

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 24, 2019

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on September 24, 2019, 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 Assistant City Clerk Sherry Fowler.

The opening prayer was given by Mr. Bobby Avant.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wilson moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 10, 2019, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

GUESTS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

1. MR. BOBBY AVANT – Rails to Trails Project

Mr. Bobby Avant spoke to the Council concerning the Rails to Trails Project. He said the price Norfolk Southern Railway is charging is "highway robbery." He said the project is based on the City applying for and receiving grants to pay for the construction of the trail. He said the City may or may not receive the grants and this needs to be taken into consideration.

2020 BUDGET ADOPTED

Mr. Rick McCabe presented to the Council the proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year. He stated the budget includes \$6.75 million in revenue and \$6.7 million in expenses. The proposed budget includes a 3% COLA raise for City employees. He stated the capital expenditures include a fire truck and \$500,000.00 in additional paving projects besides the 25th Street and 8th Avenue Project.

After a general discussion, Councilmember Wilson moved the proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year be adopted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the following vote was taken:

AYES:	Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers McCraw and Wilson
NAYS:	Councilmembers Nichols and Cowart
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember Campbell

Councilmember Cowart said there are certain employees in the budget who are to receive a raise in addition to the 3% COLA raise. Councilmember Cowart asked for the names of those who are receiving the special raises and the amounts they are receiving.

The following are those employees scheduled to receive a raise besides the 3% COLA raise: Assistant City Clerk Sherry Fowler (\$1.50 per hour); City Clerk Dawn Clapp (\$2,000.00); Park & Recreation Director Lance Holliman (\$2,000.00); and Waste Water certified operator Matthew Buckner (\$2,000.00).

Councilmember Cowart asked how did these employees come to be recommended for a raise and the others were not.

Councilmember Campbell stated he recommended Matthew Buckner for a raise because he was now a certified operator at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Councilmember Cowart said a City of Tuscaloosa Police Officer was killed last week and he wanted to know if someone was getting a pay raise that would push their salary above the Police Chief's. Councilmember Cowart said one of the person's salary, if given the proposed raise, would exceed the Police Chief's. He said the employees who don't receive a special raise are going to be disgruntled. He said his problem with the special raises was philosophical. He did not like picking and choosing without more information. He said he did not have anything against the individuals in line for special raises, but was more concerned with those who were not receiving them.

Councilmember Wilson said the City had given a COLA raise and a special raise in the past. Councilmember Cowart said this had been done before he came on the Council. Councilmember Wilson stated Assistant City Clerk Sherry Fowler had done a great job. He said no one on the budget committee opposed the special raises during the Budget Committee Sessions. Councilmember Cowart said that no one had agreed to give or not give these raises.

Councilmember Nichols said there are other department heads who were also deserving of a special raise.

[Councilmember McCraw was excused from the meeting at this time.]

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Nelson presented to the Council a request for a permit for the Frog Level 5K run through Guthrie Smith Park on October 5, 2019. Councilmember Wilson moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Nelson presented to the Council a request for a permit for the Boy Scouts Fishing Rodeo. Councilmember Nichols moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Cowart, the same was unanimously approved.

HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT

Mayor Nelson stated based on the recommendation of the Housing Authority, he was appointing Ms. Linda Whitson to the Board of the Housing Authority of the City of Fayette.

PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Luke Porter stated ST Bunn Construction Company, Inc. was the only bidder for the 8th Avenue and 25th Street Project with a bid of \$232,774.94. He recommended the bid be awarded to ST Bunn. Councilmember Cowart moved the Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Fayette that it hereby awards the bid for the 8th Avenue and 25th Street Project to the lowest responsible bidder, ST Bunn Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$232,774.94.

Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

FAYETTE CIVIC CENTER ROOFING BIDS

Mr. Luke Porter stated the Fayette Civic Center roof was still under warranty and therefore Atlas Roofing was going to pay for replacing the existing roof system. Two bids were received for replacing the roof. One bid was from Mid-America Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$53,996.00 and the other was from Bama Roofing in the amount of \$54,675.82.

Mr. Porter recommended the Council award the contract to the low bidder Mid-America Roofing, Inc. for \$53,996.00. After a general discussion, Councilmember Cowart moved the Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Fayette that it hereby awards the bid for replacing the Fayette Civic Center roofing system to the lowest responsible bidder, Mid-America Roofing, Inc., in the amount of \$53,996.00.

Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. REFERENDUM ON SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES.

The City Attorney stated the ordinance authorizing and setting the date for a referendum on Sunday alcohol sales could be done at the same time the Council adopts the ordinance for the municipal elections. He recommended the referendum be authorized and scheduled by separate ordinance.

2. "RAILS TO TRAILS" PROJECT

Councilmember Cowart asked whether the Council wanted to put the City "on the hook" for almost a million dollars for a walking trail.

Councilmember Cowart moved the Council halt and rescind the authority to purchase the railroad property. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, and after a general discussion, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Councilmembers Cowart, Nichols, Wilson, Campbell

NAYS: Mayor Nelson

[Councilmember McCraw had been excused from the meeting earlier.]

Mayor Nelson stated the motion passed.

Councilmember Nichols had concerns about the financial burden it could place on the City. He stated a significant part of the trail is in the County. Councilmember Campbell stated he had concerns also.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Nichols moved the Municipal Court financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, 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 Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Nelson announced the next Council meeting scheduled for October 8, 2019, will start at 4:30 p.m.

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 Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk