

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
September 22, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on September 22, 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, and City Attorney Zack Freeman.

The opening prayer was given by Gavin Norris Student and Youth Minister of Southside Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student and Youth Minister Gavin Norris.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ELIMINATION OF FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT

Mayor Northam announced that this was the date and time scheduled for the public hearing regarding the Planning Commission's review and recommendation to eliminate the Floodplain District and rezone the property to an M-1 Light Manufacturing District. The proposed amendment was prompted by the City's adoption of a 2024 ordinance establishing procedures for the management of floodplains in accordance with FEMA requirements. No one appeared at the public hearing to speak regarding the proposed rezoning. The public hearing was declared closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wilson moved the minutes of the regular session held on September 8, 2026, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

BILL'S TRAIL

Mrs. Laura Killingsworth updated the council on Bill's Trail and the conditions of the unfinished portion and introduced Phase A extension of the trail. Mrs. Killingsworth introduced Jay Spieler of Riverside Trail Services. Mr. Spieler spoke about the purpose of the extension and clearing the trail. Phase A will be entirely funded by existing private donations. Mrs. Killingsworth requested the City of Fayette install one culvert on the trail and to cover any necessary signage requirements to limit liability. Councilmember Rodgers made a motion to the Phase A request for bids to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, it was unanimously approved.

C3 UPDATE

Mr. Tom Wisemiller of the Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance (C3) updated the Council on its activities. He said C3 seeks to support existing businesses and industries and recruit new ones to the area. He said currently they are continuing to apply for grants for our downtown area and spoke on how good the downtown looks. He said the City of Fayette's downtown draws industries and families to this area. He thanked the Council for their continued support. Mayor Northam thanked C3 for the Facade Grant from last year. This matching reimbursement program helps small business owners invest in property improvements. Mr. Wisemiller said we should know by the end of September if the City of Fayette will receive this grant.

ACE UPDATE

Ace Coordinator Jackson Kimbrell provided an update on the downtown initiative. Monthly meetings are continuing as part of the initiative. Mr. Kimbrell and Councilmember Morgan attended a zoom meeting with Main Street. The group has established a social media presence and developed a monthly promotional program.

- **Week 1:** Business Spotlight – highlighting local downtown businesses.
- **Week 2:** Downtown Place or Location – highlighting a notable place or location in the downtown area.
- **Week 3:** Person or Volunteer – highlighting an individual or volunteer who contributes to the downtown community.
- **Week 4:** Calendar of Events – promoting upcoming events and activities taking place in the downtown district.

Mr. Kimbrell also spoke about the Leadership Class:

The first day of the leadership class was held September 22nd, 2026. Participants completed the **True Colors** program as part of the day's activities. Mrs. Jackie Waldon also attended and presented a history lesson on Fayette City to the class. The next leadership class meeting is scheduled for October 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

RESOLUTION 2026-11

Mayor Northam presented Resolution 2026-11 to the Council for their consideration. Resolution 2026-11 is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2026-11

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE ALABAMA OPEN RECORDS ACT

WHEREAS, the Alabama Open Records Act, Ala. Code § 36-12-40, provides that every citizen has a right to inspect and take a copy of public writings of the State, except where otherwise expressly provided by statute; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette seeks to establish clear, consistent, and transparent procedures for requesting, accessing, and receiving public records; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary and appropriate to adopt formal procedures to ensure timely responses, proper handling of records, and compliance with state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Resolution is to establish procedures for submitting, processing, and responding to public records requests made to the City of Fayette.

Section 2. Definitions

- **Public Record:** Any written, typed, printed, electronic, or otherwise recorded material created, received, or maintained by the City of Fayette in the course of public business, unless exempt under state or federal law.
- **Requester:** Any person seeking access to public records.
- **Custodian:** The City Clerk or any city employee designated to maintain or provide access to public records.

Section 3. Right to Access

Public records shall be open for inspection by any citizen of Alabama, except where disclosure is prohibited or restricted by law. Access shall be provided in a reasonable manner that does not disrupt city operations.

Section 4. Submitting a Records Request

1. Requests may be submitted in writing, electronically, or in person to the City Clerk.
2. Requests must describe the records sought with reasonable specificity.
3. The City may require the requester to provide contact information for follow-up communication.
4. The official **Public Records Request Form**, attached as **Appendix A**, is hereby adopted and shall be made available at City Hall and on the City's website.
5. The City Clerk may update the form for clarity or formatting without further Council action, provided the substance remains consistent with this Resolution.

Section 5. Response Time

1. The City shall acknowledge receipt of the request within **ten (10) business days**.
2. The City shall provide requested records within a **reasonable timeframe**, considering the volume, complexity, and format of the records.
3. If records cannot be produced promptly, the City shall provide an estimated completion date.

Section 6. Fees

1. The City may charge reasonable fees for copying, printing, scanning, or staff time required to locate and prepare records.
2. Fees shall be published publicly and updated as needed.
3. Payment may be required before records are released.

Section 7. Denial of Requests

A request may be denied if:

- The record is exempt under state or federal law;
- The request is overly broad or insufficiently specific;
- Producing the record would impose an undue burden on city operations.

Denials shall be provided in writing and shall state the reason for denial and any available appeal options.

Section 8. Electronic Records

1. Electronic records shall be provided in their existing format when feasible.
2. The City is not required to create new records, compile data, or convert formats unless mutually agreed upon.

Section 9. Confidential and Exempt Records

The City shall not disclose records that are confidential, privileged, or exempt under Alabama law, including but not limited to:

- Personnel records
- Records related to ongoing investigations
- Attorney-client privileged materials
- Sensitive infrastructure or security information

Section 10. Record Preservation

All city departments shall maintain records in accordance with the Alabama Local Government Records Commission retention schedules.

Section 11. Adoption

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

APPENDIX A – CITY OF FAYETTE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FORM

City of Fayette, Alabama

Public Records Request Form

Requester Information

- Full Name: _____
- Organization (if applicable): _____
- Mailing Address: _____
- City/State/ZIP: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Email Address: _____

Record(s) Requested

Describe the record(s) requested with as much detail as possible:

(Attach additional pages if needed.)

Preferred Method of Access

- ☐ Inspect in person
- ☐ Electronic copies (email – fees apply)
- ☐ Printed copies (fees apply)

Purpose of Request (Optional)

Acknowledgment of Fees

The City of Fayette may charge reasonable fees for copying, printing, scanning, or staff time required to locate and prepare records.

- ☐ I agree to pay applicable fees.
- ☐ Please notify me of estimated fees before processing.

Certification

I certify that I am a citizen of the State of Alabama and that the information provided above is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For City Use Only

- Date Received: _____
- Received By: _____
- Request Number: _____
- Estimated Completion Date: _____
- Fees Estimated: _____
- Fees Paid: _____
- Notes: _____

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Fayette, Alabama, on this ____ day of September 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Sherry Fowler, the City Clerk of the City of Fayette, Alabama, a municipal corporation, do hereby certify under the Seal of the City of Fayette, Alabama, that the above and foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the original adopted by the City Council on this the ____ day of September, 2026 as the same appears upon the minutes of the City Council of the City of Fayette, Alabama.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Official Seal of the City of Fayette, Alabama, on this the _____ day of September, 2026.

Clerk, City of Fayette, Alabama

Councilmember Herring moved that Resolution 2026-11, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Morgan. The following vote was taken:

AYES: Mayor Northam, Councilmembers, Rodgers, Jr. and Wilson

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Williams

Mayor Northam stated the motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2026-05

Mayor Northam presented Ordinance 2026-05 to the Council for their consideration to amend. Resolution 2026-05 is as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY ORDINANCE ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA", ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JULY 15, 1996, REFERRED TO AND IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 11, SHORT TITLE OF SAID ZONING ORDINANCE AS THE "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, ALABAMA".

THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRING IT, and under authority granted by Section 11-52-77, 1975 Code of Alabama, Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Fayette, Alabama, as follows:

1. That SECTION 61 FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT and SECTION 61.1 FP-1 FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT of the *Zoning Ordinance of the City of Fayette, Alabama, adopted and approved on July 15, 1996*, be and the same are hereby DELETED by striking such sections in their entirety.
2. That the Zoning Map of the City of Fayette, Alabama, adopted and approved by the City Council on July 15, 1996, is hereby altered, changed, amended and modified as follows:
That the zoning classification of the lands shown on the said Zoning Map as Flood Plain District or FP-1 Flood Plain District be and are hereby reclassified to a M-1 Light Manufacturing District.

3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its publication.

DONE this the _____ day of September 2026.

Mayor, City of Fayette

ATTEST:

Clerk, City of Fayette

Councilmember Rodgers, Jr., moved that Resolution 2026-05, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

BUDGET

Mayor Northam commended the budget committee for their work, noting that the proposed budget was approximately \$1 million lower than the prior year's budget due to reductions in grant-related revenues and corresponding expenditures. Mayor Northam reported that the budget committee reviewed multiple revenue and expenditure items, including proposed adjustments to sewer rates, a 25% increase in airport fuel pricing, a \$1.50 increase to sanitation service rates, departmental operating costs, anticipated grant funding, and the City's overall revenue and expenditure outlook. Mayor Northam stated that the proposed sanitation rate increase would require adoption of an ordinance and therefore was not being acted on as part of the budget vote.

Councilmember Rodgers, Jr., moved the FY 2027 budget to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, the same was unanimously approved.

2027 COMPENSATION PAY GRIDS

Mayor Northam proposed pay grids for the Police Department, Fire Department, Street and Sanitation Department, and Parks and Recreation, reflecting a 3.5% increase across the applicable steps. Councilmember Herring moved the 2027 pay grids to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Rodgers Jr., it was unanimously approved.

CONTRACTS

Mayor Northam provided an overview of the Placer AI contract, explaining that the software platform would supply detailed analytics on visitors to the community. He stated that such data could be utilized to support economic development initiatives, business recruitment efforts, tourism and recreation planning, marketing strategies, and assessments of local traffic

and visitor behavior. Councilmember Williams moved the Placer AI contract to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, it was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented the council with a request for a Parade Permit for the Frog Level Festival to be held October 2nd and October 3rd in downtown Fayette. Councilmember Morgan moved the request to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Rodgers Jr., it was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented the council with a request for a Parade Permit for the Homecoming Parade to be held on October 16th. Councilmember Morgan moved the request to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 2026-12

The Mayor then stated that the next order of business was the adoption of Resolution 2026-12. The Mayor presented Resolution 2026-12 for their consideration. Resolution 2026-12 is as follows:

RESOLUTION: 2026-12

WHEREAS, the City of Fayette proposes to apply \$500,000 of FY2027 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds to rehabilitate the primary Sewer Pumping Station at the city's wastewater treatment facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Fayette City Council as follows:

THAT, ROD NORTHAM, MAYOR, is hereby authorized to execute and submit an application with appropriate assurances to the State of Alabama, Department of Economic and Community Affairs, requesting Fiscal Year 2027 ARC funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 to rehabilitate the city's primary sewer pumping station at the city's wastewater treatment facility.

THAT, THE CITY OF FAYETTE will provide a local cash match of **\$234,250.00** in support of this project, plus all administration and engineering fees will be paid with local funds outside of the scope of this project.

READ AND ADOPTED this on the **22nd** day of **September 2026**.

CITY OF FAYETTE:

By: _____

Rod Northam
Mayor

Attest:

Sherry Fowler
City Clerk

Councilmember Wilson moved the Council adopt Resolution 2026-12, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

HEALING ZONE

The mayor spoke on a memorandum of understanding and related improvements for the Healing Zone, situated adjacent to Bill's Trail and near the Depot. It was noted that while the City had previously agreed to the project, several originally anticipated components had not yet been completed. The proposed amendment would provide for additional amenities and improvements, including completion of the planned features, repairs to the walking path, and installation of sensory-area elements. The Council further discussed the placement of the sensory area and the degree of separation from the main trail. Councilmember Rodgers Jr. moved the request be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, it was unanimously approved.

NW ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Mayor Northam asked that the memorandum of agreement with Northwest Alabama Mental Health be approved, stating that the City would utilize and support their services whenever mental health needs arise in the community. Councilmember Herring moved the request to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Rodgers Jr., it was unanimously approved.

2027 SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TAX HOLIDAY

Mayor Northam discussed the proposed 2027 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday, scheduled for February 26 through February 28, 2027. The mayor noted that a resolution is required for adoption. No action was taken at this meeting. The resolution will be prepared and requested at the next meeting.

WATER WORKS BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mayor Northam stated that the Fayette Water Works Board requested that Matt Collins be reappointed to a full term on the Fayette Water Works Board. Councilmember Rodgers Jr. moved that the Council approve the request. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, the same was unanimously approved.

REPAIR OF GARBAGE TRUCK

Mayor Northam reported another mechanical issue involving the City's new garbage truck. He stated that the truck's PTO box had failed, leaving the new truck out of service, and noted that the older truck remained operational. The Mayor requested approval of approximately \$3,268.75 for the replacement and shipping cost of the new PTO. Councilmember Morgan moved that the Council approve the purchase. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Herring, the same was unanimously approved.

FAYETTE GAS BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Northam stated that the Fayette Gas Board had provided notification recommending the reappointment of Brent Daniels to a full term and the reappointment of Tommy Norwood to another term. No action was taken, as this was only a notification and the matter will be voted on at the next meeting.

FINANCIALS

Mayor Northam reported that overall spending for the month was approximately 8.5% below budget, while income was approximately 4.3% below budget. He noted that transfers between accounts accounted for a significant portion of the variance. The Mayor reported that City expenses were approximately 11.7% above budget, primarily due to project-related expenditures, while income was approximately 15.4% above budget. The Mayor identified three departments—Sanitation, Airport, and Administration, currently exceeding their budget. He stated that overall, the City's financial position remained favorable.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Northam stated that Monday, October 12, is a City holiday and City Hall will be closed. He further reported that the City's garbage service will operate as normal on that day.

Mayor Northam reported that the Aquatic Center party customers were coming from many counties and nearby states. He stated that approximately 35% were from Fayette County, 20% from Tuscaloosa County, and 14% were from Mississippi.

Mayor Northam stated that he will be attending the following:

- *Your Town Alabama* in Nauvoo — September 24–25
- Alabama Association of Regional Councils Conference in Montgomery - October 12–14
- Alabama League of Municipalities Leadership Training in Mobile — October 20–22

Mayor Northam reported that the City is exploring updates to its IT system, including potential upgrades to the City's website and other technology platforms. He noted that Chief Taylor is assisting with the process. The Mayor further stated that the City must ensure that its website is ADA compliant by March 2028.

Mayor Northam reported that Head Start services have reopened. He stated that the program is operating on a limited schedule and currently has openings for staff. He further noted that the program is seeking additional applicants, and that staffing and certification requirements are affecting the ability to expand operations.

Mayor Northam encouraged the community to participate in and support the volleyball schedules for FCHS and Bevill State College. The following schedules were provided:

Bevill State Volleyball

- Bevill State vs. NW Shoals — September 23 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Bevill State vs. Wallace Hanceville — September 30 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Bevill State vs. Snead State — October 6 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Bevill State vs. Gadsden State — October 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

FCHS Volleyball

- FCHS Volleyball Tournament — September 26
- FCHS vs. Winfield — September 29 @ 5:30 p.m.
- FCHS vs. Lamar County — October 1 @ 5:30 p.m.
- FCHS vs. Sulligent — October 8 @ 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Northam also encouraged the community to support the FCHS football team. Below are the upcoming games.

FCHS Football

- FCHS vs. Haleyville — October 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
- FCHS vs. Winfield — October 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Other community activities reported by Mayor Northam are as follows:

Community Activities

- **FJCC Car Wash** — September 26 @ ZR Roofing, 9:00 a.m. – noon
- **Goat Show** — September 26 @ Multipurpose Complex
- **Frog Level Festival** — October 2–3, Downtown Fayette
- **Fayette County Fair** — October 7–10 @ Multipurpose Complex

Mayor Northam provided an update regarding the City's frog-themed downtown beautification project. He stated that a new frog sculpture is scheduled to be installed on September 23 at the corner of Highway 18 and Highway 171. The artists for the new sculpture are Deb Hill and Abigail Lovelace. Mayor Northam also highlighted a new mural located on the side of the Alabama Sunshine building. He reported that the mural was funded through the Fayette Community Foundation and coordinated through community partners and noted that students from FCHS were also involved in the project.

REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Sherry Fowler reported that all City accounts for the month of July had been reconciled and all accounts balanced.

REPORT OF JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL MAYOR

Junior Mayor Cheyenne Maynard-Price reported on upcoming planned activities. She noted that a car wash is scheduled for September 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with 75% of the funds collected benefiting Scout Troop 45. She further reported that the Junior Mayor and Junior Councilmembers will assist with Frog Level Festival activities. A community movie night is planned for October 24.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER MORGAN

Councilmember Morgan commented on the Aquatic Center visitor information. He stated that the data demonstrates the broad geographic reach of the City's Aquatic Center and emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving the facility.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS

Councilmember Williams recognized Chief Jenkins and Chief Taylor for taking the initiative to apply for a grant from Tombigbee RC&D. He reported that they were notified last week that the grant had been awarded and stated that he looks forward to seeing the projects completed.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER RODGERS JR.

Councilmember Rodgers Jr. reported that he had attended an economic development and workforce summit. He stated that individuals from outside Fayette County commented positively on the appearance and maintenance of Downtown Fayette. Councilmember Rodgers Jr. recognized the Fayette Garden Club for their work in maintaining and beautifying the downtown area.

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 Morgan, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk