

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
March 28, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on March 28, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Rod Northam, Councilmembers Eddy Campbell, Tommy Williams, Aliska Hughes-Monroe and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, Assistant Police Chief Mark Allison, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner, Junior City Council Mayor Benjamin Olive and City Attorney Dale Lawrence. Councilmember Virettia Whiteside was absent.

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 Campbell moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 14, 2023, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

#### NORTHWEST ALABAMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE UPDATE

Mr. Tom Wisemiller reported on the activities of the Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance (C3). He said C3 stays in contact with local companies to make sure they are doing well and to see if they can help them with any issues they are facing. He said currently one of the challenges with industrial recruitment is inflation along with the rise in interest rates. He said C3 is having a video produced promoting the local area to play at industrial recruitment events and business development events. He stated C3 had received a grant for small business development.

#### ACE LEADERSHIP UPDATE

The City's ACE Coordinator, Mr. Floyd Rodgers, updated the Council on the activities of the ACE Leadership Committee. He stated they had helped establish the Junior City Council. He said they were now accepting applications for the Leadership Training Program. He said one of the things the training program will do is develop leadership skills and strategies.

#### FIREFIGHTER STEP INCREASE

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor recommended step raises for Firefighters Brad Porter and Chris Black. Councilmember Nichols moved to approve the step raises for Firefighters Brad Porter and Chris Black. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

#### WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner reported the cost of the chemicals the Waste Water Treatment plant purchases had increased 47% from February to March. He stated he had contacted another chemical supplier and it was 33% higher than the City's current supplier. At the current rate, Mr. Buckner said the money budgeted for chemicals would last only until June. He asked for a budget increase of \$20,000.00 in order to get to the end of the fiscal year. Councilmember Nichols moved to approve the budget increase of \$20,000.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

#### WASTE WATER PICKUP

Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner stated one of the Waste Water pickups had locked up. He asked for it to be declared surplus. Councilmember Nichols move to declare the pickup surplus. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

#### PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented to the Council a request for a parade permit for the "March for Jesus" to be held on May 20, 2023. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY EASEMENT TO CITY SHOP

Mayor Northam presented the easement to Alabama Power Company for the service line to the City Shop to the Council for their consideration. Councilmember Campbell moved to approve the easement to Alabama Power Company and to authorize the Mayor to sign it on the City's behalf. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR TREE CUTTING

Mayor Northam presented the hold harmless agreement for tree cutting near the airport runway to the Council. Councilmember Nichols moved to approve the hold harmless agreement. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Mayor Northam asked the Council to consider who to nominate for the Fayette County Board of Equalization. The City can submit up to three nominations but this has to be done by August 1, 2023.

AIRPORT APRON RENEWAL PROJECT

Mayor Northam stated the Airport Apron Renewal Project would start on May 8, 2023.

TUBE SLIDE FOR AQUATIC PARK

Mayor Northam presented information about a new tube slide feature for the Aquatic Center. The consensus of the Council was to have a discussion about this at a work session.

PAVING OF WEST PARKING LOT AT GUTHRIE SMITH PARK

Mayor Northam presented an estimate from Mr. Luke Porter for paving the West parking lot at Guthrie Smith Park. The estimate was \$128,510.00. The Council wanted to discuss this in a work session.

FINANCIALS

Mayor Northam reviewed with the Council the City financials, Municipal Court financials, Waste Water financials and Park & Recreation financials.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam stated the City had received \$288,505.00 in business license revenue so far. He said six businesses were still delinquent.

Mayor Northam stated Fayette County had an unemployment rate of 2.3%.

Mayor Northam stated Safewise had recognized Fayette as the 20<sup>th</sup> safest City in Alabama.

Mayor Northam reported the Forestry Commission wanted the City to reenergize the Tree City Board. Mayor Northam asked for the Council to think about citizens to nominate for this.

Mayor Northam announced April 22<sup>nd</sup> is cleanup day.

Mayor Northam announced the Municipal Court amnesty dates are April 24-26.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS

Councilmember Williams thanked everyone who made the Civic Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration a success.

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 Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

Attest:

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Mayor

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City Clerk