

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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., December 9, 2025, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call verified Six Board Members present for the meeting.

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

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alderwoman Ishmael requested the removal of Old Business Item #1, Discussion of Draft Ordinance regarding Occupancy permits, as the document is not ready.

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Agenda with the revision. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 25, 2025**

Alderman Waggoner noted two spelling errors in the Minutes, specifically the words “Marshal” and “PILOT”, which were to be corrected.

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 25, 2025. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**INVITED GUESTS**

No invited guests.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- Tristin Head  
Mrs. Head expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the City crew and the Grand Marshals’ participation in the Christmas Parade. She also recognized the Police Department for placing the barriers and assisting with the event. Alderwoman Ishmael acknowledged Mrs. Head’s hard job in organizing the event.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

- **Timothy Wells – City Marshal**

In the absence of City Marshal Timothy Wells, Officer Matt Johnson represented the Marshal. Officer Johnson reported to the Council that the Police Department conducted 32 traffic stops and responded to 163 calls for service. He also informed the Council that Marshall Wells will require approximately 12 weeks before he can put pressure on his leg following the surgery. Officer Johnson also reported that Officer Abbott is currently undergoing physical therapy and has a doctor's appointment on December 29<sup>th</sup>, when it will be determined his return-to-work date.

- **Sonny Conrow – Electric Superintendent**

Mr. Conrow stated that he attended the meeting to answer questions regarding AMI Meter Reading System purchase under New Business Item #1. Mr. Conrow also informed the Council that the Electric crew will begin removing trees from Church Street next week.

- **Curtis Hammons – Water Superintendent**

Mr. Hammons also stated that he attended the meeting to answer questions about AMI Meter Reading System purchase on New Business Item #1.

- **Dennis Daniels – Street Superintendent**

Did not attend the meeting.

- **Tracy Read – Building Inspector**

Did not attend the meeting.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

Ms. Cooper provided the Council with updates on the following topics:

- Working extensively on the auditing process and gathering requested documents to upload.
- Working with the City Clerk at the year-end reporting to various entities.
- Mr. Cooper expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Christmas Parade and recognized the efforts of the employees who took part.

- **City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Nothing to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE REGARDING OCCUPANCY PERMITS.  
Removed from the Agenda.
2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 350  
RELATING TO THE METHOD OF PARKING AND SIGNS OR MARKINGS  
INDICATING ANGLE PARKING  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading by Title only**

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 350 relating to the Method of Parking and signs or markings indicating angle parking. Alderman Cook seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote: Ayes: Alderman Frees, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderman Roll, Alderman Cook, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderman Waggoner. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION AND OR/APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 120 RELATING TO CITY ADMINISTRATOR POWER AND DUTIES.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading by Title only**

Alderman Roll moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 120 relating to City Administrator Power and Duties. Alderman Frees seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote: Ayes: Alderman Frees, Alderman Roll, Alderman Cook, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderman Waggoner. Nays: Alderwoman Gerlt. Motion passed.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF SENIOR CENTER INSURANCE COVERAGE UPON ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF THE SENIOR CENTER BOARD

Alderman Cook moved to approve the Senior Center Insurance coverage upon acceptance and approval of the Senior Center Board. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AMI METER READING SYSTEM PURCHASE

Mr. Hammons explained the AMI System to the Council, noting that it consists of an antenna installed on the water tower and software connected to the Utilities office computer, allowing all the meters to be read from the office computer in approximately 10 minutes. He stated that Fayette is a college town with frequent move-ins and move-outs that often require immediate meter reading, and that this system would reduce the time of employees spend reading meters and allow them to perform other duties. Mr. Hammons estimated that the annual labor cost for meter reading is approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. He also stated that this system would be installed after the implementation of the new accounting software in September and would be budgeted for 2027 fiscal year.

Deanna Cooper, City Administrator, explained that the proposal from Core & Main consists of two parts. The first part includes the base system device and antenna at a cost of \$133,280, which includes \$23,800 for the first-year annual fee. Mr. Conrow explained the second part of the proposal, which includes a Customer Portal and an OMS integration that also allows for hometown grid outage notifications. He stated that he does not consider the Customer Portal and OMS integration to be necessary for Fayette. Mayor Stidham noted that Core & Main indicated a 3% price increase for next year.

Alderman Waggoner stated that, due to the significant cost and the fact that the purchase would be budgeted in the next fiscal year with newly elected Council Members, he suggested to take this matter to the Finance Committee to determine whether sufficient funds are available in the proprietary funds and whether the expense would be feasible. He also noted that the City does not yet know what expenses may raise following the results of the reliability study and the transformer testing.

Alderman Roll noted that the City cannot commit to expenditures when future budgets and priorities are unknown. Mayor Stidham stated that a 3% increase is not sufficient incentive to make the decision at this time.

Alderman Cook moved to table the approval of AMI Meter Reading System Purchase. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion tabled.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-27 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Alderman Roll moved to approve the Resolution 2025-27 approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$368,846.38 which includes, General Fund \$62,232.76, Electric Fund \$271,281.57, Water Fund \$17,225.81, Sewer Fund \$18,106.24. 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 expressed her satisfaction with the outcome of the Christmas Parade, stated that she enjoyed being a judge, and appreciated seeing the City's participation.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Alderman Cook informed that Downtown Fayette approached the CID regarding providing funds for CPR training and an AED device. He stated that the CID declined to provide the funds for CPR training, but expressed that the CID is interested in considering funding an AED device to be located in the square area. Alderman Cook also noted that Downtown Fayette recently held their Economic Vitality Social, where he had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Frank Flaspohler regarding recommendations for equipment compatibility with all the other AED devices throughout the district, if approved by the CID. The discussion also included considerations for a lighted and heated box for the device, break glass material, location, signage, instructions and security camera placement.

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

Alderwoman Ishmael expressed her gratitude to the CID for considering the AED equipment. She also noted that receiving compliments on the Christmas Parade and the participation of the Grand Marshals. Additionally, she expressed her disappointment at the absence of Tracy Read, Building Inspector.

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

Alderman Waggoner requested information regarding the Cross Discipline Electrical Reliability report and emphasized the importance of keeping the community informed about the process and progress made. Electric Superintendent Sonny Conrow stated that once the electric system inspection is complete, Cross Discipline will compile the information, and recommendations will be presented to the Council. He also stated that about 80-100 poles have already been replaced.

Mayor Stidham asked Mr. Conrow to set the square lights to turn on a little earlier. It was agreed that the lights would be turned on at 4:00 p.m.

### **TO CLOSED SESSION**

Alderman Frees motioned to move to closed session at 6:35 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.

Alderman Frees moved to adjourn closed session at 7:45 p.m. and go into open session. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six 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**

Alderman Frees moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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