

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
October 27, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on October 27, 2020, 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 and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Street and Sanitation Superintendent Marty Weeks, City Shop Superintendent Curt Moore, Airport Manager Kip Madison. Councilmember Cedric Wilson was absent.

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.

GUEST APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

1. Mrs. Evelyn Howard.

Mrs. Evelyn Howard appeared before the Council to speak concerning a manufactured home that has recently been moved into her neighborhood. She stated her neighborhood was zoned R-2 and that it was her understanding that manufactured homes were not allowed. She also stated a Jim Walter home had been allowed to locate in her neighborhood. The City Attorney said when a person disputes a decision of the City's Building Inspector then the person can appeal the decision of the Building Inspector to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2020, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

Mrs. Charlotte Williams with Animal Control stated for the year to date 136 animals had been taken in by Animal Control. She stated several had been adopted.

Mayor Nelson presented the Animal Control contract between Charlotte Williams and the City to the Council for their consideration. Councilmember Cowart moved the contract be approved as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-10

Mayor Nelson presented Resolution 2020-10 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2020-10 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2020-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN APPLICATION FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette intends to apply for state and federal matching funds for an airport improvement project for the Richard Arthur Field Airport during fiscal year 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Fayette as follows:

1. That the City of Fayette is authorized to make an application for airport improvement funding assistance from the State of Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration, for the purpose of undertaking a project in fiscal year 2021 to make improvements at the Richard Arthur Field Airport.
2. That the application be submitted for and on behalf of the City of Fayette by its Mayor who is authorized by this resolution to sign the application and any related forms or documents on behalf of the City.
3. That the City of Fayette is authorized to enter into an airport improvement funding agreement with the State of Alabama, acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration, for the purpose of undertaking a project to make

improvements at the Richard Arthur Field Airport, with partial funding provided by the State of Alabama and the Federal Aviation Administration.

4. That the agreement be executed in the name of the City of Fayette for and on behalf of the City of Fayette by its Mayor.
5. That the authority of the City of Fayette to enter into contracts with the State of Alabama and the Federal Aviation Administration has been reviewed by the City's attorney, and in his opinion, the City of Fayette is duly authorized to commit the City of Fayette to agreements with the Alabama Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Fayette hereby affirms that the local matching share of funds in the amount required for this airport improvement project has been officially approved, placed into the budget of the airport and is available for expenditure upon execution of the Federal Aviation Administration's and the State of Alabama's funding agreements and the start of the project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Fayette on this _____ day of October, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Campbell moved the Council adopt Resolution 2020-10. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 2020-11

Mayor Nelson presented Resolution 2020-11 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2020-11 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2020-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, TO REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE SHOWA BEST GLOVE FACILITY

WHEREAS, City of Fayette acting by and through its City Council proposes to apply for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Funds to construct improvements to the water, sewer, and streets needed for the expansion of the Showa Best Glove facility located in the City of Fayette.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of Fayette, Alabama, as follow:

THAT, Ray Nelson, Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and submit an application with appropriate assurances to the State of Alabama, Department of Economic and Community Affairs, requesting Fiscal Year 2020 Appalachian Regional Commission in the amount of \$700,000.00 to construct infrastructure improvements needed for the expansion of the Showa Best Glove facility located in the City of Fayette

THAT, the City of Fayette will provide a local match of \$277,500.00, which will be provided by the follow: Showa Best Glove \$52,500; Fayette Community Foundation \$125,000; Fayette Water Board \$89,130; City of Fayette \$10,870.00 in support of this project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Fayette on this _____ day of October, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Cowart moved the Council adopt Resolution 2020-11. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember McCraw 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 McCraw, 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.

RECESS

Mayor Nelson announced the Council would take a 15 minute recess.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS TO COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Nelson presented a Resolution to Councilmember McCraw and thanked her for her 16 years of service to the City and its citizens.

Mayor Nelson presented a Resolution to Councilmember Cowart and thanked him for his 8 years of service to the City and its citizens.

Councilmember Wilson was not present but Mayor Nelson read the resolution he would receive and thanked him for his 24 years of service to the City and its citizens.

Councilmember Jason Cowart gave the following address:

My fellow citizens,

At the conclusion of the constitutional convention, as Benjamin Franklin left, lore has it he was approached by someone who asked him, "Sir, what have you given us?" To which Mr. Franklin replied, "a republic if you can keep it." In 1776, our forefathers, with the guidance of divine providence, embarked on a journey to form a new nation. A nation like no other in the history of man. In the annals of human history our city, state and country are but children. In less than 200 years, our nation became the most powerful country in the history of mankind.

"Duty....is the sublimest work in our language. Do your duty in all things....You cannot do more, you should never do less." – Gen. Robert E. Lee

We, the people are the government in this country, and our republic will only be ever as strong as the people are properly educated on what type of government we have, why we have it, and remain engaged as such thereafter in order to form a more perfect union. Understanding these precepts are what drove me internally to step before you eight years ago, ask for an opportunity to service, and in the words of former Mayor Guthrie Smith, "pay my civic rent." I shall not attempt to even begin trying to articulate the personal feelings of honor and humbleness which I have felt while serving you in this capacity.

To you Mayor Nelson, Councilwoman McCraw, Councilman Campbell, Councilman Wilson, Councilman Nichols, and the late Councilman Mike Hardin, I have enjoyed each and every moment with you, both in times of agreement and disagreement, to my family my appreciation for sacrificing time spent apart from one another in the support of our City and defense of our republic, and a special thank you to the citizens of Fayette who have allowed me the opportunity to serve you the last eight years in the great and important undertaking of insuring proper functioning of our municipal government.

Also, I would like to give a thank you to two special individuals, Mr. Bill and Mrs. Yvonne Townley, my former neighbors. It was exactly eight years ago we sat outside on their swing one evening as I often did with Mr. Bill, talking about current events of the day in our community, state, and nation, and I as always, found solace and mindfulness in our conversations as the cool breeze of air and the sweet smell of his pipe permeated while talking. It was there in that moment that the Townley's encouraged me to step forward and serve. To them I say thank you for instilling the confidence in me to seek public office of which I was a bit timid about to begin with. You both are fine human beings and I will always cherish your friendship. To the incoming mayor and council, my sincere congratulations to each one of you who have made the decision to serve and been given the awesome responsibility to lead. Always remember elected officials govern with the consent of the governed.

In closing, let there be no mistake. Fayette, Alabama, in a wonderful place. In the last few months, I have spent a great deal of time in self-reflection thinking about this experience, objectives which have been accomplished, and many other points of public interest, I will continue to encourage those in public office at all levels to address. When you elected me eight years ago, I told everyone who asked, I believed in

term limits. While the thought of qualifying for a third term did cross my mind, I gave you my word, and, why, at the end of the day our word is really the only thing we have.

Perhaps Marquis de Lafayette, namesake of our wonderful community, said it best when speaking of public service when he stated, "Defender of the liberty that I idolize, myself more free than anyone, in coming as a friend to offer my services to this intriguing republic, I bring to it only my frankness and my good will; no ambition, no self-interest in working for my glory, I work for their happiness." Godspeed to each of you and thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving the best community in West Alabama.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION TO MAYOR

On behalf of the Council, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, City Clerk Dawn Clapp and City Auditor Rick McCabe presented a Resolution to Mayor Ray Nelson and thanked him for his twenty years of service to the City and its citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk