CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

December 2, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

   President Allen 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, Janataka Hughley-Holmes, Leigh Whatley, Chuck Beams, Todd Rauch

3. INVOCATION

   Mr. Pogue provided the invocation.

   1. Anthony Pogue from Bethesda Baptist Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

   Eugene, Anna, Javier, and Saniya led the Pledge of Allegiance.

   1. Eugene Benford, Anna Cupp, Javier Perez, and Saniya Harris from West Forest Intermediate School.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

   1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 12-02-25.

   President Allen asked if there were any needed additions or removals of items of business on the regular meeting agenda. Ms. Holmes made a motion to add the request for a downtown street closure, presented during the work session, as general business item # 1 on the regular meeting agenda. Mr. Beams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and following vote was recorded:

   MOTION TO ADD GENERAL BUSINESS ITEM #1: 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

President Allen then asked if there was a motion to adopt the amended agenda as presented.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA: 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

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

   1. Minutes from the 11-18-25 council meeting.

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

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. MAYOR COMMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

   1. Appoint Ben Bugg to the Opelika Planning Commission. Existing Term expires 02-15-2030.

      Mayor Smith announced that he was appointing Mr. Ben Bugg to an existing term on the Opelika Planning Commission.

   2. City's Financial Summary Report for October 2025.

      Mayor Smith 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. Miracle League Field Renovation Check Presentation.

      Mayor Smith then invited Sam Bailey, Bubba Dean, Michael Dean, and other representatives from the Miracle League that were present up front. The Miracle League then presented the city a check in the amount of $40,000 to help with the new resurfacing of the Opelika Miracle League field.

   4. Opelika Pickleball Club Check Presentation.

      Mayor Smith then invited Sam Bailey and Kristie Smith, President of the Opelika Pickleball Club, up front. Ms. Smith then presented the city a check, on behalf of the Opelika Pickleball Club, in the amount of $50,000 to help with a new lighting project at the pickleball courts.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Approve First Amendment to Broad Metro Development Agreement.

   Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Allen opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said amendment. No one came forward to speak. President Allen closed the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing - Approve First Amendment to Miele Manufacturing Project Agreement.

   Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Allen opened the public hearing and asked if anyone present would like to speak for or against said amendment. No one came forward to speak. President Allen closed the public hearing.

3. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 2051 AL Hwy 169, 48.06 acres, from R-1 to C-3.

   Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Allen 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 Allen closed the public hearing.

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

Aaron Bushey of 408 S 8th Street spoke first. Mr. Bushey stated that he was in favor of and signed off on the original plan for the Christmas Parade, Snopelika, and Tree Lighting event on Friday, but had not been notified about it possibly moving to Saturday, if approved by council, as a back-up date. Mr. Bushey stated that the request was to close 9th Street, in front of his business, for the entire day and this would essentially close his business that day. Mr. Bushey asked for some type of compromise to be made as to the timing of the possible street closure on Saturday.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

President Allen asked if any council member wanted to remove any individual item(s) from the consent agenda and deal with that item separately on the regular agenda.

After hearing no request(s) to remove any consent agenda items, President Allen asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: 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

1. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - Christmas in a Railroad Town Event on 12-12-25.
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **Bid:** Transformer Repair - OPS ($ as needed).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 346-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **Bid:** Repair Voltage Regulators - OPS ($ as needed).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 347-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **Resolution:** Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 348-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Resolution:** Purchase One (1) 2026 Ford F350 Super Crew 4x4 Pickup - OPS ($60,215).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 349-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Purchase One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD LT - OPS ($63,810).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 350-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **Resolution:** Purchase One (1) 2026 Ford F150 SuperCrew 4x4 Pickup - PW Auto Shop ($53,452).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 351-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **Resolution:** Purchase One (1) 2026 Ford F150 SuperCrew 4x4 Pickup - PW Bldg Maint ($58,467).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 352-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
9. **Resolution:** Purchase One (1) 2026 Ford F250 SuperCrew 4x4 Chassis Cab - PW Collections ($67,631).
   <u>RESOLUTION NO. 353-25</u>
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
10. **Resolution:** Purchase Two (2) 2026 Ford F150 SuperCrew 4x4 Pickups - PW Wastewater ($86,706).
    <u>RESOLUTION NO. 354-25</u>
    APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
11. **Resolution:** Purchase Two (2) 2026 Ford F250 Super Crew 4x4 Pickups - PW Collections ($123,246).
    <u>RESOLUTION NO. 355-25</u>
    APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
12. **Resolution:** Purchase 3-Year Contract for Netwrix Software - IT ($453,228.62).
    <u>RESOLUTION NO. 356-25</u>
    APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
13. **Resolution:** Approve Bullet Proof Vest Grant Application - OPD.
    <u>RESOLUTION NO. 357-25</u>
    APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

14. **Resolution:** Approve Certain Tax Abatements and Exemptions for Stinson Breads, LLC - ED.
RESOLUTION NO. 358-25
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

15. **Resolution:** Approve Construction of a Gaga Ball Pit/Enclosure at Covington Park - P&R.
RESOLUTION NO. 359-25
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

16. **Resolution:** Approve Professional Services Agreement with ESG Engineering.
RESOLUTION NO. 360-25
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

17. **Resolution:** Reappoint Kisha Abercrombie as an Assistant Municipal Prosecutor.
RESOLUTION NO. 361-25
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

18. **Resolution:** Annual Appropriation Contract FY2026 with O Grows ($50,000).
RESOLUTION NO. 362-25
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Downtown Street Closure - Snopelika and Tree Lighting on 12-06-25 as backup date.

During discussion, it was agreed upon between the City Council, Mr. Bushey, and Mrs. Rauch of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, that if needed, 4:00 pm on Saturday would be the best time to close the streets around Courthouse Square for safety purposes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
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

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the resolutions.

1. Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 363-25
MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

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

2. Approve Acceptance of Settlement and Release Terms in a Class Action Lawsuit.

RESOLUTION NO. 364-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
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 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

3. Approve First Amendment to Broad Metro Development Agreement - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 365-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

4. Approve First Amendment to Miele Manufacturing Project Agreement - ED.

RESOLUTION NO. 366-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley
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

5. Annual Appropriation Contract FY2026 with the Opelika Chamber of Commerce ($115,000).

During discussion, Mr. Rauch asked the city clerk to inform the State Ethics Commission of his abstention due to his relationship with the President and CEO of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce.

RESOLUTION NO. 367-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 4 TO 0

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
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

6. Approve 2025 Christmas Holiday for City Employees - ADMIN.

RESOLUTION NO. 368-25

MOTION TO APPROVE: 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

15. ORDINANCES

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1401 Speedway Drive, 1.933 acres, from R-5M to C-2 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 033-25

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
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

2. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 2051 AL Hwy 169, 48.06 acres, from R-1 to C-3 - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

16. APPOINTMENTS

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

Mattie Clark of 706 Orchard Avenue spoke first. Ms. Clark asked if the city would check on some of the houses around where she lives that are in terrible shape, that there are also people living in some of them, and they probably shouldn't be because of how dangerous they are.

Bradley Haddon of 1805 Archer Court spoke next. Mr. Haddon again spoke to the Mayor and City Council about the temporary moratorium imposed on issuing business licenses relating to consumable hemp products sold within the city as it directly relates to whether or not he continues to have his business here going forward.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of December 2, 2025, are hereby adopted and approved this the 16th day of December, 2025.

/s/ W. George Allen

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President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:
/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

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City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Generosity, the quality of being kind and generous; showing a readiness to give more of something than is strictly necessary or expected.

   President Allen 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 5 Todd Rauch
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

The council meeting ended at 06:33 pm.