



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

May 6, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Pro-Tem Norris 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, Mr. Aja, Mr. Rauch and President Pro-Tem Norris were present. President Smith was absent.

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

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Motley provided the invocation.

1. Joey Motley - City Administrator.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Hayley and Clayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Hayley Ponds and Clayton McBurney from Opelika High School.

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

1. Minutes from the 04-15-25 council meeting.

President Pro-Tem Norris stated that a copy of the minutes had been previously received by the council and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Aja made a motion to approve. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. President Pro-Tem Norris then asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. President Pro-Tem Norris stated having no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. MAYOR COMMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation for City Clerk Week.
Mayor Fuller asked City Clerk Russell Jones to come up front. Mayor Fuller then read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Jones.
2. Recognize Alabama Seal of Biliteracy Students from OHS.
Mayor Fuller then asked Kelli Fischer, Principal of Opelika High School, and Ms. Brenna Flowers up front. Ms. Fischer explained the program and Ms. Flowers called each student up front to receive an award from Mayor Fuller.
3. Recognize Killgore Scholarship Recipients.
Mayor Fuller asked Ms. Fischer to remain up front to help present the scholarships. Ms. Fischer first explained the Killgore Scholarship and then called each recipient up front to receive an award from Mayor Fuller.
4. Recognize OPS/AMEA Scholarship Recipients.
Mayor Fuller then invited Brent Poteet and Jessica Samuel from Opelika Power Services up front. Ms. Samuel then invited each scholarship recipient up front to receive an award from Mayor Fuller.

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

President Pro-Tem Norris asked Mr. Jones to present the public hearing.

1. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 2502 Anderson Road, 20 Acres, from R-1 to R-3.

Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Pro-Tem Norris opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said rezoning.

John Moore of 2714 Anderson Road spoke against the rezoning.

Julie Moore of 2714 Anderson Road spoke against the rezoning.

Dan Johnson of 2504 Anderson Road spoke against the rezoning.

Linda Guy of 2422 Anderson Road spoke against the rezoning.

Jackie Hall of 2309 Anderson Lakes Drive spoke against the rezoning.

Bill Perry of 1611 Jemison Place, Auburn, on behalf of his brother, the property owner, spoke in favor of the rezoning.

President Pro-Tem Norris closed the public hearing.

9. AGENDA-RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
None.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

President Pro-Tem Norris asked Mr. Jones to present the general business.

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Bike Night Event on 05-22-2025.

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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Request Downtown Street Closure - Red Clay Food Truck Event on 05-29-25.

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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. Request Temporary Street Closure - Heritage House Market / Vintage Car Show on 05-31-25.

During discussion, Mr. Aja thanked Dani Nelson for taking the time to speak with all the neighbors about the event and street closure to make sure they are all aware and okay with it.

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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Request Downtown Street Closure - Juneteenth Celebration on 06-20-25.

During discussion, Mr. Allen asked if there was only one business that would be affected by this street closure. Mr. Jones confirmed it would only be one business, and they signed off on the event.

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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

11. AWARDING OF BIDS

12. RESOLUTIONS

President Pro-Tem Norris asked Mr. Gunter to present the resolutions.

1. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 114-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Purchase - Ten (10) Panasonic Laptops - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 115-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Purchase - Two (2) 2025 Ford F150 SuperCrew 4x2 Pickups - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 116-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. Purchase - Two (2) John Deere 5060E Tractors - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 117-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. Purchase - One (1) 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe SSV 4x4 Command Unit Apparatus - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 118-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. Purchase - Electronic Access Control Hardware for Parks and Rec Dept. - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 119-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Purchase - Vactor Ramjet High Pressure Water Jetting Trailer - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 120-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Purchase - Energreen Aspen Brushcutter - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 121-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Annual Authorization to Levy Tax on Property within Opelika.

RESOLUTION NO. 122-50

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Approve Agreement with ALDOT for Veterans Parkway Improvements from Birmingham Hwy to Pepperell Parkway - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 123-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

11. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Architect for Fire Station #2 Project - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 124-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

12. Special Appropriation to AO Tourism for Hosting AJGA Golf Tournament at Grand National.

RESOLUTION NO. 125-25

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. Special Appropriation to KOB for 2025 Garden in the Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 126-25

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 5
Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Pro-Tem Norris asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance Text: Section 3.1 - Building Permit Required, and
Section 8.11.1 - Temporary Structures/Temporary Uses - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Pro-Tem Norris asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Aja introduced the ordinance.

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 2502 Anderson Road, 20 Acres, from R-1 to
R-3 - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Pro-Tem Norris asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Allen introduced the ordinance.

3. Approve the Leasing of the Property Located at 1103 Glenn Street to Envision
Opelika Foundation, Inc. - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Pro-Tem Norris asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Allen introduced the ordinance.

14. **APPOINTMENTS**

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

Tiffany Hilyer of 1305 Morris Avenue spoke first. Ms. Hilyer first had Mr. Jones pass out some handouts to the council, and then stated that she was the president of the Genealogical Society of East Alabama and the president of the Lee County Cemetery Preservation Commission. Ms. Hilyer asked that construction of the Blackberry Reserve Subdivision, in the city limits, be temporarily halted due to a historic cemetery's boundaries, that are on the property, not being properly defined. Ms. Hilyer explained that a bogus deed obtained by one Joseph Dozier, some 20 plus years ago, allowed him to obtain permits from the Alabama Historical Commission to perform work in the cemetery where he did more damage to the graves than he had fixed. Opelika City Attorney Guy Gunter was able to put a stop to this by getting the Historical Commission to stop issuing these permits for work. Ms. Hilyer went into great detail about the known citizens that are buried in this historic cemetery that is recognized by the Alabama Historical Commission and on the list of Alabama Historic Cemeteries. Ms. Hilyer stated that a 100-foot buffer is required around a historical cemetery,

the current contractor's plans, which were approved by the Planning Commission, do not include these buffers, and the plans actually show drainage from the construction going directly into the cemetery. Ms. Hilyer closed by stating she was not trying to stop the subdivision, but asking that they temporarily stop their construction so that they can properly define the boundaries and install the required buffers around the historic site.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of May 6, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 20th day of May, 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 - Dedication, a self-sacrificing devotion and loyalty. Before reading the character trait of the month, President Pro-Tem Norris asked the council and the community to keep President Smith in their prayers, and stated that everyone is supporting him in his journey back to good health. President Pro-Tem Norris then read the character trait of the month and asked for a motion to adjourn.
2. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:50 pm.