

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
January 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on January 9, 2024, 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 and Junior City Council Mayor Emily Huang.

The opening prayer was given by Bro. Kelcy Hale.

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

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 12, 2023, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

RAILS TO TRAILS BID APPROVAL

Mr. Luke Porter reported the bids were opened on the Rails to Trails Project and the low bidder was Ballard Builders, Incorporated in the amount of \$270,714.00. He recommended the Council accept the bid.

RESOLUTION 2024-01

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2024-01 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2024-01 is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2024-01
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO AWARD AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT
WITH BALLARD BUILDERS, INCORPORATED TO CONSTRUCT THE FIRST PHASE OF
BILL'S MULTI-PURPOSE TRIAL PROJECT**

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

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 of Fayette and Porter Higginbotham has evaluated the bids received and has determined that Ballard Builders, Incorporated is the low bidder on the construction portion of this project; and

THAT, Rod Northam, Mayor, be and is hereby authorized to award and enter into a contract with Ballard Builders, Incorporated in the amount of \$270,714.00 for the construction of the phase of this project upon approval from ADECA RTP Division.

DONE this the 9th day of January, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved the Council adopt Resolution 2024-01. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmember Whiteside, Campbell, Williams and Hughes-Monroe
NAYS: Councilmember Nichols

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

2023 AUDIT

Mr. Rick McCabe presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2023 to the Council and reviewed it with them. He said the City had assets of \$9.8 million and total assets of \$38.5 million. The City's liabilities were \$7.4 million. He said the City's net pension liability is \$3.1 million. (This is the City's share of the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) liability for the City's employee's retirement. He said the only way the City would be liable for any portion of this is if RSA becomes insolvent.) Mr. McCabe said the City's equity is \$32 million. He said excluding grant revenue, the City had a surplus of \$1.1 million and the Aquatic Center ended with a surplus of \$34,000.00.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for December 2023. The report was as follows: 33 incidents investigated; 14 accidents; 103 traffic citations; 271 traffic warnings and 25 arrests.

VIDEO CAMERAS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented a proposal for a new video camera system from 10-8 Video, LLC. The proposal was for 12 body cameras, along with the required software, chargers and mounts for \$15,683.00. The Police Department's current video camera system is with Watch Guard. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council approve the purchase of the new video camera system from 10-8 Video, LLC at a cost of \$15,683.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for December 2023. The Fire Department received 22 calls.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor said the Council needed to adopt a new Floodplain Development Ordinance for the City. He said this is a requirement of FEMA, if the City wants to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) so that City residents can purchase flood insurance through the program.

Mayor Northam proposed Ordinance 2024-1 to the Council for their consideration.

[The ordinance will be included in its entirety in the approved minutes.]

ROOF BID

Mayor Northam presented the Council with the bid received from ZR Elite Roofing, LLC, for replacing the roof of City Hall in the amount of \$48,800.00. Councilmember Whiteside moved the Council accept the bid of ZR Elite Roofing in the amount of \$48,800.00 and contract with the company to replace the City Hall roof. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION OF OAK BARREL

Mayor Northam said he had received an application for the transfer of the alcohol license held by Oak Barrel. Councilmember Williams moved to set a public hearing concerning the transfer for January 23, 2024. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Mayor Northam said the City would not be able to obtain a bus through the ALDOT program for two years. He said the City may be able to have two used buses donated to it to use for local transportation. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with obtaining the two used buses.

MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY

Mayor Northam presented the Council with a proposed Motor Vehicle Policy for the City.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mayor Northam presented a proposed scope of work from Ben Wieseman to update and revise the City's Comprehensive Plan with an estimated cost between \$50,000 - \$75,000. No action was taken.

PARK DIRECTOR AND RECREATION SUPERVISOR POSITIONS

Mayor Northam presented the Council with job descriptions for the positions of Park Director and Recreation Supervisor. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved to post the job positions of Park Director and Recreation Supervisor. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, the same was unanimously approved.

MUNICIPAL ADVOCACY DAY

Mayor Northam said Municipal Advocacy Day is February 7, 2024 in Montgomery.

WEST ALABAMA FOOD BANK AGREEMENT

Mayor Northam presented the proposed agreement with West Alabama Food Bank to the Council for their consideration. Councilmember Whiteside moved the City enter into the agreement with the West Alabama Food Bank and 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.

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 Hughes-Monroe 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 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 congratulated Junior City Council Mayor Emily Huang on being accepted to Duke University.

Mayor Northam stated garbage pickup will occur on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mayor Northam announced Spot On Lawn Care is a new business in Fayette.

Mayor Northam said "Christmas at the Park" donations were up 8.4%.

Mayor Northam said the Martin Luther King Day March will be held on Monday, January 15th.

Mayor Northam said Mr. Richard Freeman will be at the Civic Center on Tuesday, January 16th.

Mayor Northam stated the C3 Annual Meeting will be held on January 18th at Beville State.

Mayor Northam said that Community Conversations with Industry will be held on January 23rd.

Mayor Northam said the Chamber of Commerce will have a retirement party for Mr. Dean Maddox.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of December 2023, the City received \$316,412.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$38,107.00 for a combined total of \$354,518.00. She reported the City received \$8,038.85 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$28,065.89 in online sales tax.

REPORT OF JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL MAYOR

Junior City Council Mayor Emily Huang stated the Junior City Council has a workday scheduled for the community center on Saturday, January 13th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Campbell moved the Council go into executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of an individual. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe moved the Council come out of executive session. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, 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