

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
March 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on March 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 and Aliska Hughes-Monroe. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Police Chief Danny Jenkins and Fire Captain Brad Porter. Councilmember Jerry Nichols was absent for the first portion of the meeting.

The opening prayer was given by Bro. Lowden Richardson, Youth Minister at Fayette First Baptist Church.

Ella Porter, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Fayette Middle 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 Whiteside moved the minutes of the work session held on February 18, 2021, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Campbell moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 23, 2021, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

#### JUDGE MARY WINDOM, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE ALABAMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Judge Mary Windom, presiding Judge of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals spoke to the Council. Judge Windom stated she had been on the Court of Criminal Appeals since 2008. She stated her mother's family – the Herron's- are from Fayette. She stated the Court of Criminal Appeals has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest case load in the country. Judge Windom stated she plans to run for the Alabama Supreme Court.

[Councilmember Nichols entered the meeting at this point.]

#### ONYX DIGITAL FARMS

Mr. Basham Johnson and Mr. Mark Froehlieh of Onyx Digital Farms, LLC, were at the Council meeting. Mr. Johnson explained his business centers around mining crypto-currency. He stated his company is coming to Fayette to mine crypto currency and build crypto currency pods. His company plans to lease the old American Power source building. He said he was really impressed with Fayette.

#### AQUATIC PARK FEE PROPOSAL

Mr. Chris Champion reported on the Aquatic Center. He stated this was the 9<sup>th</sup> season for the Aquatic Center. The proposed fee schedule is as follows:

- Admission price to stay the same at \$10.00; Military, senior citizens and non swimmers at \$7.00.
- Season passes \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member and \$50.00 for each additional family member.
- The fee for parties held on Friday, Saturday or Sunday would be \$500.00 and the fee for parties held on Monday thru Thursday would be \$400.00.

Mr. Champion was asked to keep up with the feedback.

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the fee schedule for the Aquatic Park as presented. 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 February 2021. The report was as follows: 24 incidents investigated; 12 accidents; 58 traffic citations; 13 traffic warnings and 52 arrests.

Chief Jenkins stated after January 2021, the time it takes to complete the Police Academy has increased from thirteen weeks to fourteen weeks and any new recruit has to pass a psychological profile.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Captain Brad Porter presented the fire report for the month of February 2021. The Fire Department received 29 calls.

#### 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET NE PAVING PROJECT

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

#### ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES DELEGATE APPOINTMENT

Mayor Northam reported on the upcoming Alabama League of Municipalities Conference. Councilmember Campbell moved the Council appoint Mayor Northam as its voting delegate for the Alabama League of Municipalities Conference. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Campbell will serve as the alternate voting delegate for the conference.

#### BUSINESS LICENSE SOFTWARE UPDATE

Mayor Northam reported on his discussions with ETA Data Direct, Inc. He stated ETA Data Direct, Inc. had agreed to reduce the monthly support fee from \$200.00 to \$150.00. The purchase price for the software is \$3,500.00

Mayor Northam stated, in 2020, the City issued 818 business licenses and collected \$211,000.00 in business license fees. He said so far in 2021, the City has issued 559 business licenses and collected \$163,000.00.

#### PERSONNEL NEEDS IN CITY DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Northam stated the City is in need of a part-time fireman who would be employed on an "as needed" basis.

Mayor Northam stated the City is in need of a part-time ACE Coordinator. The ACE Coordinator would serve on a contract basis. The consensus of the Council was for the City to continue to participate in the ACE Program.

Mayor Northam stated interviews were being held to fill the vacancies in the Street Department and Park and Recreation Department.

Mayor Northam stated Waste Water Superintendent John Dill would be retiring soon and the City needed to start advertising for applicants for the Waste Water Superintendent position.

Mayor Northam also stated the summer work crew positions would need to be filled. A regular City employee will supervise them. The consensus of the Council was to have a Summer Work Program.

#### ZONING BOARD MEETING

Mayor Northam reported a Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting would be held on March 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

#### PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

Mayor Northam and the Council set the public hearing concerning the lease to Onyx Digital Farms, LLC for March 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

#### WORK SESSION SCHEDULED

Mayor Northam stated a Work Session would be held on March 25, 2021.

### APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

### APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Campbell 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 two new businesses in Fayette: Cotton Creek Clothing and S&S Welding and Fabrication.

Mayor Northam announced Mr. Quinton Aaron, the actor who played Big Mike in the movie, "The Blind Side", will be speaking at John Morgan Brown Stadium on March 18, 2021.

Mayor Northam also announced that a Garden Tractor Pull would be held on March 20, 2021, at the Fayette County Multipurpose Complex.

Mayor Northam reported Fayette County's Covid-19 fourteen day positivity rate had fallen to 7.6%.

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

### REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of February, the City received \$239,804.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$37,747.00 for a combined total of \$277,551.00. This was a \$36,000.00 increase over last year. She reported the City received \$12,454.00 in alcohol taxes. She reported the City received \$25,728.00 in online sales tax.

### REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS

Councilmember Williams stated the leaf machine will operate until the end of March.

### REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER HUGHES-MONROE

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe reported 200 kids have signed up for baseball.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk