

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,
MISSOURI
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Fayette was called to order at 6:00 p.m., January 14, 2025 by Mayor Greg Stidham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderwoman Ishmael.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call verified four Board Members present for the meeting.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderwoman Stephanie Ford, Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderwoman Marsha Broadus. Absent: Alderwoman Peggy O'Connell.

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderwoman Ishmael asked for the following additions:

- Seccion E: Approval of Minutes for Special Council meeting held on December 20, 2024.
- New Business:
 4. Discussion and /or Approval of Business License for Lafayette on the Square.
 5. Proclamation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Alderwoman Ishmael motioned to approve the January 14, 2025 Agenda with the above additions. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2024

Alderwoman Ford motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 10, 2024. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD ON DECEMBER 20, 2024

Alderwoman Broadus motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 20, 2024. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

VISITORS

Gary Kunze – Co-Chief Fire Department

Mr. Kunze announced that Dr. Womack, the former Medical Director, has retired. The Howard County Fire Protection Board made an agreement with the Curators of the University of Missouri, Dr. Christopher Sampson, to provide the services as Medical Director, including training and updating on medical regulations. Mr. Kunze stated that nothing will change with the City, and the City's financial contribution towards the Medical Director's compensation will remain the same.

Mr. Kunze also informed that the old pumper truck, Engine 2, failed its inspection. He explained that the cost of rebuilding the pump may exceed the truck's current value. Mr. Kunze suggested to use it as a backup ladder truck or explore the options to replace it. Mr. Kunze requested the council's consideration in declaring the truck as surplus property or potentially its sale. Further discussion will take place on the next meeting.

Sonny Conrow – Electric Department Superintendent

Mr. Conrow provided an update on the recent storm, stating that there were not significant outages except for one brief disruption originating from Central Electric. No tree limbs down reported.

Mr. Conrow requested the council on selecting a date for a meeting with Mr. John Pettit to discuss the Hometown grid, as mentioned in prior meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Deanna Cooper – Downtown Fayette

Ms. Cooper updated the Council on the upcoming projects for 2025, including plans for a Farmer's Market. She also announced that Fayette has been selected by the Main Street organization to host their Spring Workshop on the 5th and 6th of March, which will bring 140-150 people coming in from other communities. Additionally, in May they will host a Historic Preservation Workshop to encourage people to understand historic buildings and their preservation.

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the North Main Street sidewalk project, announcing that Mr. Brandon Simpson is the new project manager for Great River Engineering. She noted that the status of the project is pending for right-of-way approvals and bidding is expected to open in March 2025.

Regarding this project, Mr. JB Waggoner added that he discussed with Mr. Silva from Great River Engineering a stormwater issue. He explained that the stormwater collected from the roof of Innovatia drains to the system and eventually will be redirected into the alley. The engineers will need to determine the size of the grate. Mr. Waggoner mentioned that the grate at the end of the alley connects to North Main and it's often clogged.

Mr. Waggoner also mentioned that the grade at the intersection of Main Street and Davis Street doesn't meet ADA compliance.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

CITY MARSHAL - DAVID FORD

Nothing to report.

CITY CLERK - MATI ROGERS

Ms. Rogers gave to the Council the following report:

- A total of eight candidates filed for the upcoming elections. Candidates Filing Report was submitted to the Missouri Ethics Commission - MEC, along with the Notice of Election to the County Clerk as well as other documents required.
- Collaborated with Gilmore & Bell to file a request for 35% refund on interests paid last year for the City's Build America Bond.
- The Financial Report required by the State Auditor's Office was successfully filed on December 12th.
- W-2's and W-3 have been filed online, and employee copies will be mailed shortly.
- Addressed bandwidth issues by upgrading the City's internet connection with Socket, without any additional cost to the City.

CITY ATTORNEY – NATHAN NICKOLAUS

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON UPDATING COUNCIL PAY. PEGGY O'CONNELL TO PRESENT RESEARCH INFORMATION

Tabled due to the absence of Alderwoman O'Connell.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOB DESCRIPTION, SALARY AND HIRING PROCESS

The Missouri Municipal League will assist with advertising the position once the job description is finalized. The Sub-Committee will meet to draft the job description and recruitment plan.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PAY RESOLUTION 2025-01 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Alderwoman Gerlt motioned to approve Pay Resolution 2025-01, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$484,165.91 which includes, General Fund \$122,144.41, Electric Fund \$252,295.20, Water Fund \$80,097.44, Sewer Fund \$29,628.86. Alderwoman Ford seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SEWER WAVIER FOR 319 S. MAIN ST.

Alderwoman Gerlt motioned to approve the Sewer Wavier for \$614.02 for 319 S. Main Street. Alderwoman Ford seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF BRADLEY PATTY TO PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Alderwoman Ford motioned to approve the Appointment of Bradley Patty to Planning and Zoning Board. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR LAFAYETTE ON THE SQUARE

Alderwoman Ford motioned to approve the Business License for Lafayette on the Square. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

5. PROCLAMATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Mayor Stidham stated that it's a proclamation encouraging all residents to honor Dr. King's Legacy by participating in activities that promote understanding his vision towards a justice Society. Mr. Stidham will participate in the activities and read the proclamation.

BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Alderwoman Stephanie Ford - East Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward

Alderwoman Gerlt inquired about the status of the parking around the square and painting of lines. Mr. Stidham responded that they are currently working on it. They are in the process of estimating the cost of removing the existing striping. He explained that the cost will vary if the lines can be removed by sandblasting or ice blasting or if a layer of pavement has to be applied.

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Alderwoman Peggy O'Connell - Northwest Ward

Absent.

Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman Ishmael thanked the Streets crew for cleaning the streets during the storm. Ms. Ishmael also recognized the Candidates who filed for the 2025 Elections.

Alderwoman Marsha Broadus - Southwest Ward

Alderwoman Broadus inquired about the plan for hiring a Building Inspector for the City. Mayor Stidham responded that this is an issue that the Council needs to address. Mr. Stidham mentioned that a list of around 22 vacant houses have been made, some of which may need to be torn down. He said that it's important to focus on those that are not livable. Attorney Nickolaus said that the City should begin by an ordinance for vacant houses and consider assessing a fee to maintain an empty property.

Additionally, Alderwoman Broadus commented that the cars parked on snow routes should be ticketed, because it makes it difficult for the Streets crew to properly clean the roads.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Mayor Stidham informed the Council that the Streets crew worked Saturday night, Sunday and Monday to plow the snow. According to Mr. Dennis Daniels – Streets Superintendent, everything went well.
- Financial Report was filed to the State Auditor Office, completed by Miller & Bales.
- Regarding DC Rogers Wing wall, Mr. Stidham reported that MECO Engineering has completed the plans and reviewed with Dennis Daniels. The project is now waiting for approval from FEMA. Bids could be expected to be received around March.

TO CLOSED SESSION

Alderwoman Ford motioned to move to closed session at 6:35 p.m. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

Responding to Roll Call: Alderwoman Ford, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderwoman Broadus.

Alderwoman Broadus moved to adjourn closed session at 7:10 p.m. and go into open session. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Alderwoman Ford, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderwoman Broadus.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman Broadus motioned to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:


_____ Maria Rogers, City Clerk


_____ Greg Stidham, Mayor