



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

August 5, 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. Fryer provided the invocation.

1. Jarel Fryer from Greater Peace Baptist Church.

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 07-15-25 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. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Aja 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. Mayor's Nominations for Historic Preservation Commission Appointments.
Mayor Fuller announced his nominations for city council approval below.
2. Attaboy Award for Kole Pagan.
Mayor Fuller then asked Opelika Police Captain John Hester and Communications Operator III Kole Pagan to come up front. Mayor Fuller then read the nomination of Mr. Pagan and how he was instrumental in receiving a rare "dying declaration" from a victim who called 911 and then succumbed to their injuries. Mayor Fuller explained how important this was, as a crucial piece of evidence, for homicide detectives to solve the homicide. Mayor Fuller then presented Mr. Pagan with the award.

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - First Baptist Church Opelika Fall Festival on 10-26-25.

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

2. Request Downtown Street Closure - Freedom Fest Concert on 11-07-25.

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Request Downtown Parade - Veterans Parade on 11-08-25.

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

4. Request Alcohol License - Auburn Hospitality Group, LLC dba Element Hotel, Special Retail More Than 30 Days.

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

5. Request Alcohol License - Brewzle, LLC dba Brewzle Whiskey Festival, Special Events Retail License.

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Request Alcohol License - RS Brown Enterprises, LLC dba Bottling Plant Event Center, Special Retail More Than 30 Days.

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

11. **AWARDING OF BIDS**

President Pro-Tem Norris asked Ms. Ross to present the bids.

1. Fiber Connection to Aubix Datacenter - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 187-25

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

2. Custodial Services - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 188-25

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

12. RESOLUTIONS

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

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 189-25

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

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 190-25

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. Change Order Request - Res No 067-25 - One (1) 2025 Ford Transit Van - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 191-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Change Order Request - Res No 069-25 - One (1) 2025 Ford F350 Chassis Cab - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 192-25

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. Change Order Request - Res No 071-25 - Three (3) 2025 Ford F250 Super Cab - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 193-25

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

6. Purchase - Resolution Approving Managed Services Contract with Temple, Inc. - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 194-25

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. Adopt Transportation Plan Pursuant to the Rebuild Alabama Act - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 195-25

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

8. Approve Acquisition of Real Property and Temporary Construction Easement for Intersection Improvements at 10th Street and 2nd Ave - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 196-25

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

9. Approve CDBG PY2025 Budget & Annual Action Plan - CD.

RESOLUTION NO. 197-25

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

10. Approve Electric Services and Pole Attachment Agreements with TREC - OPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 198-25

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

11. Approve Engagement Letter with Himmelwright, Huguley & Boles, LLC for Annual Auditing Services - ACCT.

RESOLUTION NO. 199-25

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

12. Approve Modifying the Job Description of Digital Services Librarian - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 200-25

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

13. ORDINANCES

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

1. Approve Lease Agreement with Envision Opelika at 1032 S Railroad Ave - 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

President Pro-Tem Norris presented the appointments.

1. Reappoint Aaron Kovak to the Historic Preservation Commission. New Term expires 08-19-2028.

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Reappoint Mark Grantham to the Historic Preservation Commission. New Term expires 08-19-2028.

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. Reappoint Cecil Morgan to the Celebrate Alabama Improvement District Board. New Term expires 08-05-2031.

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

4. Reappoint Mike Shannon to the Celebrate Alabama Improvement District Board. New Term expires 08-05-2031.

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

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

Billy U. Allen of 930 Redan Trace, Stone Mountain, Georgia spoke first. Mr. Allen spoke about three issues he would like to see the city address: poverty, flooding and infrastructure improvements, and neglected/overgrown properties. Mr. Allen closed by asking for support from the city to help citizens address these issues moving forward.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of August 5, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 19th day of August, 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 - Truthfulness, the quality of being honest and transparent in one's actions and words.

President Pro-Tem Norris 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: 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

The council meeting ended at 06:26 pm.