CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
300 Martin Luther King Blvd.
August 18, 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. Fryer provided the invocation.

   1. Jarel Fryer from Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church.

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 08-18-26.

   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 08-04-26 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. 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 July 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. July 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 then asked Ms. Whatley, members of the Character Council, and Mark Grantham to come up front. Ms. Whatley then recognized Mr. Grantham, joined by his wife, as the August 2026 Citizen of Excellent Character, spoke about why she chose Mr. Grantham for the award, and how he exemplified the character trait of the month: Commitment. Mayor Smith then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Grantham.

   4. Recognize the 20 Under Forty Class for 2026-2027.

      Mayor Smith asked Saffron Koppelman, Marketing and Events Manager of the Opelika Chamber, to come up front. Ms. Koppelman spoke about the history and mission of the 20 Under Forty program and Mayor Smith introduced each new class member.

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

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

   1. Public Hearing - Revocation of Business License at 3040 Capps Way.

      Mr. Jones presented the public hearing. President Allen opened the public hearing by stating that this was a "due process" public hearing and only a representative of the city and of the licensee would be allowed to present their evidence as to why the license should or should not be revoked.

      Major John Hester, Opelika Police Department, spoke in favor of the council revoking the business license.

      Jeroskie Finch, owner of the business, spoke against the council revoking his business license.

      President Allen closed the due process 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, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

1. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - A Joo, LLC. DBA Korean BBQ And Hot Pot - Restaurant Retail Liquor.
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
2. **General Business:** Request Alcohol License - King426, Inc. DBA King Mart Liquor - Lounge Retail Liquor Class 2 (Package Store).
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
3. **General Business:** Request for Annual Life Chain Event on 10-04-26.
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
4. **Resolution:** Designate City Personal Property Surplus and Authorize Disposal.
   RESOLUTION NO. 170-26
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
5. **Resolution:** Expense Reports from Various Departments.
   RESOLUTION NO. 171-26
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
6. **Resolution:** Purchase - 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 - ED.
   RESOLUTION NO. 172-26
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
7. **Resolution:** Approve Change Order #1 to the 2026 City Wide Resurfacing Contract - ENG.
   RESOLUTION NO. 173-26
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
8. **Resolution:** Approve Contract Renewal for the City-Wide ADA Improvements Project - ENG.
   RESOLUTION NO. 174-26
   APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
9. **Resolution:** Approve ROW Enchroachment Agreement at 314 N 11th Street - PLAN.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

10. **Resolution:** Set Date of Public Hearing on Petition to Revoke Certain Business Licenses - 510 Geneva Street, STE 3 & 4 - REV.
RESOLUTION NO. 176-26
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

11. **Appointment:** Reappoint Jervis Hairston to the Celebrate Alabama Improvement District Board. New Term expires 08-05-2032.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. **Appointment:** Reappoint Marvin Bolinger to the Celebrate Alabama Improvement District Board. New Term expires 08-05-2032.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

13. AWARDING OF BIDS

14. RESOLUTIONS

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the resolution.

1. Approve Revocation of Business License at 3040 Capps Way - REV.

President Allen asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Beams made a motion to approve. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion.
During discussion, Ms. Holmes made a motion to table the resolution due to presented amendments to it. Mr. Rauch seconded the motion to table the item. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM: 3 TO 2 (FAILED)

RESULT:	**Failed**
MOVER:	Councilwoman Ward 2 Janataka Hughley-Holmes
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes
NAYS:	Councilwoman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
ABSTAIN:	None

During further discussion to approve the resolution, Ms. Holmes asked Mr. Treese to explain in detail the proposed amendment(s) to the resolution. Mr. Treese explained there was language about revoking the alcohol license as well as the business license in the original resolution and, if amended, the new resolution would remove any mention of alcohol license. Mr. Rauch then asked if they amended the resolution as presented, would that call for another public hearing? Mr. Treese answered "no". Mr. Rauch also asked if they could amend the resolution and then vote on the amended resolution presently. Mr. Treese answered "yes".

Mr. Rauch then made a motion to amend the resolution as presented by the City

Attorney. Mr. Beams seconded the motion to amend.
During discussion, Mr. Beams asked President Allen if Major Hester could answer a question. Mr. Rauch made a point of order that the discussion should only be about the motion to amend the resolution. President Allen accepted the point of order and asked if there was any discussion about the amendment. Hearing none, the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 5 Todd Rauch
SECONDER:	Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams
AYES:	Councilman Ward 1 - President Allen, Councilwoman Ward 2 Hughley-Holmes, Council woman Ward 3 Whatley, Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Beams, Councilman Ward 5 Rauch
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

President Allen then asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution as amended. Mr. Beams made a motion to approve the amended resolution. Mr. Rauch seconded the motion.
During discussion, Mr. Beams asked President Allen if Major Hester could answer a question. President Allen agreed. Mr. Beams asked Major Hester if it was his opinion that the business staying open would be a danger to the community. Major Hester answered yes, it would be a danger to the community as well as its police officers. Mr. Rauch then asked if Major Hester believed this could be, in any way, rectified. Major Hester answered no, he did not believe so, because if the owners were going to rectify it, it would have been done months ago. Mr. Rauch also asked if Major Hester believed the business was causing a risk to the safety, not only to its patrons but to those located around it. Major Hester answered yes, absolutely. There was no further discussion, and the following vote was recorded

RESOLUTION NO. 177-26

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED: UNANIMOUS

RESULT:	**Passed**
MOVER:	Councilman Ward 4 - President Pro-Tem Chuck Beams
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

President Allen asked Mr. Treese to present the ordinances.

1. Rename JoAnn Drive to Faith Way - 2nd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 025-26

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 Section 16-188 of the City Code of Ordinances: School Zone Speed Limit Time for Fox Run School and a School Name Change - 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. Ms. Holmes made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: 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

President Allen then asked if there was a motion to approve the ordinance at second reading. Ms. Holmes made a motion to approve. Mr. Beams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the following vote was recorded:

<u>ORDINANCE NO. 026-26</u>

SECOND READING AND APPROVED: 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

16. APPOINTMENTS

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

Mattie Clark of 706 Orchard Avenue spoke first. Ms. Clark thanked the city for demolishing the buildings on MLK Blvd, asked if the city would cut the grass on 1st Avenue by the pond, if the city would do something about people dumping trash on West Street, and if the city would pick up stumps from a large tree that was cut down on Randolph Street.

Tiffany Hilyer of 1305 Morris Avenue spoke next. Ms. Hilyer thanked the developer of Blackberry Reserve subdivision for committing to include a 30 to 40-foot buffer along the north-side boundary of the Hodge Cemetery. Ms. Hilyer then asked the city to propose and pass an ordinance requiring protection buffers around all other private cemeteries within its corporate limits.

Billy Allen of 930 Redan Trace, Stone Mountain, Georgia, spoke next. Mr. Allen thanked Ms. Clark for her commitment to keeping Opelika clean, thanked Ms. Hilyer for caring about the city's history and cemeteries, and he stated he would possibly be moving back to Opelika.

Alexandria Torbert of 725 E Towne Lake Parkway spoke last. Ms. Torbert thanked the Mayor and City Council for the work they do as elected officials for the city.

18. ADJOURN

The City Council meeting minutes of August 18, 2026, are hereby adopted and approved this the 1st day of September, 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 - Commitment: an agreement or pledge to do something in the future.

   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 06:51 pm.