

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
July 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on July 27, 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 and Fire Chief Shannon Taylor.

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Adrian Nottonson of the Fayette First Freewill Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Northam.

Mayor 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 regular meeting held on July 13, 2021, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

DHR ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mr. Jason Cowart, Director of the local Department of Human Resources (DHR) office spoke to the Council concerning the roof at the DHR building. DHR leases the building from the City. He stated the roof is leaking and buckling and is in need of replacement. He estimated the cost of replacing the roof would be \$40,000.00. After a general discussion, Councilmember Nichols moved the City advertise for bids for the replacement of the roof on the DHR building. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AT SHOWA FACILITY

Mr. Terry Acuff spoke to the Council concerning the necessity of moving and replacing the City's sewer lines at the Showa facility. He said this is being done because Showa is anticipating building a third building on their site and the sewer line would run under their new building if it is not moved. Mr. Luke Porter explained where the new lines would be placed. Councilmember Nichols thought it would be better if the sewer lines were located more along the boundary and not along the street.

RESOLUTION 2021-06

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2021-06 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2021-06 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2021-06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM TO SERVE THE EXPANSION OF SHOWA BEST GLOVE

WHEREAS, the 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 city's sewer collection system needed to serve the expansion of the Showa Best Glove facility located in the City of Fayette.

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

THAT, ROD NORTHAM, 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 2021 Appalachian Regional Commission in the amount of **\$700,000.00** to construct improvements to the city's sewer collection system needed to serve 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 \$300,000.00, which will be provided by the follow: Fayette Community Foundation \$125,000; Fayette Water Board \$89,130; City of Fayette \$85,870.00 in support of this project.

READ AND ADOPTED this the 27th day of July 2021.

THE CITY OF FAYETTE:

By: _____
Rod Northam, Mayor

Attest:

Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Whiteside moved the Council adopt Resolution 2021-06. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmembers Whiteside, Campbell, Williams and Hughes-Monroe
NAYS: Councilmember Nichols

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-05

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2021-05 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2021-05 is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2021-05
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A RTP GRANT APPLICATION
REQUESTING \$400,000 IN RTP GRANT FUNDS AND THE COMMITMENT OF \$100,000
MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette has made it known their intention to apply to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for Recreational Trails Program(RTP) Funds to construct Phase I of the City of Fayette Rails to Trails multi-purpose trail; and

WHEREAS, said programs are limited to funding a maximum of \$400,000 or eighty percent (80%) of the proposed project cost which will be used for construction of the first phase of the multi-purpose trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Fayette is authorizing the submittal of a RTP Grant application requesting \$400,000 in RTP Grant funds and will commit twenty percent (\$100,000) matching funds for the construction phase of this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the grant is awarded, the City of Fayette understands that it will sign assurances complying with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Fayette, on this the 27th day of July 2021.

THE CITY OF FAYETTE:

By: _____
Rod Northam, Mayor

Attest:

Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Campbell moved the Council adopt Resolution 2021-05. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Terry Acuff stated the City is reapplying for this grant. He stated ADECA did not have the money to fund it when the City first applied.

AQUATIC CENTER EXPANSION GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Terry Acuff spoke to the Council about grant opportunities for expanding the Aquatic Center to add another feature. He said a Land and Water Conservation grant could be used for this. He stated this grant can be up to \$400,000.00 but requires a 50% match by the City. He said the grant would have to be applied for in the fall.

NEW BRUSH TRUCK

Street Superintendent Marty Weeks and Shop Superintendent Curt Moore spoke to the Council concerning the old brush truck. Mr. Weeks reported the brush truck's motor was not repairable and the Council had the following options: (1) the first option was to replace the motor in the brush truck at a cost of \$32,000.00; (2) the second option was to purchase a new brush truck for \$58,798.33 and have the old bed put on it for a total cost of 65,558.00; (3) the third option was to purchase a new brush truck for \$58,798.33 and a new bed for \$17,167.00 for a total cost of 75,965.33; and, (4) the fourth option was to purchase a new knuckle boom grapple truck with dump bed off the state bid list for \$151,293.36.

Councilmember Nichols moved the City purchase a new knuckle boom grapple truck with dump bed off the state bid list from Southland International at a cost of \$151,293.36. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Police Chief Danny Jenkins spoke to the Council concerning "Back to School" safety. He stated there were some complaints last year about vehicles not stopping for the school buses. Chief Jenkins reviewed the penalties for passing a stopped school bus. He recommended people leave early so they are not in a rush. Chief Jenkins also reminded everyone about the reduced speeds in a school zone.

Chief Jenkins also reminded everyone that Tiger Drive is a one way street and vehicles should not be pulling out into Highway 43 from Tiger Driver. The exit for Tiger Drive is 16th Street.

POLICE OFFICER HIRE

Chief Jenkins recommended Mr. Keiontae Brent be hired as a police officer. He is currently a jailer at the Fayette County Jail. Mayor Northam stated based upon Chief Jenkins's recommendation he would hire Mr. Brent upon receiving the consent of the Council. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council consent to the Mayor hiring Mr. Keiontae Brent as a police officer. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

SPEED STUDY ON STREET NEAR MAYFAIR MANOR

Police Chief Jenkins reported on a traffic study near Mayfair Manor. Chief Jenkins stated 3,200 vehicles went through this area in seven days. He stated that approximately 86% were doing over 25 mph. Chief Jenkins recommended a "pedestrian crossing" sign or "children at play" sign be placed in the area.

GRASS AND WEED ABATEMENTS

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor reported there were approximately five properties where the City would have to abate the grass and weed nuisances.

NEW PHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor reviewed with the Council the telephone/communications systems for City Hall and the EOC building. He stated City Hall and the EOC building share a fiber connection and communicate via an on-site Shortel server. Currently there are 3 internet connections serving both buildings with the primary being a DSL located at City Hall. The backbone of the current communication system for City Hall and the EOC originated in 1999 when fiber was connected between the two buildings. Since that time hardware from differing years has been added or updated. The current Shortel server was manufactured in 2012 and runs on Windows server 2012. The Shortel Connect software was last updated in 2015 and no longer is serviced by Shortel. He stated by going to a new system, it would save the City money.

Chief Taylor stated he has spoken with Lumen, the new owner of Centurylink, to develop a new communication system for the City. He said the basics of the proposed plan are as follows: 1. Install a dedicated 1 gig fiber connection to the EOC building. The EOC is a fortified structure and on constant generator backup. In the event of power loss or significant damage, communications would remain; 2. Migrate to a hosted PBX option that removes the on-site hardware and software requirements; 3. Provide citywide access to the hosted VOIP (voice over internet protocol) to every department and structure.

CITY SHOP LEASE

Mayor Northam stated the lease on a portion of the City shop property ends on July 31, 2021. The City Shop committee is still working on finding a new location for the shop. The City can lease the current property for \$250.00 per month. Councilmember Campbell moved the Council lease the current property for one year at a rate of \$250.00 per month. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmembers Campbell, Williams and Hughes-Monroe
NAYS: Councilmember Nichols and Whiteside

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

CITY SHOP COMMITTEE

Councilmember Williams reported to the Council on the City Shop Committee's work. He stated the committee has found the current location no longer meets the needs of the City. He stated there would be a three step plan. The first step would be to build a new shop at a new location. Mayor Northam asked how the cost of the facility would be determined so it could be placed in the budget.

Councilmember Nichols asked that the Council proceed with relocating the City Shop. Mayor Northam stated he was not comfortable committing to moving the shop until the cost of moving it were known. Councilmember Nichols stated when the committee determined the cost then the committee would report this it to the Council and obtain approval for the location and costs.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mayor Northam stated the members of the Budget Committee are Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Hughes-Monroe and Mayor Northam.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Northam stated the Council would hold a Work Session on July 29, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

CITY FINANCIALS

Mayor Northam reviewed the City Financials with the Council.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam reported there have been 33 positive COVID tests in Fayette County over the last two weeks. He stated there are currently four patients in the local hospital with COVID.

Mayor Northam announced the following new businesses have opened in Fayette: Alice & Company, MCK's Lash Company, Fayette Veterinary Service and Blessed Power Washing.

Mayor Northam stated the unemployment rate for June for Fayette County was 3.3%.

Mayor Northam stated Waste Water Superintendent John Dill would retire on July 28, 2021, after 35 years with the City.

Mayor Northam said the "Market on Main" event will be held Saturday, July 31, 2021.

Mayor Northam stated Flavor Verse had rated the Fayette Aquatic Center as the second best place to get wet and wild in Alabama.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER WHITESIDE

Councilmember Whiteside reported the new fence at the Airport is almost completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Whiteside moved the Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the consideration the City is willing to offer for the purchase of certain real property and also to discuss with their attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The City Attorney stated this exception was applicable to

the planned discussion. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk