

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
February 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on February 9, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Rod Northam, Councilmembers Virettia L. Whiteside, Eddy Campbell, Tommy Williams, Aliska Hughes-Monroe and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor and Airport Manager Kip Madison.

The opening prayer was given by Bro. John Killian, Director of the Fayette County Baptist Association.

Trey Pinkerton, a 12th grade student at Fayette County High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rod Northam announced a quorum was present and the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the work session held on January 21, 2021, and the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 26, 2021, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Fayette Medical Center Administrator Donald Jones updated the council concerning Covid-19. He stated the situation is improving. There is a 13.2% positivity rate in the State of Alabama and there are 1,524 hospitalizations which is 2,000 less than a month ago. In Fayette County, there have been 1,584 Covid-19 cases and 37 deaths. The positivity rate in Fayette County is 16.75%. In the last fourteen days, 99 cases have been reported in Fayette County.

Mr. Jones reported there are six residents in the nursing home that have Covid. He stated the hospital does not have any doses of vaccine right now and he did not know when they would receive any. He said the hospital continues to provide the second vaccine shot. Mr. Jones said the Health Department continues to have the drive-thru vaccines every Friday. He said Alabama has received approximately 900,000 doses of the vaccine and almost 60% have now been administered. He reported Walmart in Fayette was on the list to begin receiving doses of the vaccine.

AIRPORT GRANT CONTRACT

Mr. Taylor Bone with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, spoke to the Council concerning the fencing project at the airport for 2021. The estimated fees for the project are \$35,754.00. Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the contact with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood for the airport fencing project. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT

Mr. Luke Porter reported to the Council on his estimates for Phase I of the Rails to Trails Project. His cost estimate for the project if it runs from Martin Luther King Drive to State Highway 171 is \$456,420.00. His cost estimate for the project if it runs from Martin Luther King Drive to Temple Avenue is \$342,444.00. Mr. Porter said if the Council chose to just go from Temple Avenue to Martin Luther King Drive, then the Council could possibly add 750 feet of trail west of Martin Luther King Drive.

BOND REFINANCE

Mr. Rick McCabe stated there were 17 years left on the City's bond which has a current interest rate of 3.5%. He stated the bond payment is \$196,000.00 each year. Mr. McCabe stated the City could refinance the bond at 1.4% and this would provide considerable savings to the City.

Mr. McCabe stated the City's first option would be to just refinance the current bond at the lower interest rate which would reduce the amount of the City's annual bond payment. Under this option, the bond payment would drop approximately \$22,000.00 per year resulting in a savings of \$370,000.00 over 17 years.

Mr. McCabe stated the City's second option would be to refinance the current bond at the lower interest rate but keep the City's bond payment amount the same as the current bond payment. Under this option, the bond payments and maturity date would remain the same as the current bond and the City would receive \$350,000.00 at closing.

Mr. McCabe stated the City's third option would be to refinance the current bond at the lower interest rate and extend the bond payments for an additional five years while keeping the new bond payment the same as the current bond payment. Under this option, the bond payment would remain the same as the current bond payment but the maturity date would be extended 5 years and the City would receive \$1,000,000.00 at closing.

Mr. McCabe stated the first question the Council should determine is whether to refinance the current bond or not. He said a decision on which one of the three options to pursue could wait until a later date. Councilmember Williams moved the Council proceed with refinancing the bond. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for the month of January 2021. The report was as follows: 51 incidents investigated; 11 accidents; 53 traffic citations; 21 traffic warnings and 94 arrests.

Chief Jenkins reported on the traffic study performed on 5th Avenue NE (Ayres Road). He stated the device was set up near the bus barn and that most of the speeding violations occurred in the afternoon.

SPEED PATROL TRAILER

Police Chief Jenkins reported to the Council on his investigation concerning the purchase of an active speed trailer. If the City decided to purchase one, he recommended the Council purchase the Speed Patrol Trailer. He said the cost of the Speed Patrol Trailer is \$8,727.00. He stated this can also be used in performing speed studies. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved that the City purchase a Speed Patrol Trailer at a cost of \$8,727.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for the month of January 2021. The Fire Department received 25 calls.

25TH STREET NE PAVING PROJECT

Mayor Northam asked the Council whether they wanted to proceed with partnering with the County to pave 25th Street and McConnell Loop. Councilmember Nichols moved that the City proceed with the partnering with the County on the paving project. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

CLOSURE OF 8TH STREET SE

Mayor Northam reported Showa Glove Plant Manager Scott Robertson had requested that 8th Street SE be closed for three months in order to provide additional parking and allow for the construction of the new building to be completed. Councilmember Nichols moved the City temporarily close 8th Street SE for a period of three months. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

HOUSING CODE ABATEMENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Councilmember Williams stated he had appointed Mr. Bruce Low to represent Ward 3 on the Municipal Housing Code Abatement Board.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe 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 Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Nichols moved the Park & Recreation financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam reported there are still a lot of employment opportunities in the City.

Mayor Northam stated he and Luke Porter would meet with ALDOT concerning the Hwy18/Hwy 171 Intersection Project on February 18, 2021.

Mayor Northam stated he is investigating returning the collection of business licenses back to the City.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of January, the City received \$286,604.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$46,573.00 for a combined total of \$333,177.00. This was a \$24,000.00 increase over last year. She reported the City received \$3,077.00 in alcohol taxes. She reported the City received \$21,478.00 in online sales tax.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the consideration the City is willing to offer for the lease or purchase of certain real property. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council come out of executive session. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk