

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
July 12, 2022

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on July 12, 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, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner and Junior City Council Mayor Pro Tempore Aeilya Walker.

The opening prayer was given by Bro. Kelcey Hale.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bro. Kelcey Hale.

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 June 28, 2022, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

PAVING PROJECT FOR CITY STREETS

Mr. Luke Porter reported on the City Street Paving Project. He stated the contractor still needed to repair a portion of one street and work on the shoulders of a couple of other streets. Also, the recently paved streets have not been striped yet.

Mr. Porter said the cost of the McConnell Loop – 25th Street Project was \$355,253.00. He said the City's portion of this project was \$28,833.10.

TAP GRANT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE

Mr. Luke Porter reported the City had made an application for a TAP grant. This project would be for sidewalks and street scape in a two block area along Martin Luther King Drive between 1st Avenue SE and 1st Avenue SW. Mr. Porter estimated the cost of the project to be \$1,017,939.00. The grant would require a 20% match from the City of \$217,939.00. The project does not include utility relocation. Councilmember Nichols expressed concern over the estimated cost of the project in relation to the size of the area to be improved. Councilmember Campbell moved the Council proceed with the grant application for the TAP grant. After the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam and Councilmembers Whiteside, Campbell, Williams and Hughes-Monroe.

NAYS: Councilmember Nichols

Mayor Northam stated the Motion passed.

WASTE WATER PROJECTS

1. GUTHRIE SMITH PARK LIFT STATION

Mr. Luke Porter reported the owner of the low bidder, Double Diamond Construction Company, Inc., recently had some significant health issues arise and has asked to be released from his bid and the required bonds. Mr. Porter reported he had talked with the second lowest bidder, C. D. Roberts Contracting, Inc., and they were willing to do the project for the amount of the low bid - \$320,220.00. The City Attorney stated he would have to review the matter to see if the bid could now be awarded to the second lowest bidder, C. D. Roberts Contracting, Inc., if the low bidder backed out. Councilmember Nichols stated subject to the determination by the City Attorney as to whether the first bidder should be released from his bid and bonds and subject to the determination by the City Attorney of whether the contract could be awarded to the second lowest bidder, C. D. Roberts Contracting, Inc., he moved the Council award the bid to the second lowest responsible bidder, C. D. Roberts Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$320,000.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

2. WASTE WATER PLANT PROJECT

Mr. Luke Porter reviewed with the Council the repairs and rehabilitation work to be done at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

3. HIGHWAY 159 LIFT STATION

Mr. Luke Porter reported the time for applying for a CBDG grant expired before the City could submit its application. The City will now apply for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 for this project. The ARC grant requires a 30% match.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for June 2022. The report was as follows: 34 incidents investigated; 12 accidents; 77 traffic citations; 240 traffic warnings and 30 arrests.

HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER

Police Chief Danny Jenkins stated he had recommended to the Mayor that Mr. Keiontae Brent be hired as a police officer. Based upon the recommendation of Chief Jenkins, Mayor Northam stated he would hire Mr. Brent as a police officer upon obtaining 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 Campbell, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam and Councilmembers Campbell, Williams, Hughes-Monroe and Nichols
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Councilmember Whiteside

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for June 2022. The Fire Department received 14 calls.

GRASS ABATEMENTS

Fire Chief Taylor reviewed with the Council the properties that had been sent grass abatement notices and had failed to abate the nuisance. They were as follows:

| Address | Type | Notes |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| 208 19 th St NW | Grass | Repeat |
| 424 2 nd Ave SW | Grass | Vacant |
| 733 3 rd Ave NW | Grass | Repeat |
| 835 Temple Ave S | Grass | Vacant |
| Lot 16 th St SW | Grass | |

Councilmember Nichols moved the enforcement official be authorized to abate the grass nuisances on the above parcels. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

MERIT PAY INCREASES

Mayor Northam requested Fire Chief Shannon Taylor receive a one-step merit pay increase. Councilmember Whiteside moved to approve the one-step merit pay increase for Fire Chief Taylor. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

Mayor Northam requested Ms. Nikki Dove receive a merit pay increase to a Grade 3, Step 2 position. Councilmember Nichols moved to approve the pay increase to a Grade 3, Step 2 position for Ms. Nikki Dove. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2022-09

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2022-09 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2022-09 is as follows:

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 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 the Farmers Market Facebook page has reached 27,000 people while last year they only reached 12,000. He stated the vendors have said their business has been good.

Mayor Northam said he supported the new highway project that is proposed to be located along State Highway 171 between Fayette and Winfield. He said the new project would positively impact the city.

Mayor Northam stated both the Fayette 7-8 year old Dixie Youth baseball team and Fayette 11-12 year old Dixie Youth baseball team played in the State Dixie Youth Baseball championship for their age group.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of June, the City received \$273,432.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$44,960.00 for a combined total of \$318,392.00. She reported the City received \$8,245.00 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$21,434.00 in online sales tax.

REPORT OF JUNIOR MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Junior Mayor Pro Tempore Aeilya Walker stated there will be a movie night on July 30, 2022. She stated there would be a Junior City Council Recognition Night on August 1st.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER CAMPBELL

Councilmember Campbell thank the Fire Chief Taylor and Police Chief Jenkins for their work on the abatement of nuisances.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER HUGHES-MONROE

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe stated Toy Bowl football registration begins soon.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER NICHOLS

Councilmember Nichols expressed concern about the cost of the TAP grant when things were needed in the Street and Sanitation Department.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk