

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
February 9, 2016

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on February 9, 2016, 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, Jason Cowart, Cedric Wilson and David Brand. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, City Attorney Dale Lawrence and City Engineer Dewayne Roby.

The opening prayer was given by Dale Lawrence.

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

GUEST APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

A. Logan Gills – Relay for Life Parade Permit

Mr. Logan Gills spoke to the Council regarding the upcoming “Relay for Life” event. He stated the Relay for Life event will be held on May 13th and 14th. He requested that the area of Temple Avenue in front of the Courthouse be blocked off beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13th.

Councilmember Cowart moved that the request for a parade permit by the Relay for Life committee be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

B. Toni Robertson, Cathy Robertson and Danny White -- Community Development Corporation

Community Development Corporation Chairman Cathy Robertson updated the Council on the activities of the CDC. It is a nonprofit corporation with two of its main purposes being boosting the local economy and preserving the local downtown Courthouse District.

Mrs. Toni Robertson said they have been working on restoring the old hotel. To the best of their knowledge, the hotel opened in 1914 and closed around 1959. For the last four years, the CDC has been trying to have the property redeveloped and it now has an architectural plan for the hotel. She stated they are now in the process of putting together a donor package. Mrs. Robertson said, at some point, the CDC plans to purchase the hotel property with the final goal being to have a fully operating hotel that is leased to a company to operate it.

Mr. Danny White spoke to the Council regarding the “Rails to Trails” walking trail. The proposed walking trail would run from the Depot to the Sipsey River. He stated by leasing this from the railroad, it would also give the City some areas for additional parking.

Mrs. Cathy Robertson said that there were federal funds available to purchase land and build the trail way. The Community Development Corporation would like for the City Council to support them in their negotiations with the railroad to either purchase or lease the “Rails to Trails” walkway.

Councilmember Hardin moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into negotiations with the railroad concerning the leasing or the buying of the railroad property. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wilson moved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2016, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FCHS FOOTBALL TEAM

Mayor Nelson presented a resolution to Fayette County High School Football Coach Lance Tucker and the captains of the 2015 Football team - Drew Guy, Kondarious Wilson and Mario Wilson. The resolution recognized the team for their outstanding season and for reaching the 4A State Championship game.

SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS

The Council presented Fayette County High School, Fayette Middle School and Fayette Elementary School with checks in the amount of \$5,000.00 each. Assistant Principal Jennifer Sanford (FCHS), Principal Rodney Hannah (FMS) and Assistant Principal Matthew Lindsey (FES) accepted the donation on behalf of their respective school. They thanked the Council for their support of the local schools.

ORDINANCE 2016-01-B

Ordinance 2016-01-B was introduced at the previous council meeting. Mayor Nelson presented Ordinance 2016-01-B to the Council for their consideration. Ordinance 2016-01-B is as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01 – B
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR
FOR THE TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §2-16 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fayette, Alabama, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

"§2-16: Mayor - Salary

The salary of the Mayor of the City of Fayette, Alabama, for the term commencing November 7, 2016, for the performance of his duties as Mayor is hereby fixed and established at the sum of **Sixty Five Thousand dollars (\$65,000.00)** per annum, payable in equal monthly installments. The Mayor shall be eligible to receive health care benefits, the same as any other city employee, by paying the same premium as city employees pay."

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by the City Council and its publication as prescribed by law.

ADOPTED on this the ___ day of January, 2016.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Hardin moved that the Council adopt Ordinance 2016-01-B. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmembers Hardin and Cowart
NAYS: Councilmembers McCraw, Wilson and Brand
ABSTAIN: Mayor Nelson

Mayor Nelson stated the motion did not pass.

Councilmember Hardin stated that several citizens had approached him about changing the salary of the Mayor. He stated that it makes it difficult for anyone who is not retired and has health insurance to run for Mayor.

ORDINANCE 2016-02-B

Ordinance 2016-02-B was introduced at the previous Council meeting. Mayor Nelson presented Ordinance 2016-02-B to the Council for their consideration. Ordinance 2016-02-B is as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02 - B
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE COUNCILMEMBERS FOR
THE TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §2-27 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fayette, Alabama, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

"§2-27: Members of the Council - Salary

The salary of the members of the City Council of the City of Fayette, Alabama, for the term commencing on November 7, 2016, for the performance of their duties as Councilmembers is hereby fixed and established at the sum of **Three Thousand Six Hundred dollars (\$3,600.00)** per annum, payable in equal monthly installments".

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by the City Council and its publication as prescribed by law.

ADOPTED on this the ____ day of January, 2016.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Hardin moved that the Council adopt Ordinance 2016-02-B. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmembers Hardin and Cowart

NAYS: Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers McCraw, Wilson and Brand

Mayor Nelson stated the motion did not pass.

Councilmember Hardin said in his opinion and from discussions with some citizens, the Council is overpaid and their salaries should be reduced.

Councilmember Cowart said the time Councilmembers spend on City matters would probably be more in line with receiving \$300.00 per month.

Councilmember Wilson said that if Councilmembers think that they are being paid too much then they should donate the money back to the City. Councilmember Cowart said he would make that commitment to donate a portion of his salary back.

ORDINANCE 2016-01-C

Mayor Nelson presented Ordinance 2016-01-C to the Council for their consideration. Ordinance 2016-01-C is as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01 – C
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR
FOR THE TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §2-16 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fayette, Alabama, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

"§2-16: Mayor - Salary

The salary of the Mayor of the City of Fayette, Alabama, for the term commencing November 7, 2016, for the performance of his duties as Mayor is hereby fixed and established at the sum of **Forty Two Thousand dollars (\$42,000.00)** per annum, payable in equal monthly installments. The Mayor shall be eligible to receive health care benefits, the same as any other city employee, by paying the same premium as city employees pay."

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by the City Council and its publication as prescribed by law.

ADOPTED on this the ____ day of January, 2016.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Hardin moved that the Council adopt Ordinance 2016-01-C. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmembers Hardin, Cowart
NAYS: Councilmembers McCraw, Wilson and Brand
ABSTAIN: Mayor Nelson

Mayor Nelson stated the motion did not pass.

Councilmember Hardin said that it leaves the Mayor's salary unchanged but adds healthcare if the Mayor should want it.

ORDINANCE 2016-02-C

Mayor Nelson presented Ordinance 2016-02-C to the Council for their consideration. Ordinance 2016-02-C is as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02 - C
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE COUNCILMEMBERS FOR
THE TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §2-27 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fayette, Alabama, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

"§2-27: Members of the Council - Salary

The salary of the members of the City Council of the City of Fayette, Alabama, for the term commencing on November 7, 2016, for the performance of their duties as Councilmembers is hereby fixed and established at the sum of **Four Thousand Eight Hundred dollars (\$4,800.00)** per annum, payable in equal monthly installments".

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by the City Council and its publication as prescribed by law.

ADOPTED on this the ____ day of January, 2016.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Hardin moved that the Council adopt Ordinance 2016-02-C. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmembers Hardin, Cowart
NAYS: Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers McCraw, Wilson and Brand

Mayor Nelson stated the motion did not pass.

Councilmember McCraw stated that she did not run for the Council for the money.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for the month of January 2016. The

report for January was as follows: 33 incidents investigated; 12 accidents; 72 traffic citations; and 26 arrests.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Ellis presented the fire report for the month of January 2016. The Fire Department received 18 fire calls. There were three structural fires.

FINANCING NEW BRUSH TRUCK

City Clerk Dawn Clap reported that \$69,472.89 was owed on the new brush truck. She requested that the Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to finance the purchase price through the Citizens Bank for five years with an interest rate of 2.75%.

Councilmember Brand moved that the Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to finance the purchase price for the brush truck through the Citizens Bank for five years with an interest rate of 2.75%. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the same was unanimously approved.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT

Municipal Judge Merrell Nolen reported to the Council on the activities of Municipal Court. He reported to the Council on the revenues and expenses of the court system. For 2014-2015 fiscal year, the total revenue for the Municipal Court was \$104,462.32 and the total expenses were \$101,935.15. City Magistrate Dorrie Rushing was also in attendance.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Mayor Nelson reported that the Council was going forward with purchasing the new telephone system off of the state bid list.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Cowart 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 January, the City received \$236,758.00 in nondesignated sales tax. She reported the 1/2¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$39,144.00. She stated \$9,562.00 in alcohol taxes were received which was an increase of \$71.00 compared to last year.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Nelson reported that Catfish Alley magazine out of Columbus, MS had featured the City of Fayette in its magazine.

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 Cowart, the same was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk