



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

September 16, 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

The Mayor and all City Council members were present.

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

3. INVOCATION

Ms. Clark provided the invocation.

1. Mattie Clark from Christ Temple Holiness Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Charlie and Sydney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Charlie Alsobrook and Sydney Haynes from Southview Primary School.

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

1. Minutes from the 09-02-25 called 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.

2. Minutes from the 09-02-25 regular 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. Aja 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. Appoint Tom Penton to the Opelika Planning Commission. Existing Term expires 02-15-2026.
Mayor Fuller announced to the council that he was appointing Tom Penton to the Opelika Planning Commission to replace Mike Hilyer who resigned.
2. City's Financial Summary Reports for August 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.
3. August 2025 Monthly Building Report.
Mayor Fuller asked Mr. Motley to give the monthly building report and Mr. Motley did so.

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 Smith asked Mr. Jones to present the general business.

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - National Night Out Event on 10-07-25.

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

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. 227-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal

RESOLUTION NO. 228-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. Emergency Repair - Northeast Industrial Park - PW.

RESOLUTION NO. 229-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Purchase - 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4WD Crew Cab - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 230-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Purchase - 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Z71 - OFD.

RESOLUTION NO. 231-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. Purchase - Approve Co-location License Agreement with Core Scientific - IT.

RESOLUTION NO. 232-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Purchase - West Ridge Park Playground Equipment - P&R.

RESOLUTION NO. 233-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Approve City Budget for FY 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 234-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Approve Annual Excess Loss Insurance Contract with Granular Insurance Company - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 235-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. Approve Annual General Liability Insurance Agreement with Marsh & McLennan Agency - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 236-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

11. Approve Contract for Employee Vision Care with Mutual of Omaha - EyeMed - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 237-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

12. Approve Proposal for Term Life and Accidental D&D Insurance with Mutual of Omaha - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 238-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. Approve Extension of Tax Abatement for HL Mando America Corporation - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 239-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

14. Approve Contract for Services with Integrea Community Mental Health System - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 240-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

15. Appropriation to Southern Union State Community College - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 241-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

16. Special Appropriation for National Night Out Event on 10-07-25.

RESOLUTION NO. 242-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

17. Special Appropriation to P&R for Annual Health Fair at the Sportsplex.

RESOLUTION NO. 243-25

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

18. Transfer Current Year City Council Discretionary Fund Balances.

RESOLUTION NO. 244-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**

MOVER: Councilman Ward 3 Tim Aja

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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

13. ORDINANCES

President Smith asked Mr. Gunter to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 3000 Block Ridge Road, 304.5 acres, from R-3 and C-2 to PUD - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 027-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Amend Chapter 14 of the City Code of Ordinances - Vapor Products Excise Tax - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 028-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Amend Chapter 28 of the City Code of Ordinances - Electric Rates and Surplus Revenues - 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

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

Tabitha Vasilas of 3095 Wynn Way spoke first. Ms. Vasilas spoke against the Library hosting a specific author in a few weeks. Ms. Vasilas stated that children in our community are being affected by evil, and the City, in her opinion, should not be hosting an author that speaks about witchcraft. Ms. Vasilas closed by asking the council for their consideration and courage to not allow the event to happen.

Jimmie Dickey of 2506 Lambert Drive spoke next. Mr. Dickey, the CEO and Executive Director of Integrea Health, first thanked the council for their support. Mr. Dickey stated the support would allow them to expand from 12 to 16 beds and allow more services to those in need. Mr. Dickey closed by again thanking the City and the Council for their support.

16. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of September 16, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 7th day of October, 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 - Integrity, the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.
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 3 Tim Aja

AYES: Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 - President Pro-Tem Norris, Councilman Ward 3 Aja, Mayor Smith, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:24 pm.