

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 8, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on September 8, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Rod Northam, Councilmembers Steve Herring, Micky Joe Morgan, Tommy Williams, Cedric Wilson and Floyd Rodgers, Jr. Also present were City Clerk Sherry Fowler, City Treasurer Dawn Clapp, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, Junior City Council Mayor Cheyenne Maynard-Price, Park Director Chris Champion, and City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

The opening prayer was given by Minister Scott Baggett of White's Chapel Church of Christ.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Minister Scott Baggett.

Mayor Northam announced a quorum was present and the meeting was open for the transaction of business. He also stated that this was the last meeting for City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE
LOCATED AT 406 TEMPLE AVENUE S, FAYETTE, ALABAMA

Mayor Northam announced that this was the day and time scheduled for the public hearing on the determination of the City of Fayette Municipal Housing Code Abatement Board that the building or structure located at 406 Temple Avenue S, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for ad valorem taxes to Stacie Moore is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance. No one appeared at the public hearing to speak concerning the building or structure in question.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Rodgers moved the minutes of the regular session held on August 25, 2026, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

FAYETTE MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

Fayette Medical Center Administrator Rodney Clark and Hospital Board Chairman Heath Reed updated the Council on the anticipated use of the funds generated by the ½ cent sales tax. They reported that the hospital had received an appropriation from the federal government of approximately \$5.5 million dollars for the proposed rural health clinic. Mr. Reed said the anticipated total cost of the project is \$8 million dollars so they will have to provide \$2.5 million dollars in matching funds. He said they planned to use the funds generated by the ½ cent sales tax to go toward the matching funds that were needed.

CITY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

City Treasurer Dawn Clapp presented the City's General Fund expenses to the Council. She stated the total amount of the checks written was \$1,201,266.92. Councilmember Herring moved the payment of the City's General Fund expenses be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmembers Herring, Williams, Wilson and Rodgers

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Morgan

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

PARK AND RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

City Treasurer Dawn Clapp presented the Park & Recreation Department's expenses to the Council. She stated the total amount of the checks written was \$155,688.84. Councilmember Rodgers moved the payment of the Park & Recreation Department's expenses be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, the following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmembers Herring, Williams, Wilson and Rodgers.

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Morgan

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

City Treasurer Dawn Clapp presented the Municipal Court’s expenses to the Council. She stated the total amount of the checks written was \$104,733.95. Councilmember Herring moved the payment of the Municipal Court’s expenses be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, the same was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF CITY TREASURER

City Treasurer Dawn Clapp reported for the month of August 2026, the City received \$273,432.64 in non-designated sales tax and the ½¢ sales tax for the hospital generated \$45,561.48 for a combined total of \$318,994.12. She reported the City received \$7,444.50 in alcohol taxes. She also reported that the City received \$40,411.24 in online sales tax.

POLICY CONCERNING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

City Clerk Sherry Fowler reported to the Council that she had recently received four public records request. She presented a proposed policy concerning the request of public records for their review and consideration. No action was taken.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY COVERAGE

City Clerk Sherry Fowler reported to the Council that the City does not have an umbrella policy. She said there is a \$3 million dollar overall liability provision that would be in addition to the \$1 million dollar coverage for police officers. She said she was waiting to hear back from the insurance company about the different options the City had and the actual cost of each option.

At the previous Council meeting, Mayor Northam had reported that going forward it would cost the city \$6,000.00 per officer to retain the current insurance coverage for the officers. He said this was for \$10 million dollars of coverage. For \$1 million dollars of coverage, it would cost \$3,500.00 per officer. He said currently this coverage for the officers did not cost an additional amount.

CITY’S BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD INSURANCE PLAN

City Clerk Sherry Fowler reported to the Council that the City’s Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Plan would now have four tier health and dental rates instead of just two tiers. She asked that the Council approve the amendment to the City’s BCBS plan that would now provide the four tier health and dental rates for the City employees. Councilmember Wilson moved the Council approve the amendment to the City’s BCBS Plan as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, the same was unanimously approved.

2026 AQUATIC CENTER REPORT

Park Director Chris Champion reported to the Council on the 2026 Season at the Aquatic Center. The report is as follows:

Total Attendance 2026	22,372
Total Attendance 2025	25,693
Average Daily Attendance 2026	283
Average Daily Attendance 2025	357
Private Parties 2026	137
Private Parties 2025	136
Season Passes 2026	334
Season Passes 2025	319
2026 – 79 scheduled operating days	
2025 - 30 days (38%) either did not open, opened late or closed early or parties received partial or full credit due to weather	
Admissions Income 2026	\$225,215.00 (approx.)
Admissions Income 2025	\$266,215.00 (approx.)
Concessions Income 2026	\$136,260.00 (approx.)

Concessions Income 2025	\$143,560.00 (approx.)
Store Income 2026	\$4,020.00 (approx.)
Store Income 2025	\$4,315.00 (approx.)
Season Pass Income 2026	\$17,655.00 (approx.)
Season Pass Income 2025	\$16,895.00 (approx.)
Private Party Income 2026	\$65,495.00 (approx.)
Private Party Income 2025	\$66,745.00 (approx.)

Started the season with 89 employees; finished with 67.
 Started the season with 47 lifeguards; finished with 26.

Mr. Champion said the Aquatic Center's total income decreased about \$50,617.00 but that total expenses had also decreased. He reported that payroll increased approximately \$11,300.00 because of the season being seven days longer than the previous year.

Mr. Champion reported that high attendance day was June 13, 2026, when there were 726 attendees at the Aquatic Center. He said there were three other days when the attendance was over 700.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Danny Jenkins presented the police report for August 2026. The report was as follows: 54 incidents investigated; 15 accidents; 77 traffic citations; 62 traffic warnings and 60 arrests.

CONSENT TO HIRE POLICE OFFICER

Police Chief Danny Jenkins recommended Mr. Chad Aldridge be hired as a full-time police officer. Mayor Northam said based on Chief Jenkins's recommendation he would hire Mr. Aldridge as a full-time police officer upon obtaining the consent of the Council. Councilmember Herring moved the Council consent to the Mayor hiring Mr. Chad Aldridge as a full-time police officer. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Rodgers, it was unanimously approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor presented the fire report for August 2026. The Fire Department received 31 total calls.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE LOCATED AT 406 TEMPLE AVENUE S, FAYETTE, ALABAMA

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor addressed the Council concerning the condition of the structure at 406 Temple Avenue S, Fayette, Alabama. Councilmember Rodgers moved the Council find that the structure located at 406 Temple Avenue S, Fayette, Alabama, assessed for advalorem taxes to Stacie Moore is unsafe to the extent that it creates a public nuisance and that the City order the structure to be demolished 30 days from this date. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

CONSENT TO HIRE FIREFIGHTER

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor recommended Mr. Logan Taylor be hired as a part-time firefighter. Mayor Northam said based on Chief Taylor's recommendation he would hire Mr. Taylor as a part-time firefighter upon obtaining the consent of the Council. Councilmember Rodgers moved the Council consent to the Mayor hiring Mr. Logan Taylor as a part-time firefighter. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously approved.

PROPOSED CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2026-2027

Mayor Northam presented the proposed 2026-2027 holiday calendar to the Council for approval.

Columbus Day -- Monday, October 12, 2026
 Veteran's Day -- Wednesday, November 11, 2026
 Thanksgiving -- Thursday, November 26, 2026, and Friday, November 27, 2026
 Christmas -- Thursday, December 24, 2026, and Friday, December 25, 2026
 New Year's Day -- Friday, January 1, 2027
 Martin Luther King Day -- Monday, January 18, 2027

Presidents Day – Monday, February 15, 2027
Good Friday -- Friday, March 26, 2027
Memorial Day -- Monday, May 31, 2027
Juneteenth – Friday, June 18, 2027
Independence Day – Monday, July 4, 2027
Labor Day -- Monday, September 6, 2027
One personal holiday

Councilmember Wilson moved the 2026-2027 Holiday Schedule be approved as presented. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

FAYETTE CIVIC CENTER DIRECTOR

Mayor Northam said that 21 individuals had applied for the position of Civic Center Director. He said the Civic Center Board recommended that Mrs. Jami Olive be hired as Civic Center Director. Councilmember Rodgers moved the Council approve the Mayor hiring Mrs. Jami Olive as Civic Center Director effective October 1, 2026. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

WATER WORKS BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

Mayor Northam reported on the request he had received from the Fayette Water Works Board for Mr. Matt Collins to be reappointed to the board. Mayor Northam said the requested reappointment will be voted on at the next council meeting.

REPAIR OF GARBAGE TRUCK

Mayor Northam said a part for the garbage truck had to be purchased recently. He requested the Council approve the purchase. Councilmember Morgan moved the Council approve the purchase of the part for the garbage truck. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, the same was unanimously approved.

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY LIGHTING SURVEY

Mayor Northam reported that Alabama Power Company recently did a lighting survey and recommended that street lights in certain locations be changed to LED lighting. He said the lights in question were more security lights than streetlights. Councilmember Williams moved the Council approve the proposal from Alabama Power Company except that the light at 212 1st Avenue SW should be left out. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously approved.

2027 BUDGET

Mayor Northam presented the proposed 2027 Budget to the Council for their review. He said the budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam said that the unemployment rate for Fayette County for July 2026 was 3.7%.

Mayor Northam informed the Council of the following upcoming events:

- Bevill State (Volleyball) vs. Lawson State - August 10th at 5:00 p.m.
- Fayette County (Football) vs. Curry - September 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- Fayette Arts Festival- September 12th at the Civic Center
- Bevill State (Volleyball) vs. Calhoun - September 15th at 5:00 p.
- Fayette County (Volleyball) vs. Curry - September 15th at 5:30 p.m.
- Zoning Public hearing – September 22nd at 5:00 pm at City Hall.
- Fayette County (Volleyball) vs. Oakman - September 22nd at 5:30 p.m.
- Frog Level Festival- October 2nd - 3rd.

REPORT OF JUNIOR MAYOR CHEYENNE MAYNARD-PRICE

Junior Mayor Cheyenne Maynard-Price said the Junior City Council will be holding a carwash on September 26th at ZR Elite Roofing.

COMMENTS OF OUTGOING CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Dale Lawrence thanked the Council for the confidence they and previous administrations had placed in him to allow him to serve as city attorney. He said he started to work on August 3, 1992, at Holder, Moore & Lawrence and attended his first council meeting at 1:15 p.m. that afternoon. He took his first set of minutes on September 21, 1992, when Mr. Guthrie Smith was mayor. Mr. Lawrence said he served as assistant city attorney for the last couple of months of the Guthrie Smith administration and then during the Jerry Bobo administration. During that time, his law partner, Louis Moore, served as city attorney and had done so since 1976. Mr. Lawrence said he took over as city attorney from Mr. Moore in 1996 and had served as city attorney during the Wayne Meherg administration, the Ray Nelson administration and the current administration of Mayor Rod Northam. He stated that in the more than thirty years that he had served as city attorney or assistant city attorney he had taken between 1,025 and 1,050 sets of minutes. Mr. Lawrence spoke about the different projects of the City – the new Post Office, Downtown Revitalization, the new City Hall, the Aquatic Center and the many sewer rehab projects- and said that they required both leaders who had vision and those who sought to build and maintain the City's financial strength. At the end of his comments, he jokingly said he wouldn't miss it, but he probably will. Mr. Lawrence has also served for the last 23 years as Municipal Prosecutor.

Mayor Northam and the Council thanked City Attorney Dale Lawrence for his service and noted that his more than thirty years in the position may make him the longest serving City Attorney in Fayette's history.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk