



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

June 3, 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. Aja and President Smith were present. Mr. Rauch was absent.

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

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Christian provided the invocation.

1. Kadin Christian from First Baptist Church of Opelika.

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 05-20-25 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. Allen 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. Attaboy Award - Jeff Kappelman.

Mayor Fuller invited Mr. Motley, Mr. Mosley and Mr. Kappelman up front. Mayor Fuller then read the nomination letter and presented Mr. Kappelman with the award.

2. Attaboy Award - Sergeant Richard Canfield.

Mayor Fuller then invited Lieutenant Yeager and Sergeant Canfield up front. Mayor Fuller then read the nomination letter and presented Sergeant Canfield with the award.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Vacate ROW at 1000 Block Fox Run Parkway, Unimproved ROW in Fox Run Industrial Park SD.

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 vacation of ROW. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 401 and 409 Simmons Street, 33,810 sf, from M-1 to C-2.

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. No one came forward to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing.

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

Henrietta Snipes of 2300 Lafayette Parkway spoke first. Ms. Snipes then recognized and thanked the Opelika Police officers for the great job they do. Ms. Snipes closed by stating that Opelika has some of the finest first responders anywhere.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Temporary Street Closure - Ferguson Chapel CME Church Event on July 14,15, and 16, 2025.

President Smith asked if there was a motion to approve the street closure request. Mr. Aja made a motion to approve. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. President Smith asked if there was any discussion.

During discussion, Mr. Allen made a motion to table the agenda item until after he was able to have further discussion with the city's safety officers. Mr. Aja seconded the motion to table the agenda item. President Smith asked if there was any discussion.

Ms. Norris asked if the discussion would be about traffic concerns. Mr. Allen answered yes.

There was no further discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM: 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
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. 142-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 3 TO 0

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 1 Willie Allen
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Erica Norris

2. Purchase - Storage Lockers - OPD.

RESOLUTION NO. 143-25

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
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

3. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Sain and Associates for the Waverly Pkwy Shared Use Path Project - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 144-25

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
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

4. Approve Power Line ROW Easement with Tallapoosa River Electric Cooperative - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 145-25

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

5. Approve the Vacation of ROW at 1000 Block Fox Run Parkway, Unimproved ROW in Fox Run Industrial Park SD - PLAN.

RESOLUTION NO. 146-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. Authorize Contract for Accounting and Administrative Services with the Library Board - LIB.

RESOLUTION NO. 147-25

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Authorize Purchase of Stream Mitigation Credits from Martin Creek, LLC - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Request Refund of Sewer Fees Paid in Error - Michelle Collins.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Request Refund of Sewer Fees Paid in Error - Zach Reich.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Special Appropriation to GEMS Empowered for Juneteenth Celebration.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. **ORDINANCES**

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Section 3-15 of the City Code of Ordinances: Relating to the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in a Public Place - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 015-25

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 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 401 and 409 Simmons Street, 33,810 sf, from M-1 to C-2 - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

14. APPOINTMENTS

President Smith presented the appointments.

1. Reappoint Revel Gholston to the Indian Pines Public Park Authority. New Term expires 06-07-2029.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

Patsy Jones of 1407 Harper Street spoke first. Ms. Jones first thanked Councilman Allen for presenting the request for Ferguson Chapel to the council for approval, explained that the church is hosting a conference and asked that they consider the request due to the number of attendees, and their safety, by closing the surrounding streets. Ms. Jones closed by stating they do need to know the information about what they will be allowed to do as quickly as possible for coordination.

Tiffany Hilyer of 1305 Morris Avenue spoke next. Ms. Hilyer spoke about the ongoing need for help with the Hodge Cemetery and the development that is possibly encroaching upon it. Ms. Hilyer again asked the city for help in locating all the potential grave sites that are located outside the original survey of the cemetery site. Ms. Hilyer stated that she was not trying to stop the development of the subdivision but would like to see the developer move some of their lot lines to include these grave sites so that they are preserved. Ms. Hilyer closed by thanking everyone that helped clean up around the grave site recently. President Smith asked if the land the cemetery was located on was purchased by the developer. Ms. Hilyer answered no; the problem was that the boundaries of the cemetery are much larger than the original survey, the graves outside the survey are possibly located on the developers' land, and they are not trying to stop the development but protect the entire cemetery site.

Mac Morris of 2709 Rocky Brook Lane spoke next. Mr. Morris echoed what Ms. Hilyer said concerning the boundaries of the cemetery and then stated they had met with the supervisor of the development, and they were very receptive to their goal. Mr. Morris also echoed that their goal was not to stop the development, but to make sure the entire cemetery was protected because of how old the original survey was, and the fact that there were burials at the cemetery up until 1986 that were done long after and outside those survey boundaries. Mr. Morris closed by

again giving some history about the cemetery and how unique it is. Mr. Allen then asked if they had met with the city's Planning Director, Mr. Mosley, and all the interested parties to resolve this issue. Mr. Motley answered that they would all sit down together, the city, the developer, and the cemetery committee, and work out what needed to be done to protect the entire cemetery, but also mentioned that the City, alone, has no authority to do anything on private property. Mr. Motley closed by stating the main thing that needed to be done was find the location of each grave outside the boundaries first, and after that adjust what needed to be adjusted. Mr. Aja asked if that would included ground penetrating radar. Mr. Motley answered it could be, and maybe the developer would be willing to do that. Mr. Morris agreed that getting all concerned parties together would be best and then go from there.

Henrietta Snipes of 2300 Lafayette Parkway spoke last. Ms. Snipes stated she was there to speak about Juneteenth, but that after hearing them speak about the cemetery, she stated that it was her family's cemetery, she appreciated all their hard work in preserving it, and she would like to go with them to visit it. Ms. Snipes then closed by thanking the city council for their support over the past 12 years with the Juneteenth celebration.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of June 3, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 17th day of June, 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 - Courage; mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.
President Smith first asked if there was any other business. Mr. Aja thanked the fire department for taking great care of their equipment, especially the fresh paint on all the fire hydrants around town, and then congratulated all the city departments that took part and won awards at the recent Burger Wars event. President Smith then read the character trait of the month and asked if there was 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 3 Tim Aja
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Councilman Ward 4 - President Smith
NAYS:	None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:37 pm.