



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

April 21, 2026

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. Lee provided the invocation.

1. Craig Lee from Oak Hill Church.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Allie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Allie Hill and Joshua Allen from Opelika Middle School.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 04-21-26.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE 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

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

1. Minutes from the 04-07-26 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. Holmes 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 March 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. March 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 Mr. Ronnie Ware to come up front and join him with Mr. Beams. Mr. Beams then recognized Mr. Ware as the April 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why he chose Mr. Ware for the award, and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Kindness. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Ware.
4. Recognize Officer Cody Barr with a Lifesaver Award.  
Mayor Smith then invited Major Hester and Officer Barr up front. Major Hester gave a brief summary of Officer Barr's lifesaving actions and Mayor Smith presented him with the award.
5. Recognize OPS/Energy Southeast Scholarship Recipients.  
Mayor Smith then invited Brent Poteet and the scholarship recipients up front. Mayor Smith then recognized each recipient and presented them with an award.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - First Amendment to the Project Development Agreement with MAB American Management, LLC.  
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 - Second Amendment to the Project Development Agreement with Broad Metro, LLC.  
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 the Development Plan for the Cedar Creek PUD.

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.

4. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1502 Spring Drive, 1.5 Acres, from R-5 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)

Tessa Tallakson of 1022 Renfro Avenue spoke first. Ms. Tallakson spoke against the bid for the Northpark Drive extension and bridge over Halawakee Creek. Ms. Tallakson stated that this expansion of the Northeast Industrial Park could possibly lead to a data center that she would have major concerns about.

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 - 1854 Rare Wines And Gifts DBA 1854 Rare Wines And Gifts LLC, Retail Wine and Beer On And Off Premise.  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
2. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Eat Banditos, LLC DBA Banditos - Restaurant Retail Liquor and Beer on Premise.  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
3. **Bid:** One (1) Turret Trailer - OPS (\$70,939).  
**RESOLUTION NO. 088-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
4. **Bid:** Northpark Drive Extension & Bridge Over Halawakee Creek - ENG (\$3,052,473.84).  
**RESOLUTION NO. 089-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
5. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.

**RESOLUTION NO. 090-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

6. **Resolution:** Purchase - Scott Vision C5 Facepieces - OFD (\$182,590).

**RESOLUTION NO. 091-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

7. **Resolution:** Purchase - One (1) Altec AT37G Outrigger F550 Truck - OPS (\$183,827).

**RESOLUTION NO. 092-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

8. **Resolution:** Purchase - CrowdStrike Subscription Licenses and Services Upgrades - IT (\$186,411.63).

**RESOLUTION NO. 093-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

9. **Resolution:** Approve 2025 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application - OPD (\$26,229).

**RESOLUTION NO. 094-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

10. **Resolution:** Approve Contract with Casey Chambley DBA Chambley's Display Fireworks - P&R (\$25,000).

**RESOLUTION NO. 095-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

11. **Resolution:** Approve Professional Services Agreement with Barge Design Solutions, Inc. for Geotechnical Boring - ENG (\$133,854).

**RESOLUTION NO. 096-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

12. **Resolution:** Approve ALDOT Construction Invoice for Gateway Dr and Frederick Rd Intersection Improvement Project - ENG (\$523,604.74).

**RESOLUTION NO. 097-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

13. **Resolution:** (Amended) Annual Appropriation Contract FY2026 with The Arts Association of East Alabama (\$75,000).

**RESOLUTION NO. 098-26**  
**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the resolutions.

1. Approve First Amendment to the Project Development Agreement with MAB American Management, LLC - ED.

**RESOLUTION NO. 099-26**  
**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

2. Approve Second Amendment to the Project Development Agreement with Broad Metro, LLC - ED.

**RESOLUTION NO. 100-26**

**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

15. **ORDINANCES**

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinances.

1. Amend Chapter 17, Article 5 of the City Code of Ordinances: Pre-Trial Diversion Program - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 018-26**

**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. Amend the Development Plan for the Cedar Creek PUD - 2nd Reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 019-26**

**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

3. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1502 Spring Drive, 1.5 Acres, from R-5 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)

Tiffany Hilyer of 1305 Morris Avenue spoke first. Ms. Hilyer asked the city to propose and pass a local ordinance addressing the protection of local historical cemetery sites within the city limits.

Laura Fuller of 1104 Mockingbird Lane spoke next. Ms. Fuller invited everyone to attend the National Day of Prayer event at Courthouse Square on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Sue Ellen Tallakson of 910 David Street spoke next. Ms. Tallakson addressed concerns about the city's water quality and availability, as well as her concerns about the possible location of a data center in Opelika.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of April 21, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 5th day of May, 2026.

/s/ W. George Allen

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President of City Council  
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:

/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Kindness, the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

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:** 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

The council meeting ended at 06:30 pm.