

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
January 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on January 14, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Rod Northam, Councilmembers Steve Herring, Eddy Campbell, Tommy Williams, Aliska Hughes-Monroe and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, Junior City Council Mayor Sean White, Park Director Chris Champner, Transportation Director Jennifer Roberts and City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

The opening prayer was given by Rev. Kelcey Hale.

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

Mayor Northam announced a quorum was present and the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

#### PUBLIC HEARING FOR FAYETTE TRANSPORTATION 2026 GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Northam said the City of Fayette is applying to the Alabama Department of Transportation for an Operational, Administration, Planning, and Capital assistance award under 49 U.S.C. Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Laws. This grant funding will provide financial assistance for the local public transportation service for the residents of the City. He stated this was the date and time scheduled for a public hearing to receive public comment concerning the grant and the local transportation system.

#### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Transportation Director Jennifer Roberts reported that from October 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>: (1) the buses have traveled 5,031 miles and received \$2,059 in fares; (2) there are 140 active passengers; and, (3) there were 1,797 "demand rides" and 952 immediate rides for a total of 2,749. She said the top five reasons for the rides using the service were as follows: (1) grocery shopping; (2) general shopping; (3) medical and doctor appointments; (4) banking; and (5) employment.

Director Roberts reviewed with the Council the proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year. She said the estimated operations cost is \$126,200 and the estimated administration cost is \$91,610. She said the City's share of the operations cost would be \$55,600.00 and the City's share of the administration cost would be \$18,322.00.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 23, 2024, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

#### PROPOSED NORTHWEST PLAZA DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Heath Reed spoke to the Council about a proposed commercial real estate development on the property located south of Walmart. The name of the proposed development is Northwest Plaza. He introduced the developers - Mr. William Vaughn and Mr. Eland Spittler. The other developer is Mr. Gentry Storm who was not present. They reported they are working on obtaining access to US Highway 43 from ALDOT. After obtaining access, the next priority would be developing a two-lane road to run from US Highway 43 to McConnell Loop Road. They said currently no businesses had committed to locate in the development.

#### 2024 CITY AUDIT

Mr. Rick McCabe presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2024 to the Council and reviewed it with them. He said the City was financially strong. He reported the City had financial assets of approximately \$10.4 million (checking account - 5 million; CD/Investments - 3.6 million; and Restricted Accounts - 1.7 million) and total assets of \$40.5 million. The City's liabilities were \$7 million. Mr. McCabe said for the year, the City had a total surplus of \$2.2 million (this amount includes grant funds) with a net surplus of 1 million (this amount excludes grant funds).

Mr. McCabe said the Waste Water Fund did very good this year. He said it had a \$32,000.00 loss this year. This was the result of one of the industrial customers reducing its operations. He said the Aquatic Center had a loss of about \$22,000.00 this year. This loss includes the payments on the bond.

LAND WATER CONSERVATION GRANT REQUEST

Mr. Luke Porter spoke to the Council about a potential Land Water Conservation Grant for Guthrie Smith Park. The total cost of the proposed project is estimated to be \$896,950.00. The grant would include refencing the ball fields, grading, resodding and installing new lights at the ball fields. This grant requires a 50% match. Councilmember Hughes-Monroe requested that upgrading the tennis courts be included with the request. It was recommended that drainage be addressed also. Park Director Chris Champion said funds for concession stands are not available under the grant program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for December 2024. The report was as follows: 18 incidents investigated; 8 accidents; 93 traffic citations; 141 traffic warnings and 23 arrests.

Chief Jenkins said that Cpl. Trace Norris was leaving the Department to take a position in the Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for December 2024. The Fire Department received 18 calls.

5TH WAY NW NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor recommended that the nuisance at 410 5<sup>th</sup> Way NW be abated. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council find that the property located at 410 5<sup>th</sup> Way NW, Fayette, Alabama is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance and that the City order the nuisance to be abated. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2025-01

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2025-01 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2025-01 is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2025-01  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A GRANT  
UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT**

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**WHEREAS** the Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants for a public transportation program;

**WHEREAS** the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the Applicant, including the provision of its local share of the project costs in the program;

**WHEREAS** it is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation in accord with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under 49 USC Section 5311 the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other pertinent directives and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Applicant that disadvantaged business enterprises (minority business enterprises and woman business enterprises) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this/these project(s), and that definite procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FAYETTE:**

1. That Mayor Rod Northam is authorized to execute and file (an) application(s) on behalf of the City of Fayette, Alabama with the Alabama Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of administration, planning, capital and/or operating assistance projects pursuant to 49 USC Section 5311, the Alabama Public Transportation Grant Program, and the Alabama Seniors and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program.
2. That Mayor Rod Northam is authorized to execute and file with such applications an assurance, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

3. That Mayor Rod Northam is authorized to furnish such additional information as the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation may require in connection with the application for the Program of Projects submitted to FTA.
4. That Mayor Rod Northam is authorized to set forth and execute affirmative disadvantaged business enterprise policies in connection with any procurements made as part of the project.
5. That Mayor Rod Northam is authorized to execute grant agreements on behalf of the City of Fayette, Alabama with the Alabama Department of Transportation for aid in the financing of the administration, planning, capital, and/or operating assistance projects.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Councilmember Hughes-Moore moved the Council adopt Resolution 2025-01. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2025-02 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2025-02 is as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2025-02  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FAYETTE TO MATCH FUNDS FOR THE  
SECTION 5311 RURAL AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** the City of Fayette recognizes the need for a public transportation program; and  
**WHEREAS** the City of Fayette is recognized as a member of the City of Fayette Transportation Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Fayette recognizes that the requirements to obtain Section 5311 funds from the Alabama Department of Transportation include a local match of 50% for operating expenses and 20% for administration, planning, and capital expenses; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Fayette recognizes that the local match will be a shared cost with other participating municipalities being responsible for providing an appropriate allocation of local non-federal funds to secure the operating of the Section 5311 Rural Area Public Transportation Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Fayette hereby commits the amount of \$88,922.00 as local non-federal match for operations, administration, planning, and capital expenditures under the Section 5311 Rural Area Public Transportation Program during Fiscal Year 2026.

**READ AND ADOPTED** this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Councilmember Hughes-Moore moved the Council adopt Resolution 2025-02. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented a request for a parade permit for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade to be held on January 20, 2025. Councilmember Nichols moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously approved.

SURPLUS PROPERTY UPDATE

Mayor Northam stated two items of surplus property did not sell because they had a reserve price on them. He said individuals have now expressed interest in buying these items. The consensus of the Council was to sell the two items for the reserve price on a "first come" basis.

APPROVAL OF CITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Campbell moved the City's financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, the same was unanimously approved.