Occupational Taxes Paid in Error - Keondra Johnson - REV.

RESOLUTION NO. 047-25

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

8. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2025 with Arts Association of East Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 048-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Text of Zoning Ordinance: Subsections 5.1B and 8.17C(1) - Amendment and Application Procedures for Conditional Use Permits - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-25

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Set the Municipal Election of Officers and Voting Locations for August 26, 2025 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 005-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

14. APPOINTMENTS

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Reappoint Ken Ridley to the Lee Russell Council of Governments MPO Citizen Advisory Committee. New Term expires 01-01-2027.

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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

Betty Daniel of 515 Fox Run Parkway spoke first. Ms. Daniel thanked all the first responders of the city for their quick response to a recent fire at the apartment complex where she lives. Ms. Daniel closed by thanking God that she was still alive and well, and again thanked the city for being so wonderful.

Valerie Canady of 515 Fox Run Parkway spoke next. Ms. Canady stated that her life had turned around since moving here with a minority business grant from the chamber, and other private citizens investing in her small business, allowing her to have an income. Ms. Canady then stated that she is proud to be here now, and then complimented several non-profit organizations that help out in the community, including ACHR, Circles Opelika, PRF Institute and Girls' STEPS. Ms. Canady closed by asking the city to continue funding these organizations because she was seeing the difference they are continuing to make in the community.

Valestine Penn of 1828 Toomer Street spoke last. Ms. Penn announced a black history luncheon for the veterans of the community at Covington Community Center on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 12:00 pm (noon) to 3:00 pm. Ms. Penn closed by inviting everyone to support the event by donating sweaters and white socks that would be given to the veterans at this event and other future events.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of February 18, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 4th day of March, 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 - Compassion, a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress with a desire to alleviate it.
President Smith read the character trait of the month, asked if there was any other business to come before the council, and then 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 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:38 pm.