

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 12, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on September 12, 2023, 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, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner, City Attorney Dale Lawrence and Junior City Council Mayor Emily Huang.

The opening prayer was given by Mr. Rickey Ary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Tommy Williams.

Mayor Rod 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 August 22, 2023, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Luke Porter updated the Council on the various City projects. The updates were as follows:

WWTP Rehab -

- Application approved
- Currently in Design Process
- Target Letting Date: December 2023

Highway 18/171 Intersection Improvement

- Construction should begin around late October

Fayette City Park Pumping Station

- Complete

Rails to Trails Project

- Waiting on revised cost on the electrical
- Will have resolution next meeting

MLK Sidewalk Improvement Project

- Received electrical drawings today and are now ready to send plans to ALDOT
- Target Letting Date: October 2023

SR-159 Pumping Station

- Bid Opening 9/26/23

Fayette Commercial Zone Gravity Sewer Relocation Project (SHOWA)

- Construction to begin within next two weeks

Fayette Park Paving Project

- Construction to begin within next two weeks

FROG LEVEL FESTIVAL

Chamber Director Emily Montague reviewed with the Council the plans for the Frog Level Festival that is set for October 6th-7th.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented a request for a parade permit for the Frog Level Festival to be held on October 6th and October 7th. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved the Council grant the parade permit. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

ACE UPDATE

ACE Coordinator, Mr. Floyd Rodgers, updated the Council on the activities of the ACE Committees. Mr. Rodgers stated they are now involved with I-22 Tourism. This involves Fayette, Lamar, Marion and Winston Counties. He said the ACE Annexation Committee will be sending out letters to landowners who are adjacent to the city limits to see if they want to have their property annexed into the City. The Leadership Committee will soon begin its leadership program with seventeen participants.

ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE MR. FLOYD RODGERS

Mr. Floyd Rodgers spoke concerning his candidacy for State Representative for Alabama House District 16. He stated his background and what he had overcome would be an asset if he was elected.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for August 2023. The report was as follows: 40 incidents investigated; 13 accidents; 86 traffic citations; 80 traffic warnings and 43 arrests.

PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Police Chief Danny Jenkins recommended Mr. Jeff Mordecai be hired as a part-time police officer. Mayor Northam said based on Chief Jenkins's recommendation he would hire Mr. Jeff Mordecai as a part-time police officer. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council consent to the Mayor hiring Mr. Jeff Mordecai as a part-time police officer. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

AED'S FOR POLICE CARS

Councilmember Williams spoke concerning placing AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) in the City's police cars. He said there was an AED Cardiac Initiative program whereby the City could receive AEDs if the City agreed to provide a 25% match. Councilmember Williams said the plan was to purchase ten AEDs. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved to proceed with budgeting \$5,000.00 for the AEDs and to spend up to \$5,000.00 to purchase the AEDs when they are available through the program. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for August 2023. The Fire Department received 25 calls.

RESOLUTION 2023-14

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2023-14 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2023-14 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2023-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FAYETTE TO MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RICHARD ARTHUR FIELD AIRPORT.

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette intends to apply for state and federal matching funds for airport improvement projects for the Richard Arthur Field Airport during fiscal year 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Fayette as follows:

1. That the City of Fayette is authorized to make applications for airport improvement funding assistance from the State of Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration, for the purpose of undertaking projects in fiscal year 2024 to make improvements at the Richard Arthur Field Airport.
2. That the applications be submitted for and on behalf of the City of Fayette by its Mayor who is authorized by this resolution to sign the application and any related forms or documents on behalf of the city.
3. That the City of Fayette is authorized to enter into an airport improvement funding agreement with the State of Alabama, acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration, for the purpose of undertaking projects to make improvements at the Richard Arthur Field Airport, with partial funding provided by the State of Alabama and the Federal Aviation Administration.

4. That the agreement be executed in the name of the City of Fayette for and on behalf of the City of Fayette by its Mayor.
5. That the authority of the City of Fayette to enter into contracts with the State of Alabama and the Federal Aviation Administration has been reviewed by the City's attorney, and in his/her opinion, the City of Fayette is duly authorized to commit the City of Fayette to agreements with the Alabama Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Fayette hereby affirms that the local matching share of funds in the amount required for this airport improvement project has been officially approved, placed into the budget of the airport and is available for expenditure upon execution of the Federal Aviation Administration's and the State of Alabama's funding agreements and the start of the project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Fayette on this 12th day of September, 2023.

Rod Northam, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council adopt Resolution 2023-14. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2023-2024

Mayor Northam presented the proposed 2023-2024 holiday calendar to the Council. It is as follows:

Columbus Day -- Monday, October 9, 2023
 Veteran's Day – Friday, November 10, 2023
 Thanksgiving -- Thursday, November 23, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023
 Christmas -- Monday, December 25, 2023; Tuesday, December 26, 2023
 New Year's Day – Monday, January 1, 2024
 Martin Luther King Day -- Monday, January 15, 2024
 Presidents Day – Monday, February 19, 2024
 Good Friday -- Friday, March 29, 2024
 Memorial Day -- Monday, May 27, 2024
 Juneteenth – Wednesday, June 19, 2024
 Independence Day – Thursday, July 4, 2024 and Friday, July 5, 2024
 Labor Day -- Monday, September 2, 2024
 Note: No personal holiday due to 2nd Independence Day

Councilmember Campbell moved the Council approve the 2023-2024 Holiday Schedule as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF NEW BOWS FOR CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Mayor Northam asked the Council to consider purchasing new bows for the Christmas wreaths that are displayed in the downtown area at a cost of \$6,782.75. Councilmember Campbell moved to purchase new bows for the Christmas wreaths for \$6,782.75. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

REQUEST FOR EMPLOYEE STEP RAISE

Mayor Northam said he received a request from Municipal Judge Steven Nolen for Municipal Court Clerk Dorrie Rushing to receive a one-step pay raise. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved the Council approve the step raise. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Campbell 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 Whiteside 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 Hughes-Monroe moved the Park & Recreation financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam stated Mr. Kenneth Fields had been hired to fill a position in the Street and Sanitation Department and would start on September 21, 2023. Mr. Fields has his CDL license.

Mayor Northam stated this is Assisted Living Week.

Mayor Northam said the FCHS Homecoming Parade will be held on September 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. A 5th Quarter will be held on the Courthouse lawn on September 15, 2023.

Mayor Northam said the Council was invited to a Hospital Board meeting on September 19th.

Mayor Northam said the Festival of Hope will be held October 1st – October 4th at the football stadium.

Mayor Northam said the Frog Level Festival would be held on October 6th and 7th.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of August, the City received \$281,810.89 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$45,931.94 for a combined total of \$327,742.83. She reported the City received \$7,671.26 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$25,531.34 in online sales tax.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER NICHOLS

Councilmember Nichols thanked Chief Taylor for his work on the grass abatements.

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 Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk