

City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
January 28, 2025

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on January 28, 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 and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Recreation Director O.P. Morgan, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner and Junior Mayor Sean White. Councilmember Aliska Hughes-Monroe was absent.

The opening prayer was given by Mr. Milborn Savage.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Jerry Nichols.

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 14, 2025, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

#### LAND WATER CONSERVATION GRANT FOR GUTHRIE SMITH PARK

Recreation Director O.P. Morgan spoke to the council concerning the need for the grant. He said there have not been substantial improvements to the ballfields at Guthrie Smith Park in many years. He said that drainage work also needed to be done. He stated the park is a great asset of the City. Mr. Morgan reported that currently the Charlie Nalls Field and Aurthur Hughes Field are not being used for baseball or softball due to their condition. Soccer is played on the Aurthur Hughes Field.

Mr. Luke Porter presented to the Council the proposed project to upgrade the ballfields and tennis courts at Guthrie South Park. He said the preliminary estimated cost of the project is 1,017,950.00. Mayor Northam said resurfacing the tennis courts should be included in the project. Councilmember Campbell said that if this was being done, then two additional tennis courts should be added.

Councilmember Herring said if the Council is spending this amount of money, then reconfiguring the ballfields should also be considered to make them more convenient for the players and spectators.

Councilmember Nichols said he was concerned about the money being spent on the proposed project. He also said he would like to see the ballfields reconfigured.

In addition to the upgrades already included in the proposed project, Mr. Porter was asked to add to it the resurfacing of the existing tennis courts along with the addition of two more tennis courts.

#### APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR WASTE WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner informed the Council he would like to submit an appropriation request to Sen. Tommy Tuberville's office for a grant for improvements at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He said he is seeking to obtain grant funds of \$467,500.00 to dredge the lagoon at the waste water plant. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council authorize Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner to submit the appropriation request to Sen. Tommy Tuberville. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

#### CARDBOARD RECYCLING UPDATE

Mayor Northam said the City for the past year had recycled 43.666 tons of cardboard. The City received \$3,442.77 for the cardboard.

#### CITY COUNCIL SALARIES FOR NEXT TERM

Mayor Northam reminded the Council that any changes to the salaries of the Council would have to be made by February 26, 2025.

TREE CITY BOARD UPDATE

Councilmember Herring reported Mr. Jerry Fulmer from his ward was willing to serve on the Tree City Board.

FINANCIALS

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

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam reported the unemployment rate for Fayette County for December was 3.3%. He said the workforce participation rate for November 2024 was 48.4%, making Fayette County's rate 54<sup>th</sup> out of 67 counties.

Mayor Northam said there would be a ribbon cutting for Weddings on Temple on January 30th.

Mayor Northam announced Mr. Matt Woods who is a candidate for State Senate is having a "Meet and Greet" at Bungalows on Tuesday, January 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon the motion to adjourn being made by Councilmember Campbell and seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously approved.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk