



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

300 Martin Luther King Blvd.

June 16, 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. Beams were present. Mr. Rauch was absent.

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

3. INVOCATION

Mr. Spivey provided the invocation.

1. Will Spivey from First Baptist Church of Opelika.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 11 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Boy Scout Troop 11.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Motion to Adopt the CM Agenda for 06-16-26.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA: 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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

1. Minutes from the 06-02-26 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. Ms. Holmes 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 May 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. May 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 OPD for Earning Accreditation from the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP).
Mayor Smith invited Chief Clifton and Ashland Police Chief Joseph Stanford up front. Chief Stanford spoke about the process of becoming an accredited police department and then presented the certificate to Chief Clifton.
4. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.
Mayor Smith then asked President Allen, members of the Character Council, and members of the Opelika Community Theatre's Penguin Project up front. President Allen then recognized all Mentors of the Penguin Project as the June 2026 Citizens of Excellent Character, spoke about why he chose them for the award, and how they exemplified the character trait of the month: Loyalty. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to each mentor.

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

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

1. Public Hearing - Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 3400 Block Birmingham Hwy, 18.34 Acres, from R-4 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)

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: 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
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

1. **General Business:** Request Downtown Street Closure - Brewzle Bourbon Festival on 08-28 and 08-29-26.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
RESOLUTION NO. 127-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **Resolution:** Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.
RESOLUTION NO. 128-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **Resolution:** Purchase - One (1) 2026 Ford Explorer - PLAN (\$39,012).
RESOLUTION NO. 129-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Resolution:** Accept Public Infrastructure and Utilities of Village at Waterford Phase 4A Subdivision - ENG.
RESOLUTION NO. 130-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Adoption of the East Alabama Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - PW.
RESOLUTION NO. 131-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **Resolution:** Approve Lump Sum RSA Payment to Retirees - HR (\$78,405).
RESOLUTION NO. 132-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **Resolution:** Request for Approval of a Special Use Permit by Verizon Wireless at 2404 Frederick Road.
RESOLUTION NO. 133-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

15. ORDINANCES

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinance.

1. Amend Zoning Ordinance & Map: 3400 Block Birmingham Hwy, 18.34 Acres, from R-4 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)

Harold Whatley of 1104 Chewacla Road spoke first. Mr. Whatley expressed his concerns about possible data centers being located in Opelika.

Sue Ellen Tallakson of 910 David Street spoke last. Ms. Tallakson also expressed her concerns about possible data centers in Opelika.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of June 16, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 7th day of July, 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 - Loyalty, a strong feeling of support or allegiance. 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
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

The council meeting ended at 06:25 pm.