



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

May 5, 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

Ms. Nicholson provided the invocation.

1. Anne Nicholson from Open Heavens Ministry.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Miles and Jake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Miles Tatum and Jake Caldwell from Opelika High School.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 05-05-26.

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 04-21-26 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. Recognize Alabama Seal of Biliteracy Students from OHS.
Mayor Smith invited Dr. Davis, Ms. Fischer, and Ms. Flowers up front. Ms. Flowers introduced each student, Mayor Smith recognized their achievement, and they each received a gift from the city.
2. Proclamation for Children's Mental Health Day.
Mayor Smith then invited Madison Belk up front. Ms. Belk explained the reason for the proclamation and then Mayor Smith read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Belk.
3. Proclamation for ALS Awareness Month.
Mayor Smith invited Mr. Rauch up front to present the proclamation. Mr. Rauch then invited the family of Dr. Lofton up front, read the proclamation, and presented it to them.

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

10. AGENDA-RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
Dani Nelson of 714 2nd Avenue spoke first. Ms. Nelson thanked Ms. Holmes, Ms. Whatley and Mr. Jones for their quick responses to an email scam she received.

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 - Pride on the Plains Parade on 05-29-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - Touch-A-Truck Event on 06-06-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **General Business:** Request Temporary Street Closure - Heritage House Midsummer Market & Northside Classic Car Show on 06-06-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **Bid:** City-Wide On-Call Hardscape Projects - PW (\$ as needed).
RESOLUTION NO. 101-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Bid:** Meter Testing Equipment - OPS (\$25,341.79).
RESOLUTION NO. 102-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 103-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **Resolution:** Purchase - One (1) Coltri Compressor - OFD (\$37,889.33).
RESOLUTION NO. 104-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **Resolution:** Purchase - One (1) 2026 Ford F350 Super Crew 4x4 Pickup - OPS (\$60,215).
RESOLUTION NO. 105-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
9. **Resolution:** Approve Addendum to Contract with Citibot - CR
RESOLUTION NO. 106-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
10. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to Greater Peace Community Development Corporation (\$2,000).
RESOLUTION NO. 107-26
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. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 1502 Spring Drive, 1.5 Acres, from R-5 to C-3 - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 020-26

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

16. APPOINTMENTS

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

Tessa Tallakson of 1102 Renfro Avenue spoke first. Ms. Tallakson spoke about her concerns about a possible data center coming to Opelika and asked the council if they would commit to trying to prevent them from coming.

Sue Ellen Tallakson of 910 David Street spoke next. Ms. Tallakson spoke about the negative effects of data centers on communities and against them coming to Opelika.

Dustin Howard of 1102 Renfro Avenue spoke last. Mr. Howard also spoke against data centers in Opelika and asked the council to put something in place to keep them out.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of May 5, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 19th day of May, 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 - Patience, the quality of being patient; such as the ability to wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset.

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: 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 06:32 pm.