



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

March 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

The Mayor and all City Council members were present.

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

Before the invocation, Mr. Beams asked for a moment of silence for Captain Alex Klinner and the 5 others who gave their lives for their country during the current conflict in the Middle East.

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Jamison provided the invocation.

1. Bill Jamison from the Church of the Highlands.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 03-17-26.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA: 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

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

1. Minutes from the 03-03-26 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. 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. City's Financial Summary Report for February 2026.

Mayor Smith stated that if the council had any questions about the city's financial summary report to ask Cindy Boyd, Mr. Motley or himself about it.

2. February 2026 Monthly Building Summary Report.

Mayor Smith stated that if the council had any questions about the city's building report to ask Mr. Motley or himself about it.

3. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.

Mayor Smith asked members of the Character Council and Reverend Earl Ballard, with his family, to come up front and join him with Ms. Whatley. Ms. Whatley then recognized Rev. Ballard as the March 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why she chose Rev. Ballard for the award, and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Compassion. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to Rev. Ballard.

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

1. Public Hearing - Request to Vacate a Portion of N 12th Street.

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 vacation of a portion of N 12th Street. No one came forward to speak. President Allen closed the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1550 and 1570 N Uniroyal Road, 12.5 Acres, from R-2 to C-2, GC-P.

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)

Carolyn Reed of 520 White Road spoke first. Ms. Reed spoke against the rezoning of 598 Dunlop Drive and White Road, and cited the concerns agreed upon by the Opelika Planning Commission with their negative recommendation.

Ms. Reed asked that the council uphold the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Buddy Bruce of 505 White Road spoke next. Mr. Bruce also spoke against the rezoning of 598 Dunlop Drive and White Road. Mr. Bruce stated they were not against new development but would like for the part on White Road to be a lower density than what had been proposed.

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.

Mr. Beams requested that Consent Agenda item #3 be removed and placed on the regular agenda.

President Allen stated that Consent Agenda item #3 would now be placed as General Business #1 on the regular agenda.

President Allen, after hearing no other request(s) to remove any other consent agenda item(s), 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 - Tienda El Paraiso LLC, Retail Wine Off Premise and Retail Beer On Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Opelika Auburn Films Arts Collective DBA Boxcar, Retail Wine and Beer On and Off Premise.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - Taste of the Town Event on 04-28-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - O-Grows Market Event on 05-02-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 059-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 060-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

7. **Resolution:** Purchase (624) Toter 96 Gal Evr II Carts - OES (\$37,608).

RESOLUTION NO. 061-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

8. **Resolution:** Approve Proposal for Pentera Software - IT (\$81,053.84).

RESOLUTION NO. 062-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

9. **Resolution:** Approve Professional Services Contract with KPS Group - PLAN (\$85,400).

RESOLUTION NO. 063-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

10. **Resolution:** Accept Donation of Property from CB&E Development Co. Inc. for Cunningham Dr. Roundabout - ENG.

RESOLUTION NO. 064-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

11. **Resolution:** Approve Employment Contract with Patrick McCulloch - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 065-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. **Resolution:** Approve New Job Description for the Position of Public Safety Cadet - HR.

RESOLUTION NO. 066-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

13. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to the Chamber of Commerce - 20 Under Forty (\$1,250).

RESOLUTION NO. 067-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

14. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to Envision Opelika - Worthy Squared 5K (\$500).

RESOLUTION NO. 068-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

1. Request Specialty License - Top Shelf Alternatives LLC, Specialty Retailer Of Consumable Hemp Products.

President Allen asked for a motion to approve the request for a specialty license. Mr. Rauch made a motion to approve. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion.

During discussion, Ms. Whatley made a motion to table the agenda item. Mr. Beams seconded the motion to table the agenda item. The following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM: 3 TO 2

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 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams
NAYS: Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
ABSTAIN: None

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the resolutions.

1. Approve Request to Vacate a Portion of N 12th Street - PLAN.

RESOLUTION NO. 069-26

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

15. ORDINANCES

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinances.

1. Approve Annexation Petition by Janie Powers and John Morgan, 4.6 Acres, 223 Lee Road 799 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 011-26

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams

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. Declare 601 Avenue A Surplus Property and Approve Conveyance - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 012-26

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

3. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1550 and 1570 N Uniroyal Road, 12.5 Acres, from R-2 to C-2, GC-P - 1st Reading.
FIRST READING: INTRODUCED
President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance.
Ms. Holmes introduced the ordinance.
4. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 4600 block Birmingham Hwy, 113.4 Acres, from R-2 to C-3, GC-P - 1st Reading.
FIRST READING: INTRODUCED
President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance.
Mr. Rauch introduced the ordinance.
5. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1500 block Century Blvd, 42.73 Acres, from R-3 to R-5 - 1st Reading.
FIRST READING: INTRODUCED
President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance.
Mr. Beams introduced the ordinance.
6. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 598 Dunlop Drive, 21.11 Acres, from R-1 to R-2 and R-3 - 1st Reading.
FIRST READING: INTRODUCED
President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance.
Mr. Rauch introduced the ordinance.
7. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 3310 Society Hill Road, 6.59 Acres, from R-1 to C-2, GC-P - 1st Reading.
FIRST READING: INTRODUCED
President Allen asked for a member of the council to introduce the ordinance.
Ms. Holmes introduced the ordinance.

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 the continued need for a guard rail around the pond on 1st Avenue. Ms. Clark also asked for consideration to be appointed to the Alabama Council on Human Relations board.

Denise Grimes of 245 Lee Road 186, Opelika, spoke next. Ms. Grimes spoke about the need for local businesses, like Top Shelf Alternatives, for people that are in need of their services. Ms. Grimes stated that she would have to consider driving to another state, to get what she needed, if the city could not approve these types of businesses.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of March 17, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 7th day of April, 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 - Compassion, a sympathetic consciousness of others distress with a desire to alleviate it.
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 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

The council meeting ended at 06:27 pm.