

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 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 27, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**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**

Alderwoman Ishmael requested to remove the Proclamation of Juneteenth 2025 in New Business, and schedule it for June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of the Proclamation of Juneteenth 2025. Alderman Frees 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 MAY 13, 2025**

Alderman Cook moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 13, 2025. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**INVITED GUESTS**

No invited guests.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- **John Alphin.**  
Mr. Alphin stated that he was present to answer any questions regarding the Shooting facility at the Fairgrounds that was scheduled for discussion.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

- **Sonny Conrow – Electric Superintendent**

Mr. Conrow requested the Council to consider the purchase of 224 Meters for a total of \$ 33,600 in the next budget. Also, he informed the Council about the purchase of poles for \$60,000, which is already included in current budget.

Additionally, as discussed in previous Council Meeting, Mr. Conrow requested for approval for maximum bid amounts of \$40,000 for a Mini excavator and up to \$2,000 for a Real Trailer at the upcoming auction.

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the requested maximum bid amounts requested for the mentioned equipment. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

- **David Ford – Police Chief**

Police Chief David Ford shared his views regarding any potential transition of the Chief of Police position.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with an update on the preparation of the documents necessary to proceed with the audits, as well as the research for potential Auditors.

She also mentioned that she is working with Airlink to establish internet connections in the parks. Ms. Cooper provided additional details on other activities in her written report.

- **City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Nothing to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Waggoner mentioned that all the expected outcomes were listed, and he hopes that the City will get the internal controls back in place.

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Audit 2021. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **2. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF THE BUILDING OF THE FAIRGROUNDS SHOOTING FACILITY**

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus inquired if the Fairgrounds would have an insurance covering the Shooting Facility. Alderman Cook inquired if the Fairgrounds have a Safety Plan protocol if somebody is injured. The Fairgrounds representatives answer that they will look into these items to see detail wise what they need to do.

Alderman Waggoner mentioned that the City will have to amend the Ordinance to include the shooting facility for shotguns 12 and 20.

Alderman Frees moved to approve the construction of the Fairgrounds Shooting Facility, subject to the presentation of insurance documentation and the City amending the Ordinance. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. PAY RESOLUTION 2025-12 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Resolution 2025-12 approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$168,697.37 which includes General Fund \$60,443.23, Electric Fund \$33,962.88, Water Fund \$67,845.85, Sewer Fund \$6,445.41. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **2. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR CITY HALL ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS**

Discussion was held and Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Proposal for City Hall Entrance improvements and to simultaneously submitting the required forms to the Historic Preservation Commission - HPC for approval within 72 hrs., since the proposal was originally presented to HPC a year ago. The motion included a provision to proceed with the project if the City does not receive a response from HPC. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **3. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH THE STREETS REPAIR PROJECT WITH OWN ENGINEERING**

Mayor Stidham clarified that the projects requiring approval are the Three Intersections and the Square Street projects. It was explained that the projects were separated because the City will cover the cost of the street repairs, while the Community Improvement District - CID may contribute up to 100% toward the Three Intersections and Square projects.

Alderman Frees moved to approve Own Engineering as the engineering firm for the Three Intersections and Square Street Projects. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **4. DISCUSSION OF UTILITY DISCOUNTS PROGRAM FOR NEW BUSINESSES**

Mayor Stidham presented to the City Council the idea of developing an incentive program offering utility discounts to encourage new businesses to establish in town and assist them in getting started. Discussion followed and questions were raised regarding the duration of the incentive, the amount or percentage of the discount and the type of business that would be eligible. Attorney Nickolaus noted that the City would need to consider the businesses that generate jobs and contribute sales and use tax revenue.

Alderman Cook moved to table the discussion and form a Committee to study the proposed incentive plan. Alderman Waggoner seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**5. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF APPROVAL OF RETURNING TO THE DODSON FAMILY, THE CITY HALL SIGN FORMALLY HUNG ON THE FRONT OF CITY HALL**

Alderman Cook moved to approve the return of the City Hall Sign to the Dodson family. Alderman Frees 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 a pair of shoes is hanging from an electric line on Reynolds Street. She also inquired about the current status of Dairy Queen in Fayette.

**Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward**

Alderman Roll noted that the residents are skeptical about the streets repair due to a history of inaction in this area.

**Alderman Grafton Cook - Southwest Ward**

Nothing to report.

**Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward**

Alderwoman Ishmael expressed her appreciation for the participation of the City Administrator and some Council members in the Downtown Fayette Networking event. She also reported receiving complaints about children riding dirt-bikes on City streets without helmets and not observing the stop signs. Mr. Ishmael suggested placing an advertisement in the newspaper to inform the public about regulations regarding the operation of this type of vehicle. Mr. Nickolaus offered to provide a handout outlining the rules for non-standard vehicles.

Additionally, Alderwoman Ishmael informed the Council of upcoming Downtown Fayette events, including the Street Dance on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Kids Market on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

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

Regarding the Streets projects, Alderman Waggoner mentioned that the last overlay project was completed prior to 2002. He also highlighted that, except for the downtown area, Central Methodist University - CMU funded for a significant portion of the Square Street paving project. Alderman Waggoner also inquired about the scheduled dates for the upcoming Budget meetings.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Stidham informed the Council that he spoke to Mecor Engineering, and they expect to have the bid packet ready for the bids next week. Additionally, he noted that the City currently donates \$150 per month to the Fayette Senior Center and proposed increasing the monthly donation to \$300 in the next budget, considering that this was the amount that the City was donated before Covid. Mayor Stidham also mentioned that he and the City Administrator will participate in a Retirement activity at the Senior Center, where they will host a table to encourage senior citizens to sign up for and participate in different City boards and committees.

### **TO CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Cook motioned to move to closed session at 7:05 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six 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 Waggoner 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, Alderman Grafton Cook, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

During the open session, Budget meetings dates were scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, with a final approval meeting for June 24<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Alderman Roll suggested requesting a report on police business from the City Marshal.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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