

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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., May 13, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman David Frees.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call verified six Board Members present for the meeting.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderman David Frees, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Grafton Cook, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman JB Waggoner.

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the May 13, 2025 Agenda as presented. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMEN HELD ON APRIL 22, 2025**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 22, 2025. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**INVITED GUESTS**

- **Dr. Kenneth Vroman – Fairgrounds Shooting Facility**

Dr. Vroman informed the Council that the Fairground Development Association plans to build a high-tech shooting house at the Fairgrounds. The facility would be used by Sportsman Club, 4-H, FFA, the college and potentially rented out to other individuals. He mentioned that safety is their primary consideration, noting that the shooting house would be located in the southwest corner of the Fairgrounds, with shooting directed to the South and the nearest residency would be over 300 yards away.

Alderman Waggoner mentioned that the City should review any ordinance that might apply to this case and develop a mechanism to allow this to happen if it is approved. Mayor Stidham requested project plans and mentioned that this proposal would be considered at the next Council meeting.

- **Ann Schnell**

Ms. Schnell expressed her gratitude to the City crew for their work in preparing for the upcoming pool season.

Ms. Schnell informed the Council that Curtis Hammons – Water Superintendent, has determined that \$22,950 is needed to replace the UV Sterilizer, Pump and Rain blaster for the Splash Pad. She also reported that \$16,326.06 remains from Mrs. Lucile Thurman's memorial fund to the park, and Mr. Frank Flaspohler, executor of the estate, has agreed to release those funds for the purchase of these three items, leaving a balance of \$6,624 to be covered. Mr. Flaspohler offered to contribute half of the remaining amount (\$3,312). Ms. Schnell asked the Council to approve the spending of the \$3,312 remaining, amount that is included in the current budget.

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to approve to spend \$3,312 for the purchase of the new part for the Splash Pad, provided that there is a warranty on the new parts. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Additionally, on behalf of the Park Commission, Ms. Schnell presented a 2025-2026 budget request that includes Cameras for City and Paige Liberty Park, swings for all parks, WIFI for Page Liberty Park and Camera monitoring yearly plan, as well as \$10,000 for the Land and Water Grant match.

- **Bekki Galloway / Jim Kozala – Tree Keeper subscription**

Ms. Galloway informed the Council Mr. Kozala will give a presentation next week on the Tree keeper subscription which will help to keep and manage the information of about 820 trees within the City. Ms. Galloway will present the Tree Board's budget requirement.

- **Joe and Kelly Vaughn – Fly By**

Mr. Vaughn presented to the Council the design of the backlit sign and logo for Fly By, stating that it meets all the City requirements outlined in the ordinance. Mr. Vaughn requested permission to proceed with the installation of the sign.

Alderman Cook moved to approve the sign for Fly By. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- **Eric Gonzales**

Mr. Gonzales inquired about how utility bill estimates are calculated when meter reading is not possible due to weather conditions. He mentioned that his bill was unusually high considering that he is away from home for 12 hours each day and uses timed power strips. Mayor Stidham stated that the City would look into this matter.

- **Marsha Broadus**

Ms. Broadus referred to the City Ordinance that requires all Food Truck to have a sanitation inspection from the County Health Department before selling any food to the public. Ms. Broadus asked the Council to consider re-wording the Ordinance to allow Food Truck with a current inspection from another County to be able to obtain a Vendor Permit when participating in any local event.

- **Regina Powell**

Ms. Powell asked the Council to consider installing WIFI at Liberty Park since there are vandalism issues. She also requested the City to mow the grass at the old funeral home on South Park Street, mentioning concerns about the presence of snakes in the area.

- **Tristin Head**

Ms. Head informed the Council about this year's Party in the Park event. She requested the police to block the road for the 2025 Parade in order to ensure the space and public safety during the event. Ms. Head provided the map with the route of the Parade.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

- **Sonny Conrow – Electric Superintendent**

Mr. Conrow presented a report on the Mutual Aid work in Springfield. He also requested the Council's consideration for the purchase of a Dump Trailer that could be utilized both the Electric and Streets Departments. Additionally, he informed the Council about an upcoming auction of three pieces of equipment that could be used by all the Departments. Mr. Conrow stated that he would present the maximum bid amount for Council consideration at the next meeting.

- **Curtis Hammons - Water Superintendent**

Mr. Hammons informed the Council that the Board of the Howard County Regional Water Association is considering switching from Chlorine to Chloramines for water disinfection. He noted that the discussion is still in early stages, but the Association wanted to keep Council informed. Mr. Waggoner expressed concern, stating that this topic could lead to significant issues related to corrosion and health issues, which the City should address in the upcoming Water Association meetings.

- **Dennis Daniels – Streets Superintendent**

Mr. Daniels presented to the Council two Line-Item requests for the purchase of Concrete for \$4,875 and Galvanized Culvert for \$4,050 to complete streets projects.

Alderman Gerlt moved to approve the Line-Item Requests for the purchase of Concrete (\$4,875) and Galvanized Culvert (\$4,050). Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

- **David Ford – Police Chief**

Police Chief David Ford was not present and was represented by Officer Brandon Abbott. Nothing to report.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with an update on her activities over the past two weeks. She informed that the city received the final report for the 2021 Audit and is working with Matt Vandelicht in the preparation for '22, '23 and '24 audits. She mentioned that she is working on accounting software and IT providers' recommendations. Ms. Cooper had various meetings, including Great River Engineering for North Main Project, Caleb Walker regarding insurance renewal, and Joey McLiney for rate studies.

- **City Attorney – James Klahr**

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus was unable to attend the meeting and was represented by Attorney James Klahr who introduced himself to the Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF SEWER WAIVER FOR 602 N CHURCH ST.**

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Sewer Waiver for 602 N Church St. Alderman Cook seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF AUDIT 2021**

Alderman Waggoner moved to table the approval of the Audit 2021 to allow the council member additional time for review. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nay – none. Motion passed

2. **DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING FIRM FOR STREET PROJECT**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve Own Engineering firm for Street repair Project, noting that the contract should include a cap on the price. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. **PAY RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Alderman Roll moved to approve the Resolution 2025-11 approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$453,543.61 which includes General Fund \$76,912.57, Electric Fund \$230,090.54, Water Fund \$81,370.89, Sewer Fund \$47,169.61. Alderman Waggoner seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

4. **DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF LINE-ITEM REQUEST FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Line-Item Request for \$8,631.00 for the purchase of 50 Smart Points (Water meter antennas) for the Water Department. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**5. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF LINE-ITEM REQUESTS FOR THE STREETS DEPARTMENT**

Approved under Dennis Daniels – Street Superintendent City Staff Report.

**6. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR SMALL TOWN SMOKE, LLC (FOOD TRUCK)**

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to table the approval of the Business License for Small Town Smoke, LLC, until all required information is submitted. Alderman Waggoner seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**7. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR KODE'S ROOFING**

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to table the approval of Business License for Kode's Roofing, until all required information is submitted. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion Passed.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF PEGGY O'CONNELL AS A CITIZEN MEMBER TO THE FHPC – FAYETTE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to approve the appointment of Peggy O'Connell as a citizen member of the FHPC – Fayette Historic Preservation Commission. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion Passed.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM - ALDERWOMAN MICHELLE ISHMAEL**

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to approve the appointment of Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael as Mayor Pro Tem. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion Passed.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DIFFERENT COMMITTEES:**

- Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael – Downtown Fayette
- Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt – Tree Board
- Alderman David Frees – Park Board
- Alderman Patrick Roll – Planning and Zoning
- Alderman Grafton Cook – CID
- Alderman JB Waggoner – CID

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to approve the appointment of the Aldermen to the mentioned Committees. Alderman Cook seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion Passed.

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the appointment of Mayor Greg Stidham to the Fayette Historic Preservation Commission - FHPC. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion Passed.

## **BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Alderman David Frees - East Ward**

Nothing to report.

### **Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward**

Alderwoman Gerlt reported that an individual was injured while walking on Spring Street, she twisted her ankle and hurt her hand. She also requested that the City check about a lot with tall grass located across the street from her residence, noting that it is not typical and is causing the increase of snakes in the area.

### **Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward**

Nothing to report.

### **Alderman Grafton Cook - Southwest Ward**

Alderman Cook informed the Council that he received a call from a constituent concerned that heavy traffic on West Davis Street may be causing damage to her house due to the vibrations from heavy vehicles passing and making the house shake.

Ms. Cook also suggested that the City consider charging a fee to property owners when the City has to mow tall grass on their property or potentially add a fee to the owner's property taxes.

Additionally, Alderman Cook introduced himself to the Council and shared his priorities. He expressed the importance of completing the City's financial reports and prioritizing repairs of the heavily damaged streets and intersections. He also mentioned the importance of revisiting the City Master Plan with a focus in the future, address the traffic and parking on the square, hiring a Building Inspector and study the potential of changing from an elected to an appointed Police Chief.

### **Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward**

Alderwoman Ishmael reported that she had received several complaints about ATVs and UTVs vehicles being driven around town and recommended that the City provide information about what is permitted and requirements about safety and licensing for these vehicles. Also, Ms. Ishmael reported complaints about houses in town where pigs, chickens and turkeys are being raised. She encouraged citizens to submit written complaints using the forms available at City Hall, so the issues can be directed to the proper department to be resolved.

### **Alderman JB Waggoner - Southwest Ward**

Alderman Waggoner expressed his appreciation for the volunteers who are contributing to making the City of Fayette a strong community. He also noted that certain matters do not require Council action and can be addressed through the City Administrator and the chain of command. He emphasized the importance of allowing City staff to handle operational issues to improve efficiency.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Stidham informed the Council that he is working with the City Administrator on the Budget 2025-2026. They are planning to have three special meetings for the Council starting on the end of May and two in June.

### **TO CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Cook motioned to move to closed session at 7:58 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderman David Frees, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Grafton Cook, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

Alderman Frees moved to adjourn closed session at 8:40 p.m. and go into open session. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Roll Call: Alderman David Frees, Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

Alderman JB Waggoner brought up the previous discussion regarding the switch in water disinfection from chlorine to chloramine and emphasized that it is a serious matter. He recommended the Council visit [waterworld.com](http://waterworld.com) and search for the article on this topic to get more information. Mr. Waggoner stated that details about the decision-making process by Howard County Regional Water Association should be requested.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Maria Rogers, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Greg Stidham, Mayor