

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
February 11, 2025

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on February 11, 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 Lt. Michael Kelley, Waste Water Superintendent Matt Buckner, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, Junior City Council Mayor Sean White, Park Director Chris Champion, Recreation Director O. P. Morgan and City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Austin Olive of Berry Methodist Church .

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pastor Austin Olive.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT

Park Director Chris Champion spoke to the Council concerning the proposed project at Guthrie Smith Park. He said the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant would be used to help fund the proposed project. He stated the LWCF grant required a 50% match by the City. Mr. Luke Porter presented to the Council the proposed project to upgrade the ballfields, tennis courts and fencing at Guthrie South Park. He said the preliminary estimated cost of the project is 1,676,202.50. Councilmember Nichols said he was in favor of upgrading the park but wanted the money to be spent on the right things. There was a discussion about the City performing a portion of the demolition work and Mr. Terry Acuff said that this could be done. Mr. Acuff also said the LWCF grant funds can only be used for certain purposes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 28, 2025, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2025-03

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2025-03 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2025-03 is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FAYETTE TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS AT GUTHRIE SMITH PARK

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette is eligible to apply to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant assistance to construct improvements to Guthrie Smith Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette has elected to make application to ADECA requesting LWCF funding assistance to construct critically needed improvements to Guthrie Smith Park; and

WHEREAS, said LWCF program is limited to funding a maximum of \$1,000,000.00 of the total project cost with a required local match of 100% of the grant amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of Fayette authorizes Mayor Rod Northam to apply for \$838,101.00 in LWCF grant funding assistance and commits to provide \$838,101.00 in local matching funds in the event the city's application to implement the proposed Guthrie Smith Park Improvement Project is approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the grant is awarded, the City of Fayette understands that the Mayor will be required and is authorized to sign assurance to comply with all applicable Federal and State Law, rules and regulations associated with LWCF Program.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of Fayette, Alabama on this the 11th day of February 2025.

THE CITY OF FAYETTE:

By: _____
Rod Northam, Mayor

Attest:

Dawn Clapp, City Clerk

Councilmember Nichols moved the Resolution 2025-03 be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Mr. Austin Olive and Mr. Jesse Christian of the 24th Circuit Court Referral Program spoke to the Council about the possible uses of the opioid settlement funds. Mr. Olive said that their clients often struggle to pay their Court Referral fees, especially when they are also having to pay their fines and court costs. He said that they have clients who are sincerely trying to comply with their program but because of their limited income miss appointments or cannot pay the drug testing fees.

Mr. Olive suggested the following use for the opioid settlement funds: (1) that the City subsidize the fees for certain Fayette Municipal Court clients who meet certain income criteria, namely, those who do not qualify for indigency but whose income is low enough that compliance causes a financial burden; (2) that the Fayette Municipal Court in consultation with the Court Referral Officer determine who qualifies for the subsidy; (3) that the City subsidize 25%-75% of the evaluation and monitoring fees and 60%-80% of the drug testing fees; (4) that a condition of the subsidy be that the clients not miss appointments, not be returned to court and not commit another crime; and (5) that upon successful completion of the program in a timely manner the clients have a portion of their fines and cost waived at the discretion of the Municipal Court Judge. Mayor Northam said that this proposal would be using the funds to help people.

ATRIPP II GRANT

Mr. Luke Porter spoke to the Council about the ATRIPP II Grant that the City has been awarded. The project is to construct a roundabout at the intersection of South Temple Avenue, State Highway 171 and 11th Street SW. He said the City should not have to pay anything on the project because it is fully funded by the State. He said the City would be responsible for any utilities that have to be moved but at this point he did not think any would have to be relocated.

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council proceed with the design phase of the project. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, it was unanimously approved.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Ms. Jessica Crowe, Director of the Fayette County Memorial Library, gave an update to the Council on the activities of the library. She said the library had received a grant to install water bottle filler stations on the inside and outside of the library. The library had also received a grant to increase their alternate formats for youth collection (audio books, etc.). Ms. Crowe said they have a blood pressure station in the library and that individuals can check out blood pressure monitoring equipment. She stated that in conjunction with the local Extension Office, the library is giving out seed packets to the public. She reported that the library's Autism Resource Center is now open and the 2025 Summer Reading Program is scheduled for June and July.

Mayor Northam presented an appropriation of \$10,000.00 for the Fayette County Memorial Library to Director Jessica Crowe.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Emily Montague updated the Council on the activities of the Chamber of Commerce. She said they are expecting to spend approximately \$32,000.00 on the 2025 Frog Level Festival. She is hoping to continue to grow the festival. She said this year will be the 25th anniversary of the car show.

Mayor Northam presented an appropriation of \$10,000.00 for the Chamber of Commerce to Executive Director Emily Montague.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Lieutenant Michael Kelley presented the police report for January 2025. The report was as follows: 33 incidents investigated; 7 accidents; 83 traffic citations; 135 traffic warnings and 19 arrests.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for January 2025. The Fire Department received 22 calls.

MAIN STREET NETWORK COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Mayor Northam said he would like the City to participate in the Main Street Alabama Program. He gave the Council information to review for discussion at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE 2025-01

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THE TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 3, 2025.**

***BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS
FOLLOWS:***

SECTION 1. §2-27 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fayette, Alabama, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

"§2-27. Salary

The salary of the members of the city council of the city, for the term commencing November 3, 2025, for the performance of their duties as council members is hereby fixed and established at the sum of Nine Thousand Six Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$9,600.00) per annum, payable in equal monthly installments. In addition to the aforesaid, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall receive an additional One Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$100.00) per month.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption by the City Council and its publication as prescribed by law.

ADOPTED on this the 11th day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk

Councilmember Campbell moved the Council give unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 2025-01. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, the same was unanimously approved. Councilmember Nichols moved the Council adopt Ordinance 2025-01. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Hughes-Monroe, the same was unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF CITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam offered condolences to the family of Mayor Jimmy Madison of Berry, who recently passed away.

Mayor Northam stated a Black History Month Program would be held on February 23, 2025, at the Civic Center.

REPORT OF CITY CLERK

City Clerk Dawn Clapp reported for the month of December, the City received \$345,631.00 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$40,794.00 for a combined total of \$386,392.00. She reported the City received \$8,605.54 in alcohol taxes. She also reported the City received \$36,068.29 in online sales tax.

REPORT OF JUNIOR MAYOR

Junior Mayor Sean White said the 2nd Annual "Open Mic Night" will be held on February 15, 2025 at the Civic Center.

Junior Mayor Sean White also informed the Council of the Junior City Council's Swamp John's fundraiser taking place on February 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk