# CITY COUNCIL
# MINUTES
300 Martin Luther King Blvd.
**July 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. Tippett provided the invocation.

    1. Tom Tippett from Christian Care Ministries.

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 07-21-26.

    **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 07-07-26 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 June 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. June 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. Proclamation for Mrs. Annie Pearl Stinson.

      Mayor Smith invited Mrs. Stinson and her family up front along with President Allen. Mayor Smith then read the presentation and presented it to Mrs. Stinson for her 100th birthday. President Allen then asked if everyone would sing "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Stinson and they did so.

   4. Recognize Character Council Citizen of Excellent Character.

      Mayor Smith then asked Ms. Holmes, members of the Character Council, and Darryl Mitchell to come up front. Ms. Holmes then recognized Mr. Mitchell, joined by his friends and family, as the July 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why she chose Mr. Mitchell for the award, and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Courage. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Mitchell.

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.

    Mr. Beams requested that Consent Agenda #8 be removed and placed on the regular agenda.

    President Allen stated that Consent Agenda #8 would now be placed as Resolution #1 on the regular agenda.

President Allen, after hearing no other requests to remove any other consent agenda items, asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: UNANIMOUS**

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|---|---|
| **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 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch |
| **NAYS:** | None |
| **ABSTAIN:** | None |

1. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - Oak Bowery Spirits, LLC dba Oak Bowery - AB Manufacturer.
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
2. **General Business:** Request Temporary Street Closure for Trinity Church on 08-12-26.
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
3. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
   **<u>RESOLUTION NO. 149-26</u>**
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
4. **Resolution:** Approve Certain Tax Abatements and Exemptions for Channing Street Copper Co. - ED.
   **<u>RESOLUTION NO. 150-26</u>**
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
5. **Resolution:** Approve Grant Application to Mid-South RC&D Council for First Responder Equipment - OFD
   **<u>RESOLUTION NO. 151-26</u>**
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
6. **Resolution:** Authorize Alabama Department of Revenue to Collect City Sales, Use, Rental, and Lodging Taxes - REV.
   **<u>RESOLUTION NO. 152-26</u>**
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
7. **Resolution:** Request for Approval of a Special Use Permit by Verizon Wireless at 2002 Steel Street.
   **<u>RESOLUTION NO. 153-26</u>**
   **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

President Allen asked Mr. Jones to present the resolutions.

1. Special Appropriation to 2nd Mission Alliance ($2,500).

During discussion, Mr. Beams commended 2nd Mission Alliance for their work in the community and with veterans, and also thanked the other council members for their support with the resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 154-26**

**MOTION TO APPROVE: UNANIMOUS**

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|---|---|
| **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 |

15. ORDINANCES

16. APPOINTMENTS

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

None.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of July 21, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 4th day of August, 2026.

/s/ W. George Allen

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President of City Council
City of Opelika, Alabama

ATTEST:
/s/ Russell A. Jones, MMC

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City Clerk

1. Character Trait of the Month - Courage, mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

President Allen 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 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 |

The council meeting ended at 06:23 pm.