

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,
MISSOURI
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 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., July 22, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman JB Waggoner.

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, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman JB Waggoner, Alderman Grafton Cook-absent-.

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Agenda. 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 JULY 8, 2025

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 8, 2025, with the addition of a note stating the person who took the minutes in the absence of the City Clerk. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

INVITED GUESTS

- **Brian Spielbauer – Cornhole Tournament**
Mr. Spielbauer reminder the Council about the Optimist Club Cornhole Tournament, which will take place on the square on August 23rd starting at 10 am. He also informed the Council that the location has been changed to Morrison Street, and he also updated the street closure. Mr. Spielbauer requested that the street block be done on Friday evening. Additionally, he announced that a few special challenges have been organized, including one between City Mayor Mr. Stidham and CMU President Dr. Drake. Each will represent a local non-profit organization, and the public will be invited to contribute money to a prize. The winner's chosen non-profit will receive 50% of the total, and the remaining 50% goes to the Optimist Club.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- **Rebbeca Fenton:**
Ms. Fenton stated that she was present to gain a better understanding of the discussion the Council will have under New Business regarding the options for City Law enforcement.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

- **Sonny Conrow - Electric Superintendent**

Mr. Conrow informed the Council that he, JB Waggoner, Deanna Cooper and Mayor Stidham, met with Cross Discipline Engineering and proposed conducting the pole system inspection using the cheapest rate. Alderman Waggoner suggested obtaining a final proposal to present to the Council for approval.

- **David Ford – Police Marshal**

Police Marshal, David Ford was absent and was represented by Officer Timothy Wells. Officer Wells mentioned that following the recent storm, officers, along with officers from the Sheriff Department assisted in clearing tree debris from the streets.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with a written report outlining the details and updates on her activities over the past two weeks.

She also made the following announcements:

- July 30th 3:30 to 4:30 pm at City Hall - Retirement Party for City Marshal Ford and Officer Lanham.
- August 3 - Festival of Arts. Ms. Cooper noted that the City sponsored two awards.
- August 8 - Cleanup day. Dumpsters will be available at the City shops throughout the weekend for residents to use.
- August 12 – Bid opening for surplus equipment.

- **City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Mr. Nickolaus informed the Council about upcoming legislation that will take effect at the end of the month, which the City should consider incorporate into its ordinances:

- A new special category for Business Licenses for Kids
- Sunshine Law exempts the City from providing information related to kids under 18.
- A prohibition on street racing.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CITY OF FAYETTE’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAIRGROUND ASSOCIATION OF HOWARD COUNTY, MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING PROJECT AND ESTABLISHING A SEWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY

City Administrator, Ms. Cooper, explained to the Council that this is an agreement to support the Multi-purpose building at the Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds require a transformer along with transition to a single electric meter and a single water meter, which the City will provide. In return, the Fairgrounds Association will provide the clarification of the sewer line right-of-way.

1st Reading by Title Only was done at the previous meeting.

2nd Reading by Title Only

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MODEL OPTIONS FOR CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Stidham informed the Council and citizens that Marshal Ford will retire effective August 1st, and a new City Marshal will need to be appointed. He noted that the new City Marshal must live within the City limits and would serve the remainder of Marshal Ford's term, which ends on April 2026. Mayor Stidham also stated that the Council is exploring other options for an elected City Marshal or an appointed City Police Chief. It's being discussed to place it in an upcoming ballot, allowing citizens to vote on whether they prefer an elected City Marshal or an appointed Police Chief.

Alderman Waggoner added that the position of City Marshal is an antiquated form of law enforcement no longer used by many cities. He emphasized the challenges the City faces with staffing and the need to ensure providing adequate law enforcement for our citizens. He also mentioned that Council is interested in bringing qualification, training and professionalism to the position, being the Police Chief model an open opportunity to bring that to the City. He pointed out that under an elected Marshal model, citizens don't have any control over who gets on the ballot and how the Police Department is led.

2. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024-2025 CITY BUDGET

Ms. Deanna Cooper explained to the Council that while the budget reflects projected income and expenses, the actual figures for the past fiscal year showed lower income and higher expenses than anticipated. Alderman Waggoner expressed his hope that this year the necessary budget adjustments will be reduced.

Alderman Waggoner moved to table the Ordinance for next meeting. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-16 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.

Alderman Roll moved to approve Pay Resolution 2025-16, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$678,607.11 which includes, General Fund \$254,111.07, Electric Fund \$254,158.23, Water Fund \$143,882.38, Sewer Fund \$26,455.43. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF HILLTOP HOME REPAIRS BUSINESS LICENSE

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Business License for Hilltop Home Repairs Business License. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

5. DISCUSSION AND OR APPROVAL OF SEWER WAIVER FOR 301 REYNOLDS ST.

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to approve Sewer Waiver for 301 Reynolds Street. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Five 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 inquired about the parallel parking on one side of the square. Mayor Stidham explained that the parallel parking lines are currently marked with tape and are temporal until the Council makes the final decision.

Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderman Grafton Cook - Southwest Ward

Absent.

Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman Ishmael reported that she addressed a manhole issue with Curtis Hammons and responded 32 messages related to power concerns. She informed the Council that Downtown Fayette has potentially very good candidates for their open position. Additionally, she mentioned receiving complaints about the overgrown triangle area near Ocha's Restaurant.

Alderman JB Waggoner - Southwest Ward

Alderman Waggoner requested the City Administrator to provide regular revenue reports, including reports from MPUA. He also asked the East Ward's Council members if they had spoken to anybody at Derailed Commodity regarding the junk in their yard. Additionally, Mr. Waggoner emphasized that posting the meeting's Agenda on Facebook should become a regular routine.

Alderman Waggoner informed to the Council that the CID is considering funding for regular weeds and grass spraying within the district for beautification purposes. Regarding parallel parking, he noted that the City's Ordinance prohibits diagonal parking if it forces vehicles to cross into the opposite lane to pass. He also mentioned that with parallel parking only one space for parking is lost.

Finally, Mr. Waggoner expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Sonny Conrow and Curtis Hammons for their dedicated service to the City.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Stidham asked City Attorney Mr. Nickolaus whether goats and chickens are allowed within the City limits. Mr. Nickolaus responded that pigs are not permitted, goats and chickens are allowed if they are confined and their pens kept clean.

Mr. Stidham informed the Council that the bid-opening for the DC Rogers Wing Wall will take place on Thursday, July 24th at 10 am.

Additionally, he requested a report from Curtis Hammons regarding the Splashpad. Mr. Hammons stated that a fan has been installed underneath the pump to improve air circulation, and it has been working well since Friday.

TO CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Roll motioned to move to closed session at 7:12 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, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman Waggoner.


Alderwoman Gerlt moved to adjourn closed session at 8:15 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, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman Waggoner.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman Gerlt moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:


____ Maria Rogers, City Clerk


____ Greg Stidham, Mayor