

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
June 27, 2017

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on June 27, 2017, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Councilmembers Linda McCraw, Eddy Campbell, Jason Cowart, Cedric Wilson and Jerry Nichols. Also present were Police Chief Danny Jenkins, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, City Clerk Dawn Clapp, and City Engineer Dewayne Roby.

The opening prayer was given by Dr. John Killion, Director of Missions of the Fayette County Baptist Association.

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

#### AQUATIC CENTER REPORT

Mr. Chris Champion reported to the Council on the Aquatic Center. He showed the Council the commercial for the Aquatic Center that is now running on WCBI Channel 4 (Columbus, Mississippi). The commercial will run for five weeks. He said thru 31 days, the Aquatic Center has had to close early on 8 days due to weather. He stated the Aquatic Center had its highest paid attendance since 2015, on June 10, 2017, with 854 in paid attendance.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Campbell moved the minutes of the regular council meeting held on June 13, 2017, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE LOCATED AT 450 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET NW, FAYETTE, ALABAMA

Mayor Nelson announced this was the day and time scheduled for the public hearing on the determination of the City of Fayette Municipal Housing Code Abatement Board that the structure located at 450 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to the Laura Mae Madison Estate c/o Lesley Madison is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance. No one appeared at the public hearing to oppose or object to the building being declared a public nuisance.

After a general discussion, Councilmember Cowart moved the Council find the structure located at 450 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to the Laura Mae Madison Estate c/o Lesley Madison is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance and that the City order the structure to be demolished 30 days from this date. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE LOCATED AT 2123 7<sup>TH</sup> AVE SW, FAYETTE, ALABAMA

Mayor Nelson announced this was the day and time scheduled for the public hearing on the determination of the City of Fayette Municipal Housing Code Abatement Board that the structure located at 2123 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to Jason Eric Shepherd is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance. No one appeared at the public hearing to oppose or object to the building being declared a public nuisance.

After a general discussion, Councilmember McCraw moved the Council find the structure located at 2123 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to Jason Eric Shepherd is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance and that the City order the structure to be demolished 30 days from this date. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the same was unanimously approved.

#### FAYETTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

Mrs. Toni Robertson reported to the Council on the activities and projects of the Fayette Community Development Corporation. She reported on the Historic Fayette Hotel. Mrs. Robertson reported she has been making presentations to potential large donors. She said so far there has been enthusiastic interest but no big pledges have been obtained. Mrs. Robertson said they currently have

\$660,000.00 in pledges but need approximately 3 million dollars to complete the project. She reported on the Fayette Community Development Corporation's website and on the brochure they have created.

#### MAIN STREET ALABAMA

Mr. Danny White, Director of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the Council and read a letter from Mrs. Cathy Robertson. In the letter, she stated it is time to renew the community's participation in the Main Street Alabama program. The dues have increased from \$300.00 to \$500.00. She said the Fayette Community Development Corporation sees the benefits of being a network member.

#### ALABAMA 200 YEAR BICENTENNIAL PLANS

Mr. Danny White Director of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, reported he planned to form a committee to work on the celebration activities for Alabama's 200 Year Bicentennial.

#### PROPOSED DISC GOLF COURSE

Mr. Greg Hill spoke to the Council concerning the installation of a disc golf course at Guthrie Smith Park. Disc golf is played like golf but with a Frisbee. The hole is an elevated metal basket. Mr. Hill was a participant in the Leadership Fayette County program and his committee developed the idea of creating a disc golf course. It would be an 18-hole course. A disc golf course is usually located within an area with trees and shrubs. He said the course would not interfere with the walking trails. He said to construct the course there would only need to be tee pads made out of natural material and the baskets. He said the baskets cost approximately \$300.00 each.

Mr. Matt Odenwelder spoke concerning the disc golf course. He said a disc golf course should not be placed in a field. The trees, shrubs, and terrain changes located in and around the fairway provide challenging obstacles for the golfer. He stated a typical tournament would have 90 participants. The cost estimate for the creation of a disc golf course was \$10,000.00.

Councilmember Cowart suggested that if the Council wanted to create a course, then the expense be incorporated in the budget. He said this way the Council could decide on whether it was financially feasible for the City to construct it.

#### TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

Mayor Nelson reported to the Council that in accordance with the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with ALDOT, the City is responsible for paying for maintenance of traffic signals within the City. He said ALDOT requested the City keep \$400.00 in its account and the City's account has dropped below this due to recent service calls by the State.

#### REPORT ON DAMAGE AT GUTHRIE SMITH PARK

Mr. Dewayne Roby reported on the damage that occurred at Guthrie Smith Park during a storm a few weeks ago. He said the trees that were blown down have been removed. He said the light pole at the tennis courts and a backstop at one of the baseball fields are in the process of being replaced. The City's insurance is paying for the repairs.

#### ALDOT PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Dewayne Roby reported ALDOT was going to have a major paving project on Highway 171 from State Highway 159 to Highway 102. This should start in the fall.

#### SECLICKFIX THREE MONTH TRIAL

Mr. Dewayne Roby reported the City would conduct a trial run of the SeeClickFix complaint program. SeeClickFix is a program that allows for citizens who see a problem (i.e. potholes, etc.) to report the problem on their phone, Facebook or the City website. Mr. Roby stated the three month trial run would cost \$500.00.

#### MOTION TO ADD JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> TO CITY HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Councilmember Cowart moved to add July 3<sup>rd</sup> to the City Holiday Calendar. Upon the motion be seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

#### APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Cowart moved the City's financial statement be approved. Upon the motion be seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

REFINANCE OF BOND ISSUE

Mr. Rick McCabe reported that Frazier-Lanier, an investment firm in Montgomery, had made a proposal to refinance the City's 2012 Bond. He said under their proposal, if the bond is refinanced, then the City could save up to \$118,000 over the life of the bond.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Nelson stated the Council was invited to attend a meeting at City Hall with members of the University of Alabama Economic Academy to review the Vitality Index for the City. The University of Alabama Economic Academy Vitality Index is designed as the first step in a community's economic development strategic planning process.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER COWART

Councilmember Cowart stated he had visited the City Shop and the condition of the building the employees take breaks in, was not in good shape. City Engineer Dewayne Roby stated the City leases this property.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER NICHOLS

Councilmember Nichols commended Mr. Lance Holliman on the operation of the Aquatic Center.

COTTON MILL NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Councilmember Nichols asked the Council to explore all options concerning the nuisance on the old Cotton Mill property. He stated that he had received complaints from several of the residents in the area.

City Attorney Dale Lawrence stated the Council had previously declared it a nuisance and ordered it to be abated. Mr. Lawrence stated the City could legally clean up the property but in this case the cost would be approximately \$125,000.00 - \$150,000.00. He said it was very unlikely if the City could recoup the money for the clean-up. Mr. Lawrence stated he would contact ADEM to see where they were in their enforcement proceedings.

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, it was unanimously approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk