



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

April 1, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Smith called the council meeting to order at 06:20 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. Lee provided the invocation.

1. Craig Lee from Oak Hill Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lydia and Kevyon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Lydia Baal and Kevyon Greer from West Forest Intermediate School.

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

1. Minutes from the 03-18-25 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. Recognize the 20 Under 20 Student Exploratory Students.

Mayor Fuller invited Chief Boyd, Chief Healey and the School Resource Officers up front to explain the program, and then called each student up front to be recognized.

2. Recognize Character Council Citizens of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then invited the Character Council up front and they recognized five different young citizens for their character.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 513 Ermine Street, 14,822 sf Lot, from M-1 to R-5M.

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.

Toshiro Jackson of 116 Cox Street spoke in favor of the rezoning due to it being a Habitat for Humanity project.

President Smith closed the public hearing.

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

None.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. Printer Maintenance - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 084-25

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 085-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 0

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

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. Purchase - Mailing System - REV.

RESOLUTION NO. 086-25

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

3. Purchase - Three Hundred Twelve (312) Toter 96 Gallon EVR II Universal/Nestable Carts - OES.

RESOLUTION NO. 087-25

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 - One (1) John Deere ProGator 2020A - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 088-25

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

5. Purchase - One (1) 2025 Ford F250 Supercrew 4x4 Chassis Cab - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 089-25

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

6. Purchase - Red Hat Software and Services - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 090-25

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. Purchase - LambdaLabs Server Hardware - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 091-25

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

8. Purchase - LED Lighting System for Pickleball Facility III - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 092-25

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

9. Purchase - Eighty-three (83) 6, 8, and 20 Cu. Yd. Front-Load and Roll-Off Containers - OES.

RESOLUTION NO. 093-25

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. Purchase - One (1) 2026 T280 Under CDL Container Carrier - OES.

RESOLUTION NO. 094-25

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

11. Purchase - One (1) 2025 Altec AM55 Material Handler with AM60E Bucket Truck and Chassis - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 095-25

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

12. Approve a Co-Location License Agreement with Core Scientific, Inc. - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 096-25

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

13. Approve Contract with Casey Chambley dba Chambley's Display Fireworks.

RESOLUTION NO. 097-25

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

14. Approve License Agreement with BOE for Fireworks Exhibition and Display.

RESOLUTION NO. 098-25

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

15. Approve Professional Services Agreement with ACAI Engineering for Improvements to Williamson Avenue - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 099-25

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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

16. Approve Sponsorship Agreement with PlayFly Sports Properties - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 100-25

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

17. Approve a Supplemental Services Proposal from Sain and Associates for the Columbus Parkway Improvements Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 101-25

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

18. Special Appropriation to 3D Youth Development Academy, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 102-25

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

19. Special Appropriation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of East Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 103-25

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

20. Rename the Opelika Railroad Depot in Honor of Bobby J. Freeman.

RESOLUTION NO. 104-25

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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

After the roll call vote, President Smith and Mayor Fuller both spoke about the legacy of Mayor Freeman and how this was a much-deserved honor for him and his family.

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Chapter 14 of the City Code of Ordinances: Adding New Article to the Licenses and Taxation Ordinance Entitled "Refunds" - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 008-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 2802 Society Hill Road, 30,630 sf Lot, R-1 to C-2 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 009-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

3. Amend Chapter 10 of the City Code of Ordinances: Relating to Solid Waste Management - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

4. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 513 Ermine Street, 14,822 sf Lot, from M-1 to R-5M - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

14. **APPOINTMENTS**

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Reappoint Tipi Miller to the Board of Education. New Term expires 04-01-2030.

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

2. Reappoint Farrell Seymore to the East Alabama Mental Health Board. New Term expires 04-01-2031.

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)

Loretta Wanat of Fairburn, GA spoke first. Ms. Wanat, the property owner at 509 1st Avenue, stated that she was notified earlier that day by a neighbor that her house had been demolished by the city. Ms. Wanat stated that the home was a historic home, over 100 years old, well-built, and she had owned it since 2007. Ms. Wanat explained that it had been very difficult for her to find someone to put a standing-seam metal roof on the home and the delay was not about money. Ms. Wanat also stated that she had personal belongings in the home when it was demolished, and that someone from the Opelika Housing Authority tore the house down earlier that day. Ms. Wanat then threatened legal action against the city for the demolition of her home.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of April 1, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 15th day of April, 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 - Kindness, the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
President Smith read the character trait of the month, asked if there was any other business, and then 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 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

The council meeting ended at 06:57 pm.