

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 9, 2025

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 6:00 o'clock p.m. on September 9, 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, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Park Director Chris Champion and Junior Mayor Sean White. Councilmember Aliska Hughes-Monroe was absent.

The opening prayer was given by Park Director Chris Champion.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Eddy Campbell.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor Northam stated that this was the day and time set for the public hearing on the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Matt Leavell of Leavell Design Consulting, LLC, addressed the Council concerning the Comprehensive Plan. He explained how the plan was developed and how the priorities for the City were determined. No one appeared opposing the proposed plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Nichols moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 26, 2025, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Herring moved the minutes of the special meeting held on September 2, 2025, to canvass the votes of the municipal election be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION UPDATE

City Clerk Dawn Clapp updated the Council on the upcoming municipal runoff election for Ward 2 to be held on September 23, 2025.

RESOLUTION 2025-17

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2025-17 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2025-17 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2025-17 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF FAYETTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025

WHEREAS, §11-52-8 of the Code of Alabama (1975), as amended, authorizes the Planning Commission of the City of Fayette to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the City of Fayette, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Fayette and the City Council of the City of Fayette held multiple public meetings and hearings involving many citizens and their responses and ideas, held numerous stakeholder meetings to incorporate their findings and ideas into the plan and identified several goals for the Planning Commission and City Council to utilize along with identifying multiple key findings and development opportunities to guide growth for the City of Fayette over the next ten years; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fayette has worked in collaboration with the Planning Commission, stakeholders and members of the community to draft "*The City of Fayette Comprehensive Plan 2025: A Guide for the Next Ten Years*"; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Fayette reviewed "*The City of Fayette Comprehensive Plan 2025: A Guide for the Next Ten Years*" and found it to best promote the health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Fayette; and,

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan outlines a vision, goals, and policies to address critical issues including land use, housing, infrastructure, design, environment, and economic development for the City of Fayette for the next ten years; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Fayette held a public hearing and approved the Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, and recommended its adoption by the City Council of the City of Fayette; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fayette is in agreement with the Planning Commission that the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the City of Fayette's commitment to responsible governance and to addressing critical issues including land use, housing, infrastructure, design, environment, and economic development.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fayette as follows:

1. The City Council hereby adopts as presented "*The City of Fayette Comprehensive Plan 2025: A Guide for the Next Ten Years*" and all official maps pertaining thereto.

DONE this the 9th day of September, 2025.

Mayor Rod Northam

ATTEST:

City Clerk Dawn Clapp

Councilmember Williams moved the Council adopt Resolution 2025-17. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously adopted.

FAYETTE COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST

Ms. Jessica Crowe, Director of the Fayette County Memorial Library spoke to the Council concerning the library. She thanked the City for their support of the library. She said with the appropriation given during the 2025 Fiscal Year, the library was able to maintain its existing level of service. She requested \$25,000.00 be included for the library in the upcoming budget.

PARADE PERMIT FOR FROG LEVEL FESTIVAL

Mayor Northam presented to the Council a request for a parade permit for the Frog Level Festival to be held on October 3 – 4, 2025. Councilmember Herring moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously adopted.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for August 2025. The report was as follows: 49 - incidents investigated; 8 - accidents; 35 - traffic citations; 40 - traffic warnings; and, 55 - arrests.

REQUEST TO APPROVE REPAIR EXPENSES

Mayor Northam reported to the Council on the information he had obtained concerning replacing the engine in one of the police cars (Unit 6991). He said one quote to replace the engine was \$11,427.00 and the other was \$12,265.00. It had already been determined that the head gasket needed to be replaced, and this would cost \$3,501.25. Chief Jenkins was asked to find out what the cost would be if the heads are cracked since this had not been taken into account when obtaining the quote for a new head gasket.

SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mayor Northam presented the School Security Officer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the Council for their consideration. Councilmember Williams moved the Council approve the School Security Officer MOU as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT FOR FCHS HOMECOMING PARADE

Mayor Northam presented to the Council a request for a parade permit for the FCHS Homecoming Parade to be held on October 3, 2025. Councilmember Herring moved the permit be granted. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously adopted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for August 2025. The Fire Department received 18 calls.

ARCHITECT FOR OLD PACKAGE STORE

Mayor Northam presented the two proposals he had received for architectural services for the old package store. The proposals were as follows: (1) Marcum Architects, LLC - \$9,400.00; and, (2) Overcash Design Studio - \$10,000.00. After a review of the proposals, Councilmember Williams moved the Council award the contract for architectural services for the old package store to Marcum Architects, LLC, in the amount of \$9,400.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE 2025-11

Mayor Northam presented Ordinance 2025-11 to the Council for their consideration. Ordinance 2025-11 is as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-11
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION VI OF ORDINANCE 2025-02,
ADOPTED APRIL 22, 2025.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Fayette, Alabama, as follows:

SECTION 1. SECTION VI of Ordinance 2025-02 adopted on April 22, 2025, is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and substituting the following therefor, viz:

SECTION VI

That per diem compensation for election officers shall be as follows:

Electronic Machine Coordinator	\$245.00
Chief Inspector	\$170.00
Inspector	\$145.00
Chief Clerk	\$145.00
Clerks	\$125.00
Election Officer Training School	\$25.00

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 AND APPROVED this the _____ day of September, 2025.

Mayor, City of Fayette

ATTEST:

Clerk, City of Fayette

Councilmember Herring moved the Council adopt Ordinance 2025-11. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, the same was unanimously adopted.

STREET DEPARTMENT STEP RAISE

Mayor Northam requested the Council approve a step increase in pay for Street Department employee, Mr. David Swanigan. The Mayor recommended Mr. Swanigan's pay rate be elevated to Grade 2, Step 2. Councilmember Williams moved Mr. David Swanigan's pay rate be increased to Grade 2, Step 2. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Campbell it was unanimously approved.

PROPOSED CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2026

Mayor Northam presented the proposed 2025-2026 holiday calendar to the Council for approval.

Columbus Day -- Monday, October 13, 2025
Veteran's Day -- Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving -- Thursday, November 27, 2025, and Friday, November 28, 2025

Christmas -- Wednesday, December 24, 2025, and Thursday, December 25, 2025
 New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026
 Martin Luther King Day -- Monday, January 19, 2026
 Presidents Day – Monday, February 16, 2026
 Good Friday -- Friday, April 3, 2026
 Memorial Day -- Monday, May 25, 2026
 Juneteenth – Friday, June 19, 2026
 Independence Day – Friday, July 3, 2026
 Labor Day -- Monday, September 7, 2026
 One personal holiday

Councilmember Campbell moved the 2025-2026 Holiday Schedule be approved as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING CODE ABATEMENT BOARD RESIGNATION

Mayor Northam presented the Council with a letter received from Mr. Eddie Williams resigning his position on the Municipal Housing Code Abatement Board. He had served on the board for many years. The Mayor and the Council thanked him for his service on the board and to the City. Councilmember Nichos moved that the Council accept the resignation of Mr. Eddie Williams. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION TO REVIEW PROPOSED BUDGET

Councilmember Williams moved the Council schedule a work session to review the proposed budget for September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously approved.

2025 AQUATIC CENTER REPORT

Park & Recreation Director Chris Champion reported to the Council on the 2025 Season at the Aquatic Center. The report is as follows:

Total Attendance 2025	25,693 (does not include the parties)
Total Attendance 2024	25,400
Average Daily Attendance 2025	357
Average Daily Attendance 2024	353
Private Parties 2025	136
Private Parties 2024	137
Season Passes 2025	319
Season Passes 2024	223 (approx.)
2025 – 72 scheduled operating days	
2025 - 27 days either did not open, opened late or closed early or parties received partial or full credit due to weather	
2024 – 10 days either did not open, opened late or closed early or parties received partial or full credit due to weather	
Admissions Income 2025	\$266,215.00 (approx.)
Admissions Income 2024	\$251,747.70
Concessions Income 2025	\$143,560.00 (approx.)
Concessions Income 2024	\$134,334.68
Store Income 2025	\$4,315.00 (approx.)
Store Income 2024	\$5,166.16
Season Pass Income 2025	\$16,895.00 (approx.)
Season Pass Income 2024	\$11,795.67
Private Party Income 2024	\$66,745.00 (approx.)

Private Party Income 2024 \$62,144.20

Started the season with 101 employees; finished with 90.
Started the season with 53 lifeguards; finished with 45.

Mr. Champion said the Aquatic Center would have a deficit at the end of this fiscal year due to additional improvements that were made that were not in its original budget. These improvements would include the overage in painting the slide tower and the LifeFloor installation on the splash fountain. He said \$64,450.00 was spent more than budgeted. Mr. Champion stated the Aquatic Center did receive approximately \$100,000.00 in additional improvements that were made at no cost through a grant.

Mr. Champion reported payroll decreased approximately \$14,360.00.

Mr. Champion reported on June 21, 2025, there were 1,015 attendees at the Aquatic Center. This was the second highest number of customers on one day in the Aquatic Center's history. The highest number (1,045) was on the same weekend in 2024. He also stated that this was the first year that every private party slot was booked.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Williams 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 Campbell 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 reported that he was declaring the week of September 7th – 13th "Assisted Living Week" in the City.

Mayor Northam informed the Council of these upcoming events:

Fayette Arts Festival - September 13th from 9:00 – 3:00 at the Civic Center
Skilled Trades Training – starts September 15th at the Community Center.
Fayette Junior City Council Talent Show – September 21st at the Civic Center
Ward 2 Run-off Election – September 23rd
Goat Show – September 27th at 2:00 pm at the Multipurpose Complex
Fayette County Fair - October 1st-5th
Frog Level Festival - October 3rd & 4th
FCHS Homecoming – October 3rd

REPORT OF JUNIOR MAYOR

Junior Mayor Sean White reported the Junior City Council would hold a Talent Show on September 21st at the Civic Center.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk