



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

May 19, 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

Mayor Smith, President Allen, Ms. Holmes, Ms. Whatley, and Mr. Rauch were present. Mr. Beams was absent.

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

Avery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Avery Massey and Freddy Torres Morales from Opelika High School.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 05-19-26.

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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

1. Minutes from the 05-05-26 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 April 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. April 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 Killgore Scholarship Recipients.
Mayor Smith first invited Ms. Fischer and Ms. Williams up front. Mayor Smith explained the Killgore Scholarship program, recognized each scholarship recipient and presented each of them with a gift.
4. Recognize Opelika Middle School Percussion Program Students.
Mayor Smith then invited Mr. McGlynn up front. Mr. McGlynn explained what the students accomplished, and then Mayor Smith recognized each student and presented them each with a gift.
5. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Smith then asked members of the Character Council and Mr. Seth Carter, and his family, to come up front and join him with Mr. Rauch. Mr. Rauch then recognized Mr. Carter as the May 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why he chose Mr. Carter for the award, and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Patience. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Carter.

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

10. AGENDA-RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limit comments to 3 minutes or less)
None.

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: Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley

AYES: Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

1. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - First Baptist Church Opelika Vacation Bible School from 06-01-26 to 06-04-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 108-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **Resolution:** Purchase - Body Cameras - OPD (\$44,765.40).
RESOLUTION NO. 109-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **Resolution:** Amend the Organizational Chart of the Opelika Police Department - HR.
RESOLUTION NO. 110-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Resolution:** Annual MWPP Reports for East and West Sewer Treatment Plants - PW.
RESOLUTION NO. 111-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Approve Revising the Job Title & Description and Reclassifying the Pay Grade of Accounting Tech I - HR.
RESOLUTION NO. 112-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **Resolution:** Authorize an ALDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant Application for Waverly Parkway Phase II - ENG.
RESOLUTION NO. 113-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **Resolution:** Authorize Commencement of Condemnation Proceedings to Secure Real Property for the Cunningham Drive Roundabout - ENG.
RESOLUTION NO. 114-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
9. **Resolution:** Special Appropriation to Sportsplex Tri for Kids (\$500).
RESOLUTION NO. 115-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
10. **Appointment:** Appoint Regina Meadows to The Water Works Board of the City of Opelika. New Term expires 05-04-2032.
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 Real Property Exchange and Lease Agreement with The East Alabama Health Care Authority - 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. Rauch made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: 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 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. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-26

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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 5 Rauch

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

16. APPOINTMENTS

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

Harry Atchison of 701 Lake Condry Road spoke first. Mr. Atchison expressed concerns about the recent removal of a stop sign at Lake Condry Road and Dickson Street. Mr. Atchison stated that there is continual heavy semi-truck traffic on the road, the stop sign helped to mitigate their speed, and he requested the city reconsider the removal.

Tessa Tallakson of 1102 Renfro Avenue spoke next. Ms. Tallakson spoke about her concerns about potential data centers in Opelika and asked the city council to consider a moratorium on data centers.

Mattie Clark of 706 Orchard Avenue spoke next. Ms. Clark asked what the city was going to do about multiple houses that are currently boarded up. Ms. Clark also asked when the city was going to put some type of protection around the pond on 1st Avenue by Piggly Wiggly.

Dustin Howard of 1102 Renfro Avenue spoke next. Mr. Howard also expressed concerns about potential data centers targeting rural areas, their environmental impacts on people that live near them, and asked for the city council to put policies in place to protect people from them.

Sue Ellen Tallakson of 910 David Street spoke last. Ms. Tallakson asked about the city's current comprehensive plan, expressed her concerns about data centers in Opelika, and also asked for the city to consider a moratorium on them.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of May 19, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 2nd day of June, 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: Councilwoman Ward 3 Leigh Whatley

AYES: Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2
Hughley-Holmes, Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman
Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:38 pm.