



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

April 15, 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, 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. Lee provided the invocation.

1. Craig Lee from Oak Hill Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Krysta and Jaxon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Krysta Fisher and Jaxon Stoddard from West Forest Intermediate School.

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

1. Minutes from the 04-01-25 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

1. City's Financial Summary Report for March 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. March 2025 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.
3. Proclamation for Kate Frances Hughley Menefee.
Mayor Fuller invited the family of Kate Frances Hughley Menefee up front, read the proclamation and presented it to them.
4. Proclamation for Relay for Life Day.
Mayor Fuller then invited Patsy Jones, and others from the Relay for Life committee, up front. Mayor Fuller read the proclamation, Ms. Jones explained the history of Relay for Life and the City of Opelika's involvement, as well as that the event that would take place on May 2, 2025, and then Mayor Fuller presented it to them.
5. Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
Mayor Fuller then invited Vickie Dearing up front. Mayor Fuller then read the proclamation and presented it to them.
6. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Fuller then asked Ward 5 Councilman Todd Rauch, members of the Character Council, and Ms. Kate Asbury Larkin to come up front to be recognized as the April 2025 Citizen of Excellent Character. Mr. Rauch spoke about why he chose Ms. Larkin for the award and how she exemplified the character trait of the month: Kindness. Mr. Rauch then read the certificate and presented it to Ms. Larkin.
Mayor Fuller then stated that Mr. Rauch asked him to prepare and present a proclamation to Ms. Larkin making April 15, 2025, "Kate Asbury Larkin 'Be Kind' Day" in the City of Opelika, and Mayor Fuller did so.
7. Employee Service Awards.
Mayor Fuller then invited each department head and their respective employees, that were present, up front and recognized each with their employee service awards based on the number or years served.

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

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

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1 Building Permit Required and Section 8.11.1 Temporary Structures/Temporary Uses.
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 text amendment to the zoning ordinance.
Lucinda Cannon of 1104 Live Oak Circle spoke in favor of the text amendment.
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 Temporary Street Closure - Drakes Landing Easter Egg Hunt on 04-20-25.

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

2. Request Downtown Street Closure - Pride on the Plains Parade on 06-06-25.

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. Request Downtown Street Closure - Bourbon, Beats, and Eats Event on 08-23-25.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

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. AWARDING OF BIDS

President Smith asked Ms. Finley to present the bids.

1. Pickleball Court Facility III - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 105-25

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 106-25

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

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 107-25

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 - Cisco Meraki Hardware for Parks and Recreation - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-25

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. Approve Certain Tax Abatements and Exemptions for Oak Bowery Spirits, LLC - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-25

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. Approve Change Order #1 with Whatley Construction for the City Hall Basement Renovation Project - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 110-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 3 TO 1

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

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

NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris

ABSTAIN: None

6. Approve Right-of-Way Agreement for Thomason Drive Extension Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-25

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

7. Special Appropriation to Opelika Parks & Recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 112-25

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. Special Appropriation to Walking With a Purpose (WWAP).

RESOLUTION NO. 113-25

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

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Chapter 10 of the City Code of Ordinances: Relating to Solid Waste Management - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 010-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 513 Ermine Street, 14,822 sf Lot, from M-1 to R-5M - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 011-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 3 TO 1

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

SECONDER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

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

NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris

ABSTAIN: None

14. **APPOINTMENTS**

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Appoint Lauren Bland Bernier to the Library Board. Existing Term expires 10-19-2026.

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. Reappoint David McCain to the Lee Russell Council of Governments MPO Citizen Advisory Committee. New Term expires 04-07-2027.

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. Reappoint John Denson to the Public Parks & Recreation Board. New Term expires 05-04-2031.

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

4. Reappoint Bill Brown to the Water Works Board of the City of Opelika. New Term expires 05-04-2031.

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

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

Martha Hicks of 802 Lakeshore Avenue spoke first. Ms. Hicks stated there was a problem with flooding due to the construction at Floral Park. Ms. Hicks then stated the City Engineer was told there would be flooding after the soccer fields were completed, that Lankford Street has now flooded at least 3 times since, and now there is silt going into Jackson Lake. Ms. Hicks closed by stating that it is an outrage that Jackson Lake is being filled with silt, and the city needs to do something about it because it should have been avoided in the first place.

Laura Fuller 1104 Mockingbird Lane spoke next. Ms. Fuller then invited everyone to the 74th National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm (noon) at Courthouse Square. Ms. Fuller gave a little background history and then thanked the city for its continued support of the event. Ms. Fuller closed by stating that it is a non-denominational event, everyone is welcome to attend, but if you cannot attend it would also be broadcast live on Hallelujah 1520 AM and 88.7 FM radio stations.

16. **ADJOURN**

The City Council meeting minutes of April 15, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 6th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Erica Baker Norris

President Pro Tempore 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 and asked if there was any other business to come before the council.

Mr. Aja thanked Mr. Jones and Ms. Krehling for updating the Request for Downtown Street Closure form to help keep downtown businesses informed of upcoming events. Mr. Aja also thanked Mayor Fuller, Mr. Motley and the Engineering Department for their commitment to tackling some of the ongoing flooding issues affecting citizens.

Mr. Rauch then thanked Mrs. Cannon for speaking during the public hearing and asked President Smith when the ordinance would be placed on an agenda for first reading. President Smith stated it would be on the first council meeting agenda in May.

President Smith 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: 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 07:09 pm.