

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
August 12, 2014

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on August 12, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Council members Linda McCraw, Mike Hardin, Cedric Wilson and David Brand. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Fire Chief Tony Ellis, City Attorney Dale Lawrence and City Engineer Dewayne Roby. Councilmember Jason Cowart was absent.

The opening prayer was given by Bro. Scott Davis of Fayette First Baptist Church.

Mayor Nelson announced that a quorum was present and that the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

GUEST APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

1. Mr. Mark Brown & Mrs. Jo Frances White -- Fayette Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Mark Brown, President of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, stated the new executive director, Mrs. Jo Frances White, was doing a wonderful job. He stated the Frog Level Festival is scheduled for the first weekend of October. He thanked the Council for their support of the Chamber of Commerce. He reported the Chamber is restarting the "Shop Fayette First" campaign which encourages everyone to shop locally. He said the Chamber is considering doing billboard advertising in the area.

Chamber Executive Director Jo Frances White, announced Dexter Roberts will have a concert in downtown Fayette on October 25, 2014.

2. Mr. Terry Campbell -- Ox Bodies

Mr. Terry Campbell, Manager of Ox Bodies, informed the Council that Ox Bodies is doing well. He thanked the Council for their support in providing additional space for their trucks and truck beds. He stated they now have 180 employees and have the highest sales for this facility that they have ever had.

3. Mr. Scottie Porter -- Sterling Bridges Antiques

Mr. Scottie Porter spoke to the Council about his new business, Sterling Bridges Antiques. He stated he had been in the antique business for many years, mainly in Birmingham. Mr. Porter said the community has been very supportive. He has five part-time employees.

4. Mrs. Sandra Whitley & Mrs. Sherry Settle -- Decade of 60's Parade Permit

Mrs. Sandra Whitley, from the FCHS Class of 1965, spoke about the Decade of the 60's reunion scheduled for September 27, 2014. It will be held on the block in front of the Courthouse from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sherry Settle stated there would be food vendors and everyone was invited.

PARADE PERMIT

Councilmember Wilson moved that the request for the permit for the Decade of the 60's reunion on September 27, 2014 be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

[Councilmember David Brand was excused from the meeting at this point.]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wilson moved that the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 22, 2014, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for the month of July: 33 incidents investigated; 13 accidents; 97 Municipal Court cases and 4 District Court cases.

TRAFFIC STUDY

Police Chief Danny Jenkins stated he had recently conducted a traffic study on 8th Avenue SW and 24th Street SW due to complaints about motorist speeding. He said the traffic study revealed the majority of the traffic is either going the speed limit or just slightly over it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Ellis presented the fire report for the month of July. The Fire Department received 6 fire calls, 3 were structural fires.

FAYETTE INCUBATOR REPORT

Mr. Danny White, President of the Sipsey Arts Alliance, spoke concerning the incubator project in the former Delta building. He stated the grand opening would be held on September 4, 2014.

Mr. White reported the Sipsey Arts Alliance has nine local artists as its core group. In the incubator, they are building work areas where an artist can work, display and sell their artwork. They will also have a larger area where demonstrations can be held.

Ms. Marsha Freeland, Executive Director of the Lowe Mill Gallery, spoke to the Council concerning the Lowe Mill Gallery in Huntsville. Currently they have 180 artists and 94 studios. She says they are considering adding 35 more studios. She said they are the largest privately owned art facility in the U.S. This facility allows people to see the artist working on their art in their studios.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mayor Pro Tem Wilson announced he had asked Council members Jason Cowart and Linda McCraw to serve on the Budget Committee with him.

FAYETTE AQUATIC CENTER REPORT

Councilmember McCraw stated the last day the Aquatic Center would be open to the public is Wednesday, August 13th. She stated that over 25,000 people have visited the Aquatic Center this season. It has averaged over 300 persons per day.

PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Heath Reed of Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, updated the Council on the projects his firm was providing engineering and design services.

Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Project along 4th and 5th Streets – Mr. Reed stated the project is in its final stages. He said all the residences had been reconnected to the system.

Wasterwater Plant Project- Mr. Reed reported the equipment and material for the wastewater project will begin arriving the first of September. He also reported the dredging of the lagoon would start in October.

Sewer Mapping – Mr. Reed reported the sewer mapping and videoing of the pipes had revealed some lines that are partially clogged with gravel.

Temple Avenue Streetscape – Mr. Reed reported the Temple Avenue Streetscape project would probably not start until the first of the year. He stated the designs have to be submitted to and approved by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

PAVING PROJECT

City Engineer Dewayne Roby stated that the paving project is complete. He stated the project exceeded his estimate by approximately \$21,000.00.

AYERS ROAD THREE WAY STOP

Councilmember Hardin addressed the Council concerning stop signs and speeding in the area of Ayers Road. He suggested to the Council that the 3-way stop be removed at the intersection of Ayers Road and 2nd Street NE and that a 3-way stop be placed at the intersection of Ayers Road and 4th Street NE. City Engineer Dewayne Roby and Police Chief Danny Jenkins concurred with his suggestion.

After a general discussion, Councilmember Hardin moved that a 3-way stop be removed at the intersection of Ayers Road and 2nd Street NE and that a 3-way stop be placed at the intersection of Ayers Road and 4th Street NE. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

City Engineer Dewayne Roby reported to the Council he had sought bids from contractors to demolish the building and remove the debris for the abatement of the nuisance at 427 4th Avenue NW, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to the Yvonia P. Wallace Estate. He stated John Wakefield Excavating bid \$1,600.00 to demolish and remove the debris and this was the lowest bid.

Councilmember Hardin moved that the Council accept the low bid received from John Wakefield Excavating in the amount of \$1,600.00 to demolish the building and remove the debris from the lot at 427 4th Avenue NW, Fayette, Alabama. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember McCraw moved that the City's financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember McCraw moved that the Park & Recreation financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of June, the City received \$208,000.00 in sales tax and \$9,662.00 in alcohol taxes. Sales taxes increased \$3,700.00 from this time last year.

Mrs. Clapp also reported the City's Blue Cross Blue Shield premium had decreased for this year. As a result, the City would save \$12,000.00.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER MCCRAW

Councilmember McCraw stated registration is now underway for the Fall Park and Recreation programs. The sign up period has been extended until August 20th.

She stated Park & Recreation Director Lance Holliman has recommended increasing the rental fees for the pavilions and community center. His recommendations were as follows:

Large pavilion - \$50.00 for 4 hours or \$100.00 for all day

Small pavilions - \$25.00 for 4 hours or \$75.00 for all day

Community center - \$50.00 for ½ day

Community center – \$80.00 for all day

At the Community center the day is halved 8 a.m.–4 p.m. and 4 p.m.–11 p.m.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Nelson informed the Council that Mr. Rick Bragg will be speaking at the Fayette Civic Center on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Mayor Nelson thanked Ms. Anne Uhlman for serving as Art Camp Director. They had 180 students per day.

Mayor Nelson informed the Council that the 45th Annual Fayette Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Mayor Nelson reported Jim May had requested he be allowed to use the old American Power Source building for an auction. He will pay for the utilities, plus pay the City \$1,000.00 for the use of the building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon the motion to adjourn being made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk