

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
August 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on August 10, 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, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor and City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

The opening prayer was given by Mr. Sean White.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Sean White.

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 regular meeting held on July 27, 2021, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the work session held on July 29, 2021, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-07

Mr. Tom Wisemiller of C3 spoke concerning the Brownfield Grant Resolution. He stated this was to give support for grants for EPA assessments in the C3 area. He said there is no match required for these grants. These grants would be for Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments. He stated the resolution does not commit the City to any funding.

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2021-07 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2021-07 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2021-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTHWEST ALABAMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE'S APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS TO FUND THE CREATION OF THE NORTHWEST ALABAMA REGIONAL BROWNFIELDS COALITION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has funds available to provide assessments for Brownfields, including old industrial sites, commercial properties, and sites with possible hazardous substances and petroleum contamination; and,

WHEREAS, there are many properties within the City of Fayette and throughout the Northwest Alabama region that meet the definition of Brownfields as described by EPA; and,

WHEREAS, EPA grants programs have proved to be a valuable resource for supporting local and regional economic development as well as land revitalization projects while also promoting environmental and public health goals; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette wishes to participate in the Northwest Alabama Brownfields Coalition, which was formed to make potential EPA brownfields grant funds available to public and private land owners in Fayette, Lamar, and Marion counties in Alabama and the towns and cities therein; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette wishes that public and private entities within Fayette County will have access to EPA brownfields funds that may become available from a Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment grant application and other potential future brownfields grant applications; and,

WHEREAS, Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance, on behalf of the Northwest Alabama Brownfields Coalition, is preparing to apply for up to \$600,000 in funds to provide assessments for properties throughout the region, which would cover 100% of the costs of Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and cleanup planning activities; and,

WHEREAS, EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant awards do not require a local match;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, that it enthusiastically supports the efforts of the President and CEO of the Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance to apply for EPA brownfields grants to fund the creation of the Northwest Alabama Regional Brownfields Coalition.

READ AND ADOPTED this the 10th day of August, 2021.

THE CITY OF FAYETTE:

By: _____
Rod Northam, Mayor

Attest:

Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Whiteside moved the Council adopt Resolution 2021-07. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously adopted.

REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEY BESIDE GOLDEN EAGLE SYRUP BUILDING

Mr. Temple Bowling spoke to the Council concerning closing a portion of the alley next to the Golden Eagle Syrup building. He stated Golden Eagle was planning to expand onto the lots located south of the current building. He presented the Council with a copy of the Petition to Vacate Street.

MOTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Councilmember Campbell moved a public hearing be set on September 28, 2021, concerning the vacating of a portion of the alley lying south of the Golden Eagle Syrup building. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

WET WELL CLEANOUT

Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner spoke to the Council concerning the wet well at the waste water plant. He stated over time the well fills with grease and creates a sludge cake. He stated he contacted Meeks Environmental about cleaning out the wet well. The estimate they gave for cleaning out the wet well was \$6,900.00.

Mr. Buckner said if the Council wanted to continue to allow the grease water discharge into its system, then the City needs to plan to clean out the wet well on a regular basis and maybe adjust the discharge fee to cover the cost. He said the contractors were paying the discharge fees. Mr. Buckner said the grease restricts the flow of the sewage coming into the waste water plant. Mayor Northam said he thought the wet well should be cleaned out on a yearly basis so that it could be budgeted.

Councilmember Williams moved the City contract with Meeks Environmental to clean out the wet well and expend the monies necessary to clean out the wet well which are expected to be approximately \$6,900.00. 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 July 2021. The report was as follows: 35 incidents investigated; 15 accidents; 103 traffic citations; 47 traffic warnings and 46 arrests.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Taylor presented the fire report for July 2021. The Fire Department received 25 calls.

Fire Chief Taylor stated he had received 18 applications for the firefighter position.

NEW PHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

Fire Chief Taylor reported on the quotes for a new phone and communications system for the City. He recommended the City contract with Lumen for the VOIP at a monthly cost of \$1,570.70. Councilmember Campbell moved the City contract with Lumen at a monthly cost of \$1,570.70. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

GRASS AND WEED ABATEMENTS

Fire Chief Taylor reported on the grass and weed abatements. He stated there were still a few properties to be abated by the City or resolved by the owner.

PLAN FOR GAS TAX FUNDS

Mayor Northam informed the Council that a resolution needed to be adopted specifying how certain gas funds were to be expended. He stated he was considering spending the funds on street signs to improve safety. The Council agreed with this suggestion.

LEASE AGREEMENT ON THE CITY SHOP PROPERTY

Mayor Northam reported on the changes the landowner had requested for the proposed lease.

REQUEST TO VACATE A PORTION OF 8th STREET SE

Mayor Northam reported to the Council on SHOWA's request to close a portion of 8th Street SE. He presented the Council with a copy of their Petition to Vacate Street.

MOTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Councilmember Campbell moved a public hearing be set on September 28, 2021, concerning the vacating of a portion of 8th Street SE. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Whiteside 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 stated 4,456 people in Fayette County have received both vaccination shots. He stated over the last seven days, Fayette County had 28 positive cases. He stated there are five people in the Fayette Medical Center with Covid.

Mayor Northam stated there will be a public hearing on a rezoning request at the next meeting.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of July, the City received \$259,098.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$40,861.05 for a combined total of \$299,959.00. She reported the City received \$9,035.00 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$21,018.00 in online sales tax.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk