

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
January 11, 2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on January 11, 2022, 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 Police Officer Ronnie Earnest.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Danny Jenkins.

Mayor 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 regular meeting held on December 28, 2021, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

ACE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Floyd Rodgers updated the Council on the activities of the ACE Leadership Committee. He reported on the progress they had made in establishing a junior city council. He said the committee had asked students at Fayette County High School to submit an application if they wanted to be considered for the junior city council. Mr. Rodgers said nineteen students had submitted an application to serve on the junior city council. Mr. Rodgers requested the Council adopt an ordinance to establish the junior city council and provide them with a budget.

HANGAR RELOCATION

Airport Manager Kip Madison reported a hangar at the airport needed to be relocated because it was too close to the fuel farm. He said the estimate for relocating the hangar was \$21,700.00 with additional electrical work and additional asphalt bringing the total to \$25,000.00. Mr. Madison said the State had inspected the airport and as a result of their inspection, the State was requiring the hangar to be moved because it was too close to the fuel farm.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

City Auditor Rick McCabe reported to the Council on the results of his audit. He stated the City had a great year. He said the City has cash and equivalents of \$4,227,898 and certificates of deposit of \$1,828,574.00 for a total of \$6,056,472.00. He reported the City's total assets as of September 30, 2021, were \$34,800,775.00 and the total liabilities as of September 30, 2021, were \$7,066,541.00. He said the City had a surplus for the year of \$1,540,198.00. This amount includes the Covid relief money.

Mr. McCabe explained what the "net pension liability" line item was. He said this amount reflects the amount of retirement owed to City employees. He said the only way the City would have to pay this is if RSA defaulted on its payment obligations to the employees.

Mr. McCabe also reported to the Council that the garbage rates and sewer rates were not generating enough revenue to cover their respective operations. He said there had not been a rate increase since 2008. Mr. McCabe said the garbage rates and sewer rates should be set at an amount to produce sufficient revenue to pay for the cost of their respective operations. He recommended the Council consider raising the garbage and sewer rates.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for December 2021. The report was as follows: 36 incidents investigated; 22 accidents; 123 traffic citations; 108 traffic warnings and 46 arrests.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for December 2021. The Fire Department received 17 calls.

STORMWATER ISSUES UPDATE

Mayor Northam said the City was in the process of obtaining the material to replace the pipe and water box at the Community Center. He also reported the pipe on the Mostiller property was in good shape other than in a few spots where the pipe had separated. He believed the issue could be resolved by spot repairs. He said the City would need to obtain an easement from the property owners so the repairs could be made.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Williams 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 the City had received thank you notes from the Berry "8 & under" and "6 & under" basketball teams thanking the City's Park & Recreation Department for allowing them to use their basketball goals designed for younger kids. He said without the goals the kids would not have been able to play this year.

Mayor Northam stated there have been 106 positive Covid test in the past 7 days resulting in a positivity rate of 33.7%.

Mayor Northam reported "Christmas at the Park" received almost \$35,000.00 in donations and had 4,750 vehicles come through to see the lights.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of December, the City received \$278,827.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$45,505.00 for a combined total of \$324,333.00. She reported the City received \$7,434.00 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$18,822.00 in online sales tax. City Clerk Dawn Clapp stated the City's Workman's Compensation bill was \$32,454.00. She stated it was \$6,000.00 less than last year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CLAIM FILED BY ERICKA & HENRY HOLLIS

Mayor Northam stated Ericka and Henry Hollis had filed a claim for damages based on the City mistakenly informing the Hollis's that a manufactured home could be placed on their lot in Circle Drive Estate Subdivision and the City issuing a building permit for a foundation on the lot for the manufactured home. The issuance of the building permit by the City was overturned by the Circuit Court of Fayette County resulting in the Hollis's not being allowed to have a manufactured home on their lot. Their claim for damages was in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Mayor Northam stated a settlement agreement had been negotiated with the Hollis's. He asked for the Council to approve the settlement agreement and authorize him to sign it on the City's behalf. Councilmember Nichols moved the City settle the claim with Henry and Ericka Hollis for \$50,000.00 with the money to be paid in accordance with the settlement agreement and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the settlement agreement on the City's behalf. 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 Nichols and seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk