

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,
MISSOURI
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 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., June 10, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Patrick Roll.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call verified six Board Members present for the meeting.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Grafton Cook -present via phone-, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael, Alderman JB Waggoner and Alderman David Frees – joined through Zoom video call-.

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderwoman Ishmael requested the following additions to the Agenda in the New Business section:

9. Discussion and or Approval of Ordinance amending the City Code by adding one new section regarding Food Trucks.

10. Discussion of Eagle Scout Project at DC Rogers Lake – Archer Dudenhoffer.

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Agenda with the above additions. Alderwoman Gerlt 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 27, 2025**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 27, 2025. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

INVITED GUESTS

No invited guests.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- **Angela Davis:**

Ms. Davis stated that she was present at the time of the incident involving Ms. Bonnie Gibson and her dog being attacked. She expressed her concerns to the Council regarding the increase in similar incidents in Fayette. She urged the Council to consider amending the ordinance to include heavier fines and restitutions for victims to help reduce this type of dog-related incident.

- **Jacquez Jones:**

Mr. Jones also expressed his concern about the recent pitbull dog attack and the fact that the dog was released by a Police Officer after the incident. He urged the Council to take action and consider amending the current Ordinance.

- **Joe and Kelly Vaughn:**

Mr. and Ms. Vaughn expressed that dog-related issues are an ongoing problem in the community. They reported that their son had previously been attacked by the same dog involved in the recent incident. Additionally, their tenants and Mr. Vaughn himself have also been attacked by dogs. They stated that these incidents were reported to the police, but the correspondent reports have not been provided.

- **Kyler Broadus:**

Mr. Broadus voiced concerns on behalf of the neighborhood regarding the situation involving the pitbull. He stated that the dog is being kept in a house next to a daycare and emphasized that such vicious animals are a threat to the safety of the children. He also noted that dogs are frequently running loose in the community making it unsafe for residents to walk in their neighborhoods.

- **Bonnie Gibson:**

Ms. Gibson was present, and it was stated that she was the victim of the recent dog attack.

- **Monique Chapman:**

Ms. Chapman, the owner of the daycare previously mentioned, expressed her concern about the presence of vicious dogs in the City. She emphasized that if one of the children were to be attacked, they would be unable to defend themselves.

- **Tristin Head:**

Ms. Head commented that her dog was labeled as a vicious dog due to a mistake in leaving the gate open. She explained that the dog has been properly trained and serves as a therapy animal. Ms. Head expressed concern that the Ordinance is not being applied consistently, and it's applied based on the discretion of the officer responding, while other truly vicious dogs are being allowed to roam freely. She asked whether there is any action citizens can take through a Police Board to address these concerns.

- **Regina Powell:**

Ms. Powell requested the Council to consider providing WiFi for Liberty Park. She also noted the difficulty in getting members to join the Park Commission and inquired whether Archer Dudenhoffer could be considered as a junior member. Attorney Nathan Nickolaus responded that there is no age requirement to serve on the Park Commission.

- **Tim Jackman:**

Mr. Jackman informed the Council about the 25th anniversary of the Juneteenth celebration and the events planned for this year, including a banquet at CMU on June 19th, the distribution of 75 produce boxes on Friday during the gospel event, a parade and all-day activities on Saturday ending with fireworks at Liberty Park, and a community worship service followed by a barbecue cook-off competition on Sunday.

The Juneteenth proclamation was presented and signed by Mayor Greg Stidham.

- **Archer Dudenhoffer:**

Mr. Dudenhoffer stated that he is approaching his Eagle Scout rank in troop 62. For his project, he plans to blaze a trail around DC Rogers Lake and Peter Lake, which includes clearing brush along the trail and placing markers. He will also add the trail to hiking apps. Mr. Dudenhoffer requested a donation of \$100 and Council approval for the project

Alderman Frees moved to approve the trail project and the \$100 donation. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Alderman Waggoner moved to authorize Mayor Stidham to sign the agreement of the Eagle project. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

- **David Ford – Police Chief**

Police Chief David Ford was represented by Officer Matt Johnson. Nothing to report.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with an update on the budget preparation, as well as the applications to a Safety Grant through MEM and another Grant through DNR for picnic tables and benches at Liberty Park and DC Rogers.

She also mentioned that the City has an equipment list available for sale, along with other daily tasks detailed in her written report.

- **City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Alderman Waggoner inquired about the status of the Shooting Ordinance and expressed that the Ordinance needs to be updated to expand the areas in which Firearms can be discharged. The City Administrator informed him that this item will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON DOG LEASH LAW AND AGGRESSIVE DOG ORDINANCE

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus provided clarifications regarding Fayette's laws on vicious dogs. He explained that the City requires animals to be vaccinated, and dogs that bite must be picked up and impounded for 10 days due to the risk of rabies. He also noted that the designation of an animal as vicious is determined by the court and does not require an actual bite, a dog can be deemed vicious even before any attack on somebody.

Mr. Nickolaus emphasized that the Council has fulfilled its duty by passing the necessary ordinances, leaving enforcement, due process, fines and compensation to the judicial system.

Discussion was held and Alderman Waggoner suggested to revise the Ordinance to provide more clarity.

2. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF PAY RESOLUTION 2025-13 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Alderman Roll moved to approve Pay Resolution 2025-13, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$339,734.00 which includes, General Fund \$72,734.91, Electric Fund \$224,211.17, Water Fund \$11,477.15, Sewer Fund \$31,310.77. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-14 APPOINTING DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO THE MISSOURI ELECTRIC COMMISSION

Alderman Roll moved to approve Resolution 2025-14, appointing Director and Alternate Director to the Missouri Electric Commission. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ATV/UTV USE WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus explained that there are different types of ATV and UTV vehicles, and they have different statues and regulations. He mentioned that the City currently has an Ordinance for Golf Carts and ATV.

Alderwoman Ishmael mentioned that the current concern is kids driving dirt bikes around the City without helmets and failing to stop at stop signs. Mr. Nickolaus clarified that dirt bikes are not street legal, therefore they are not permitted on the streets.

5. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF CITY OF FAYETTE CONTRIBUTION PROPOSAL TO THE FAIRGROUNDS MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING PROJECT

Ms. Deanna Cooper commented that she will research the right of way to clarify the ownership of the sewer line. Alderman Waggoner noted that documents proving City ownership should exist as the project was funded by USDA grants. Mayor Stidham requested the City Administrator to get these documents and bring the proposal back for approval at the next Council meeting.

6. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO CPA JOHN MILLER

Mayor Stidham read the Certificate of Appreciation to CPA John Miller expressing sincere gratitude for his generous contribution of time, knowledge and expertise in assisting the City with audit closeout, navigating complexities, and preparing the audit process. Mr. Stidham will personally deliver the Certificate to Mr. Miller.

7. PROCLAMATION OF JUNETEENTH 2025

This proclamation was previously presented during the Citizen Participation Section.

8. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL ON SEWER WAIVER REQUEST FOR 309 CORPREW STREET

Alderdwoman Gerlt moved to approve the Sewer Waiver request for 309 Corprew Street. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

9. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ADDING ONE NEW SECTION REGARDING FOOD TRUCK

1st Reading by Title Only

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus reminded the Council that all Food Trucks and vendors have to pay sales taxes. It was agreed to update the application forms for Business and Vendor Licenses accordingly.

Alderdwoman Ishmael moved to proceed with the first reading, Alderdwoman Gerlt seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Alderman Frees, Alderdwoman Gerlt, Alderman Roll, Alderman Cook, Alderdwoman Ishmael, Alderman Waggoner. Nays – None.

2nd Reading by Title Only

Roll call vote: Ayes: Alderman Frees, Alderdwoman Gerlt, Alderman Roll, Alderman Cook, Alderdwoman Ishmael, Alderman Waggoner. Nays – None. Motion passed.

10. DISCUSSION OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT DC ROGERS LAKE – ARCHER DUDENHOFFER.

This topic was previously discussed during the City Participation Section.

BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Alderman David Frees - East Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward

Alderwoman Gerlt reported that protestors have been gathering on the square on Saturday mornings, and a sign was left in a flowerpot. Attorney Nickolaus clarified that it is not permitted to place signs on somebody else's property.

Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderman Grafton Cook - Southwest Ward

Alderman Cook inquired whether the City Hall entrance improvements had been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission - HPC, to which Mayor Stidham confirmed approval. Mr. Cook also stated that he will work on a proposal for utility credits for new businesses and plans to present it on next Council meeting.

Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman Ishmael reported that last Saturday, Downtown Fayette had a very successful Street Dance event, noting that people attending from other communities expressed how welcoming the City of Fayette is. She also expressed her gratitude for the presence of the two Police Officers during the event. Ms. Ishmael encouraged Council members to be part of that same welcoming spirit and not only listening to the citizens' concerns but also recognizing those who contribute positively to the community.

Alderman JB Waggoner - Southwest Ward

Alderman Waggoner expressed his thoughts on the challenging position that the Council faces with the citizens, noting that while the Council is responsible for setting Ordinances, it is not the Council task to enforce the law. In the positive side, he commended the Council for the prompt and supportive response to the Park Board request without debate. He emphasized that the Council should be a welcoming body, not only to citizens who want to be heard, but also to those who are asked to serve in the community.

Alderman Waggoner also mentioned that the City has a Police Board established by Ordinance around 1997-1999, which operated for three to five years. He noted that the concept of the Police Board could be considered.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Stidham inquired about the status of hiring a Building Inspector. City Administrator, Ms. Cooper reported that a job advertisement has been posted on the City's website, MML and another ad with Missouri Building Officials and Inspectors. She also met with GBA, a firm that provides contracted building inspectors, and noted that they offer flexible plans from \$120 to \$150 per inspection, plus mileage.

Mr. Stidham reported that he and Ms. Cooper met with Own Engineering to work on planning on the streets work scheduled for this fall. Additionally, they met with the contractor previously approved by the Council for the City Hall entrance project and informed that the contractor will select the brick to match the existing, and ensure that the handrail complies with ADA requirements.

TO CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Roll motioned to move to closed session at 7:40 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

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

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to adjourn closed session at 8:10 p.m. and moved to open session. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

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

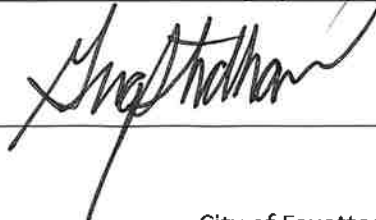
ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:



Maria Rogers, City Clerk



Greg Stidham, Mayor