



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

November 3, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jones called the organizational meeting to order at 06:00 PM and called the roll.

1. City Clerk - Russell A. Jones, MMC.

2. ROLL CALL

The Mayor and all City Council members were present.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Tippet provided the invocation.

1. Tom Tippet from Christian Care Ministries.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. City Clerk - Russell A. Jones, MMC.

5. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AND SIGNING OF OATHS OF OFFICE

1. Administer Oath of Office - Mayor - Eddie Smith.
The Honorable Jere Colley, Lee County Probate Judge, administered the oath of office to Mayor Eddie Smith. Mayor Smith was joined by his family.
2. Administer Oath of Office - City Council Ward 1 - George Allen.
The Honorable Wes McCollum, Opelika Municipal Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Mr. George Allen. Mr. Allen was joined by his family.
3. Administer Oath of Office - City Council Ward 2 - Janataka Hughley-Holmes.
The Honorable Ben Hand, Opelika Municipal Court Presiding Judge, administered the oath of office to Ms. Janataka Hughley-Holmes. Ms. Holmes was joined by her family.
4. Administer Oath of Office - City Council Ward 3 - Leigh Whatley.
The Honorable Wes McCollum, Opelika Municipal Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Mrs. Leigh Whatley. Mrs. Whatley was joined by her family.
5. Administer Oath of Office - City Council Ward 4 - Chuck Beams.

Notary Public and Pastor Chris Duncan administered the oath of office to Mr. Chuck Beams. Mr. Beams was joined by his family.

6. Administer Oath of Office - City Council Ward 5 - Todd Rauch.
The Honorable Ben Hand, Opelika Municipal Court Presiding Judge, administered the oath of office to Mr. Todd Rauch. Mr. Rauch was joined by his wife, Ali.

6. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

1. Mayor - Eddie Smith.
Mayor Smith stated that he was honored and excited to be the new Mayor of Opelika. Mayor Smith thanked all the past city council members he had worked with over the past 21 years, welcomed the 3 new members of the city council, and stated that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Allen and Mr. Rauch again. Mayor Smith closed by thanking the citizens of Opelika and asked for their prayers over the next 4 years.

7. ELECTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk, Russell A. Jones, MMC, opened the floor for nominations for City Council President.

1. Nomination and Approval of the President of the City Council.

Mr. Beams made a nomination of Mr. George Allen for President of the City Council.

Mr. Jones, hearing no further nominations, closed the floor for nominations of the President of the City Council.

Mr. Jones then asked if there was a motion to elect Mr. Allen President of the City Council. Mr. Rauch made a motion to elect Mr. Allen President of the City Council. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. Mr. Jones then called the roll and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO ELECT MR. GEORGE ALLEN PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

City Clerk, Russell A. Jones, MMC, then turned the meeting over to the President of the City Council, Mr. George Allen.

8. ELECTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

President Allen opened the floor for nominations for City Council President Pro-Tempore.

1. Nomination and Approval of the President Pro-Tempore of the City Council.

Mrs. Whatley made a nomination of Mr. Chuck Beams for President Pro-Tempore of the City Council.

President Allen, hearing no further nominations, closed the floor for nominations of the President Pro-Tempore of the City Council.

President Allen then asked if there was a motion to elect Mr. Beams President Pro-Tempore of the City Council. Mrs. Whatley made a motion to elect Mr. Beams the President Pro-Tempore of the City Council. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. President Allen then asked Mr. Jones to call the roll and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO ELECT MR. CHUCK BEAMS THE PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE OF THE CITY COUNCIL: 4 TO 1

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 Beams
NAYS:	Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
ABSTAIN:	None

9. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

President Allen presented the ordinance.

1. Amend Chapter 2 of the City Code of Ordinances: Adopt Rules of Procedure for the City Council - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

President Allen then asked for a motion to suspend the rules to have a second reading. Ms. Holmes made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

President Allen then asked if there was a motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Mr. Beams made a motion to approve. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 032-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

10. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of November 3, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 18th day of November, 2025.

/s/ W. George Allen

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

City Clerk

1. Motion to Adjourn.

President Allen then asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

The council meeting ended at 06:24 PM.