



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

February 17, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

1. A CALL TO ORDER

President Allen called the council meeting to order at 06:01 pm and asked Mr. Jones to call the roll.

2. ROLL CALL

All City Council members were present. Mayor Smith was absent.

1. George Allen, Janataka Hughley-Holmes, Leigh Whatley, Chuck Beams, Todd Rauch

3. INVOCATION

Ms. Corbett provided the invocation.

1. Marsha Corbett from The Bridge Church of Alabama.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

River and Abby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. River Crowe and Abby Finley from Morris Avenue Intermediate School.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 02-17-26.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA: 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

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

1. Minutes from the 02-03-26 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. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Beams 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. City's Financial Summary Report for January 2026.

President Allen stated that if the council had any questions about the city's financial summary report to ask Mr. Motley or City Administration about it.

2. January 2026 Monthly Building Report.

President Allen stated that if the council had any questions about the city's building report to ask Mr. Motley or City Administration about it.

3. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.

President Allen asked members of the Character Council and Sherry Cook to come up front and join him with Ms. Holmes. Ms. Holmes also invited Ms. Cook's immediate family up front, recognized her as the February 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why she chose Ms. Cook for the award, and how she exemplified the character trait of the month: Honor. President Allen then read the certificate and presented it to Ms. Cook.

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

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

Race Cannon of 1435 Turn Lake Drive, Auburn, spoke first. Mr. Cannon spoke against the proposed temporary moratorium.

Mike Bass of 805 Forestdale Court, Opelika, spoke next. Mr. Bass spoke in favor of the proposed temporary moratorium.

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: 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

1. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Acharekar and Gregg Management LLC DBA Social Bar and Grill, Restaurant Retail Liquor and Beer On Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Sai Riaansh Inc. DBA Eagle Food Mart, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Shivadhya LLC DBA Opelika Package Store, Lounge Retail Liquor Class 2.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Shivadhya LLC DBA Petro Food Mart, Retail Wine and Beer Off Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Together We Thrive LLC DBA Wild Wing Cafe, Restaurant Retail Liquor and Beer On Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **General Business:** Request Temporary Street Closure - Foundry UMC Easter Egg Hunt on 03-29-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **General Business:** Request Temporary Street Closure - Walking With a Purpose (WWAP) 1000 Youth Walk on 04-04-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - Burger Wars on 06-06-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
9. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 041-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
10. **Resolution:** Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.
RESOLUTION NO. 042-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
11. **Resolution:** Approve Quote from CDW-G for Nutanix Server Cluster - IT (\$66,913).
RESOLUTION NO. 043-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
12. **Resolution:** Authorize Execution of a Quitclaim Deed for 305 N 22nd Street - LEGAL.

RESOLUTION NO. 044-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

13. **Resolution:** Authorize Purchase of Stream and Wetland Credits for the Northpark Drive Extension Project - ENG (\$46,074).

RESOLUTION NO. 045-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

14. **Resolution:** Denial of Application for Package Store Alcohol License at 510 Geneva Street - LEGAL.

RESOLUTION NO. 046-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

15. **Resolution:** Designate Mayor Eddie Smith as the City's Voting Delegate at the 2026 ALM Annual Convention.

RESOLUTION NO. 047-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

16. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to Southern Union State Community College Foundation (\$5,000).

RESOLUTION NO. 048-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

17. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to Walking With a Purpose (WWAP) (\$1,000).

RESOLUTION NO. 049-26

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

15. ORDINANCES

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinances.

1. Approve Purchase of Real Property from Stone Martin Builders, LLC - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 007-26

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

2. Impose Temporary Moratorium on New Residential and Multiple Occupancy Projects - 2nd Reading.

President Allen asked if there was motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion.

During discussion, Mr. Rauch made a secondary motion to amend the ordinance. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion to amend.

During discussion of the motion to amend, Mr. Rauch presented and explained each of his proposed amendments in detail. Mr. Beams then began speaking about the moratorium. Mr. Rauch made a Point of Order that the current discussion should be only about the amendments presented during the secondary motion to amend. President Allen upheld Mr. Rauch's Point of Order and asked Mr. Beams to keep his current comments only about the proposed amendments. Ms. Holmes then asked if the amendments would cause the process to start over. Mr. Treese answered yes. Ms. Holmes also asked if Mr. Treese would need more time to look at the proposed amendments. Mr. Treese answered yes. Mr. Rauch then stated that his goal with the amendments was not to stall the process or table the ordinance, but to have measurable goals and context set within the ordinance, and again asked if the process would start over, even though the amendments did not change the specifics of the moratorium, it would only add to the reporting requirements. Mr. Treese answered that any change to the ordinance would require new notice of the ordinance in its entirety to be published at least 15 days prior to adoption. Mr. Beams stated that this was the first time he had been presented these proposed amendments, and he trusted the City Attorney and Planning Department's original version of the ordinance without the proposed amendments. Mr. Rauch closed by stating he could not send his proposed amendments beforehand outside a public meeting due to the Open Meetings Act.

President Allen then asked for the roll call vote to either approve or deny the motion to amend the ordinance. The following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE: 4 TO 1 (FAILED)

RESULT: Failed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch

SECONDER: Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes

AYES: Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams

ABSTAIN: None

President Allen then opened discussion about the primary motion to approve the proposed temporary moratorium as presented at second reading. Mr. Beams made comments about why he was supporting the proposed temporary moratorium, the need for responsible growth and matching infrastructure with the current and future growth of the city, and his trust in the city departments and professionals to implement the ordinance and report back to the council as needed. Ms. Holmes then stated that she was in support of the moratorium, but she was also in support of more transparency and expectations by setting clear measurable outcomes and goals as presented in Mr. Rauch's previously proposed amendments.

President Allen then asked for the roll call vote to either approve or deny the ordinance at second reading. The following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 008-26

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 4 TO 1

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

3. Authorize Purchase of Real Property Located at 1207 Denson Place - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Rauch 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. Mr. Rauch 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: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
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. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Beams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 009-26

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

4. Authorize Purchase of Real Property Located at 1209 Denson Place - 1st Reading.

FIRST READING: INTRODUCED

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

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

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: **Passed**
MOVER: Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams
SECONDER: Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
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 approved the ordinance at second reading. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Mr. Beams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 010-26

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

16. APPOINTMENTS

17. SECOND ROSTER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
 Mattie Clark of 706 Orchard Avenue, Opelika, spoke first. Ms. Clark spoke about
 certain homes in disrepair that the city needs to address.

Sue Ellen Tallakson of 910 David Street, Opelika, spoke next. Ms. Tallakson
spoke about the need for transparency when it comes to city projects.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of February 17, 2026, are hereby adopted and
approved this the 3rd day of March, 2026.

/s/ W. George Allen

President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Honor, to regard with great respect.
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: 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 07:00 pm.