

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 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 24, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Grafton Cook.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call verified Five Board Members present for the meeting.

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

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alderman Cook requested the following addition to the Agenda in the New Business section:

6. Discussion and or Approval of a Proposal for New Businesses utilities discount.

Alderman Cook moved to approve the Agenda with the mentioned addition. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD ON JUNE 10, 2025**

Alderman Cook moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 10, 2025. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**INVITED GUESTS**

No invited guests.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- **George Belfort:**  
Mr. Belfort provided an update to the Council regarding the progress on designation counties in Missouri as Purple Heart Counties. He reported that in late 2022, there were 21 Counties left to be designated and as of today there are only two counties remaining. Mr.

Belfort highlighted that Missouri would become the first State to be Purple Heart County State.

**Regina Powell:**

Ms. Powell expressed her gratitude to the Council, Police Department and all who attended the Juneteenth Celebration. She noted that it was, and beautiful week filled with events.

**CITY STAFF REPORTS**

- **David Ford – Police Chief**

Nothing to report.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with an update on the DNR grant application which would fund 38 wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and 6 benches made from scrap tire material. These would be distributed between Liberty Park and DC Rogers Lake. Additionally, Ms. Cooper shared that she worked on the letter of support for Downtown Fayette's Crigler Corner project. She also mentioned a project for the next coming months to nominate and recognize a "Neighbor of the Month".

- **City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2025-02 AMENDING SECTION 225.260 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE USE OF FIREARMS WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

Alderman Cook suggested to attach a GPS location for the City firing range, along with a perimeter circle to clearly define its location. He also recommended including a precise definition of firearms in the ordinance. Additionally, he proposed increasing the fine for the misuse of a firearm multiplied by 10. Attorney Nathan Nickolaus clarified that cities are capped at \$500 for fines and explained that in the case of a serious incident involving firearms, the State Ordinance would apply, not the City Ordinance.

Ms. Cooper, City Administrator, will work on the amendments to the Ordinance. Discussion was tabled for the next Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2025-03 ESTABLISHING AVAILABILITY AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

Ms. Cooper stated that the most recently adopted Personnel Policy is recorded in the City Ordinance and it should be reviewed annually. She recommended that this document be

## **6. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL OF NEW BUSINESSES UTILITIES DISCOUNT**

Alderman Cook informed the Council that the Department of Economic Development has prepared a Utilities Credit Program for New Businesses. The proposal includes a total of \$3000 credit to be applied to the utilities bill charged to the meter installed at the business's primary location and distributed over consecutive months only.

Mr. Cook stated that he would have a full proposal for the next meeting. He also noted that the Community Improvement District - CID may cover the expenses if the business is located within the CID District.

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

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Alderwoman Ishmael reported that a resident on Watts Street is keeping pigs, turkey, chickens and numerous dogs and neighbors have complaint about the odor due to the recent warm weather. She expressed her gratitude to Regina Powell for her dedication and hard work on the Juneteenth celebration, and to the City Administrator, Ms. Cooper, for her support to Downtown Fayette on the Crigler Corner project. Additionally, she offered her condolences to JB Waggoner, who was absent due to the loss of a family member, and to Pam Hutsell who also lost her mother.

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

Absent.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Stidham informed the Council of the passing of Alderman JB Waggoner's sister and extended his condolences.

updated and supersede the previous Ordinance and a current copy be available and acknowledged by all employees at the City Administrator's office.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading by Title Only**

Alderman Frees moved to proceed with the first reading; Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by Title Only**

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

**2. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF CDBG 504 LETTER AS GRANT ADA REQUIREMENT**

Ms. Cooper explained that 504 Letter is a Grant ADA requirement to be able to close the CDBG Grant.

Alderman Cook moved to approve the 504 Letter required to close the CDBG Grant, Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**3. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF SEWER RATE INCREASE OF 3%**

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Sewer Increase of 3% according to the Public Hearing held on April 2025. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**4. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF INFINITECH AS IT PROVIDER FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR**

Ms. Cooper proposed replacing Fusion Technologies, the current IT provider, mentioning a significant decline in their quality service. She recommended transitioning to Infinitelch, a firm that currently provides IT services to the City of Boonville and the University of Missouri.

Mayor Stidham requested that Ms. Cooper obtain feedback from the City of Boonville regarding their experience with Infinitelch.

The discussion was tabled until the next Council meeting.

**5. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF PAY RESOLUTION 2025-15 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Alderman Frees moved to approve Pay Resolution 2025-15, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$114,197.15 which includes, General Fund \$57,292.36, Electric Fund \$23,491.05, Water Fund \$20,878.20, Sewer Fund \$12,535.54. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Mr. Stidham reported to the Council that he met with CPA John Miller and presented his Certificate of Appreciation, which Mr. Miller gratefully received. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation to Regina Powell for the Juneteenth celebration events.

### **TO CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Cook motioned to move to closed session at 6:35 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

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

Alderwoman Cook moved to adjourn closed session at 6:55 p.m. and moved to open session. Alderwoman Ishmael 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, and Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael.

Back in the open session, the Council conducted the Final Review of the City of Fayette Budget 2025-2026. Following discussions, revisions were made to some of the accounts. The Council members also discussed a salary increase, considering both a Cost-of-living adjustment of 2.5% and merit-based increases.

Ultimately, the Council agreed to establish a \$40,000 pool for merit raises, to be proportionally distributed among all departments.


Alderman Frees moved to approve the City of Fayette Budget 2025-2026, including the proposed revisions and a merit-raise pool of \$40,000 proportionally distributed among all departments. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Alderman Cook seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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

City of Fayette: Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes, June 24, 2025