City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
October 27, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on October 27, 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, Mickey Joe Morgan, Tommy Williams, Cedric Wilson and Floyd Rodgers, Jr. Also present were City Clerk Sherry Fowler, Police Chief Danny Jenkins, and City Attorney Zack Freeman. City Treasurer Dawn Clapp, Fire Chief Shannon Taylor, and Junior Mayor Cheyenne M. Price were absent.

The opening prayer was given by Rev. Charlie Humphrey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Charlie Humphrey.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Herring moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 13, 2026, be approved. Upon it being seconded by Councilmember Morgan, it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION TO FAYETTE HOSPITAL BOARD

Mayor Northam and the City Council presented a check in the amount of $451,213.61 to the Fayette Hospital Board. These funds were raised by the City's 1/2¢ sales tax earmarked for capital improvements at the Fayette hospital.

FAYETTE WATER BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Daniel Brasher provided an overview of the Fayette Water Board's operations, noting that the system serves customers both within the City of Fayette and in other municipalities throughout Fayette County. He reported approximately 2,300 active customer accounts within the city limits, including approximately 1,800 accounts connected to the City's sewer system. He stated that the Water Board currently distributes an average of one million gallons of water per day. Mr. Brasher also gave an update regarding ongoing operations, projects, and other matters affecting the Water Board.

FROG LEVEL FESTIVAL UPDATE

Emily Montague, Director of the Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the Frog Level Festival held in downtown Fayette on October 2 and 3. She presented an itemized expense report and noted that vendor space reached maximum capacity this year. Mrs. Montague expressed her sincere appreciation to the many volunteers, community members, businesses, and public officials who

contributed to the success of the festival. She stated that the event would not have been possible without their support, hard work, and dedication. Mrs. Montague also stated that she plans to explore the addition of cooling stations for attendees at future festivals.

Mayor Northam added that he used data from Placer AI to create charts illustrating attendance and visitor trends. He reported that approximately 6,900 people attended the event over the weekend, including 3,900 attendees on Friday night and 3,000 on Saturday. Mayor Northam noted that Friday night's attendance represented the largest Friday night crowd in the event's history.

ACE UPDATE

ACE Coordinator Jackson Kimbrell updated the Council on the Fayette County Leadership Class, reporting that two class sessions had been held and both were successful. He stated that the session held October 27 featured a government panel consisting of mayors from surrounding municipalities and the Fayette County Probate Judge. Mr. Kimbrell also noted that graduates from previous leadership classes spoke to participants about community projects they had completed, providing guidance on selecting projects, applying for grants, securing funding, and successfully carrying projects through to completion.

Mr. Kimbrell reported that next month's class will include tours of two industries in Fayette, followed by a visit to Roberts Farm to discuss the importance of agriculture in the community.

Mr. Kimbrell also provided an update on ACE Committee activities, including efforts to spotlight local businesses and recognize community volunteers. In addition, he announced an upcoming community pep rally in support of the FCHS football team as they advance to the playoffs. The pep rally will be held on November 5 from 5:30 p.m.to 7:30 p.m. in downtown Fayette in front of the courthouse. Mr. Kimbrell noted that this will be the first time since 2019 that FCHS has hosted a playoff game and encouraged the community to come out and show its support for the team.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Northam presented the council with a request for a Parade Permit for the FCHS Football Community Pep Rally to be held on November 5. Councilmember Williams moved the request to be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Rodgers, Jr., it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR FINAL ABATEMENT PROCEEDINGS

Mayor Northam reported the city had received a request from the Abatement Board to conduct a public hearing for final abatement proceedings on the property located at 423 4th Street NW, Fayette, AL. Councilmember Herring moved that a public hearing be set for November 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Williams, it was unanimously approved.

BILL'S TRAIL

Mayor Northam reported that two bids had been received for Phase A of the Bill's Trail cleanup extension project. He stated that the city is not prepared to proceed with the project at this time because the anticipated funding has not yet been received. As a result, Mayor Northam did not recommend moving forward with either bid. Mayor Northam did, however, recommend utilizing Street Department personnel to begin portions of the cleanup work. He expressed his appreciation to the bidders who submitted proposals and to the Street Department employees who have volunteered to assist with the initial cleanup efforts. No action was taken on the matter at this meeting. The project will be revisited and discussed further later.

DUTY OF DOG OWNER

Mayor Northam stated that concerns had been raised by members of the community regarding the responsibilities of pet owners when their animals are on public property or within City rights-of-way. He noted that the City currently does not have an ordinance requiring pet owners to clean up after their pets while on City-owned property. Mayor Northam presented four potential options for addressing the issue and encouraged the Council to review and consider them before any action is taken. During discussion, Councilmember Herring stated that he would like to continue the process of developing an ordinance requiring pet owners to immediately remove and properly dispose of pet waste deposited in public areas. He further suggested requiring pet owners to carry appropriate waste removal materials while their pets are on public property. Mayor Northam further reported that the Friends of the Animal Shelter had approached the city regarding the installation of pet waste bag stations. He stated that the stands for the stations have been ordered; however, they are currently on back order and have not yet been received. Mayor Northam stated he would follow through.

FINANCIALS

Mayor Northam presented a year-over-year financial overview of the City's operations. He reported that the City's total assets had increased by 4.2% compared to the previous year, while liabilities had decreased by 4.0%. Mayor Northam reviewed several revenue categories, noting that real estate and personal property tax revenue had increased by 4.2% and business license revenue had increased by 9.2% over the prior year. He further reported that garbage collection fee revenue had decreased by 1.1%, the cause of the decrease in garbage fee revenue has been identified and that a substantial increase in garbage collection fees would be required for the program to break even; however, at this time, the City does not intend to implement such an increase. Sales tax revenue had increased by 3.0%. Mayor Northam reported that the Sanitation, Maintenance, and Airport Departments have exceeded their budgeted expenditures, primarily due to increased fuel costs and unforeseen equipment and facility repairs. Mayor Northam also reviewed additional departmental revenues and expenditures and reported that the City's overall general income had increased by 3.3% from the previous year. He stated that the City had experienced a positive financial year overall.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Northam shared a thank-you note received from Fayette First Baptist Church Pastor Scott Davis expressing his appreciation to the City for its prompt response in removing debris from the property and thanked City employees for addressing the matter in a timely manner.

Mayor Northam also reported the following:

- Attended the Alabama Association of Regional Councils Conference on Economic Development and the Alabama League of Municipalities Municipal Leadership Institute, where he participated in training and discussions related to municipal government and economic development.
- Congratulated Glenda Robertson on her retirement after 19 years of service at the Fayette Civic Center and thanked her for her dedication to the city and its residents.
- Reported that the September 2026 Fayette County unemployment rate was 3.9%, representing 255 unemployed individuals.
- Reminded everyone that Daylight Saving Time will end on November 1, 2026,
- Announced that the City's leaf collection truck will begin operations during the week of November 9, 2026.

Mayor Northam announced the following upcoming events and dates:

- FCHS Volleyball State Tournament - October 29-30
- Grand Re-Opening for Community Service Program of West Alabama Fayette County Head Start - Friday October 30
- Bevill State Volleyball State Tournament - October 31-November 1
- Election Day - November 3
- FCHS Pep Rally Downtown - November 5
- Magnolia Ranch 5K Run - November 7
- Mayfield Volunteer Fire Department Rodeo at the Multipurpose Complex - November 7
- Veterans Day Program at Bevill State - November 9
- Public Hearing for Courtyard Dining Alcohol License - November 10
- Veterans Day Holiday - November 11
- Veterans Christmas Tree Lighting - November 16
- Public Hearing for RG Heritage Zoning Request - November 24
- Thanksgiving Holiday - November 26-27
- Christmas at the Park - November 26 through December 31

REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Sherry Fowler reported that all City, Municipal Court and the Park and Recreational accounts had been reconciled and balanced for the months of August and September.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER HERRING

Councilmember Herring reminded citizens to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election on November 3, 2026.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER MORGAN

Councilmember Morgan encouraged the community to attend and support the Fayette County High School football pep rally on Thursday, November 5, 2026, in downtown Fayette and to go and support the team as they begin playoff competitions. He also congratulated the Fayette County High School volleyball team on their successful season and accomplishments.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER RODGERS, JR.

Councilmember Rodgers Jr. encouraged the community to support the Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce by attending its Events Calendar Planning Day. He stated that the event would be held at the Fayette Civic Center on October 28, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

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 Williams, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk