

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
September 26, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on September 26, 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, City Attorney Dale Lawrence and Junior City Council Mayor Emily Huang.

The opening prayer was given by Evangelist Erin Sparks.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Evangelist Erin Sparks.

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 work session held on September 8, 2023, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 12, 2023, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

#### AQUATIC CENTER YEAR END REVIEW

Mr. Chris Champion reviewed the 2023 Aquatic Center season with the Council. He said the total attendance was 25,736. The average daily attendance was 357. There were 138 parties and 9 credits issued. The highest attendance was on July 29, 2023, with 879. Mr. Champion stated the Aquatic Center closed six days early or opened late due to weather. There were seven days with fewer than 100 people. He said the Aquatic Center had a surplus of \$9,078.26. He stated the Alligator Ice netted \$1,842.00; the Mini Melts netted \$13,712.60; and, the Aquatic Center Store netted \$1,250.00.

Mr. Champion was not sure if attendance would increase with the addition of a new feature. He suggested the slides and slide tower be refinished and repainted.

#### RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT

Mr. Luke Porter reported on the bid opening for the Rails to Trails Project. He said two bids were received. The two bidders on the project were (1) Ballard Builders, Inc. - \$351,007.00; and, (2) Central Alabama Asphalt & Construction Co. LLC - \$397,720.00. Once the bids were received, Mr. Porter said he negotiated with the low bidder to reduce its bid to \$264,855.00.

#### RESOLUTION 2023-16

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2023-16 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2023-16 is as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION 2023-16**

#### **A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE BID ON THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM PROJECT – PHASE 1 TO BALLARD BUILDERS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BALLARD BUILDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Fayette has received a grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Project to construct the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Bill's Trail; and,

**WHEREAS**, the project is referred to as Phase 1 of Bill's Multi-Purpose Trail Project;

**THEREFORE**, in accordance with RTP regulations the City of Fayette has solicited and received bids from qualified construction companies to construct the above referenced multi-purpose trail in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Fayette and Porter Higginbotham have evaluated the bids received and have determined that Ballard Builders, Incorporated is the low bidder for the construction phase of this project and, therefore, the City Council of

the City of Fayette awards the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Ballard Builders, Incorporated in the amount of \$351,007.00; and,

**THAT**, Mayor Rod Northam be and is hereby authorized to award and enter into a contract with Ballard Builders, Incorporated in the amount of \$351,007.00 and the approval of Change-Order #1 in the amount of \$86,152.00, which will reduce the contract price to \$264,855.00 for the construction of the phase of this project upon approval from ADECA RTP Division.

**READ AND ADOPTED** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of **September 2023**.

**City of Fayette**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Northam, Its Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Whiteside moved the Council adopt Resolution 2023-16. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the following vote was taken:

**AYES:** Mayor Northam, Councilmembers Campbell, Whiteside, and Hughes-Monroe  
**ABSTAINED:** Councilmembers Williams and Nichols

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

**HIGHWAY 159 PUMPING STATION**

Mr. Luke Porter reported on the bid opening for the Highway 159 Pumping Station. He said three bids were received. The three bidders on the project were (1) Ballard Builders, Inc. - \$368,264.00; (2) B & H Contracting Inc. - \$476,595.00; and, (3) REV Construction, Inc. - \$539,990.00.

**RESOLUTION 2023-15**

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2023-15 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2023-15 is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2023-15**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING THE BID ON THE STATE ROUTE 159 SEWER PUMPING STATION PROJECT TO BALLARD BUILDERS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BALLARD BUILDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fayette has received an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant to replace the State Route 159 Sewer Pumping Station; and

**THEREFORE**, in accordance with ARC regulations the City of Fayette has solicited and received bids from qualified construction companies to replace the above referenced sewer pumping station in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Fayette and Porter Higginbotham have evaluated the bids received and have determined that Ballard Builders, Incorporated is the low bidder for the construction phase of this project and, therefore, the City Council of the City of Fayette awards the bid in the amount of \$368,264.00 to the lowest responsible bidder, Ballard Builders, Incorporated; and,

**THAT**, Mayor Rod Northam be and is hereby authorized to award and enter into a contract with Ballard Builders, Incorporated in the amount of \$368,264.00 for the construction of the phase of this project upon approval from ARC.

**READ AND ADOPTED** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of **September 2023**.

**City of Fayette**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Northam, Its Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council adopt Resolution 2023-15. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the following vote was taken:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Williams

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

#### EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE HEALING ZONE DESIGN

Mayor Northam reviewed the Equitable Neighborhood Initiative Healing Zone design with the Council. The Healing Zone will be located on the lot South of the GMS building.

#### 2024 BUDGET

Mayor Northam reviewed with the Council the proposed 2024 Budget. He stated the budget was the largest the City had ever had. He said the 2024 Budget increases included the following: (1) Employee wage increase: hourly employees will receive an additional \$2.00 per hour and salaried employees will receive a ten percent increase in their pay; (2) Employee Insurance increase: \$35,000.00 to be absorbed by City; (3) Paving - \$500,000.00 (approximately four miles); (4) Transportation System- \$50,000.00; (5) Capital Equipment/Work Support - \$800,000.00; (6) Contract Services - \$40,000.00; (7) Grant Funded Projects- \$3,500,000.00; and, (8) Funding Requests: (a) Fayette County Memorial Library - \$15,000.00, (b) Fayette County Historical Society - \$3,000.00; and (c) Aquatic Center expansion - \$250,000.00.

The Council also discussed the proposed garbage rate increases.

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

#### FINANCIALS

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

#### REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam stated Fayette County had an unemployment rate of 3.1%. He stated the work force participation rate for Fayette County was 49.5%.

Mayor Northam stated Mr. Orlando Lawson is now working with the Street Department.

Mayor Northam said the Festival of Hope will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Northam said the Fayette County Fair will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Northam said the Frog Level Festival will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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