

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of Fayette was called to order at 6:01 p.m., February 24, 2026, by Mayor Greg Stidham.

In absence of the City Clerk, the minutes were taken by DaShayla Bush.

**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: 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 motioned to add the reappointment of Kathy Brady to the HSPC for New Business. Alderman Frees motioned to approve the addition. Alderman Cook seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Alderwoman Ishmael motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 24th. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion passed.

**INVITED GUESTS**

No invited guests.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- **George Befort**

Mr. Befort informed the council that there's a basketball goal in the street on Lawrence Dr. near his home. He worries that since the goal sets on a curve on the street that someone may not see the goal or the children playing on it, and an accident may occur. Mayor Stidham asked Chief Wells if he was aware of the area, and had any concerns?

Chief Wells replied he'd just spoken to Mr. Befort and would follow up, but inquired if there was a caution sign or slow children at play sign on the street? Alderwoman Ishmael responded she's only seen the no parking signs on the street. Chief Wells will check the area to see how best to resolve the problem.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Timothy Wells – City Marshal**

Mr. Wells provided the council with a report on types of calls received by the police department. He let the council know they'll continue to work on cleaning up the report. Mr. Wells also mentioned to the council that they are still having issues with body cameras. He'll be putting together estimates of needed supplies to present soon.

### **2. Curtis Hammons – Water Department**

Mr. Hammons informed the council that the water department has been working on the lead line inventory on West Davis before the overlay. He also has been getting numbers prepared for the upcoming budget and paperwork needed for the DNR compliance inspection.

### **3. Jason Hampton – Building Inspector**

Mr. Hampton introduced himself to the council and informed them he and Brian Kopp with GBA have been working on old and new buildings, code enforcement and being compliant with other things.

### **4. City Administrator - Deanna Cooper**

Mrs. Cooper provided the Council with an update on the following topics:

- Intersections on Depot and Hackberry are open
- Sent final CBDG Grant closing paperwork
- Working with Sonny and Brandon Renau at MPUA to get preliminary information together for the Grid Resilience Grant

### **5. City Attorney – Nathan Nickolaus**

Mr. Nickolaus provided the Council with an update on the following topics:

- Federal court in Saint Louis has determined the gambling machines seen in gas stations as illegal. The Attorney General will begin cracking down on these throughout Missouri. Mr. Nickolas informed the Council this can also cause zoning issues; his recommendation is to wait on any enforcement until it settles itself out.
- Many places selling marijuana alternatives – a product of Kratom substitute, called 7OH. FDA has said 7OH is more addictive than meth, and the street name for it is gas station heroin. Mr. Nickolas and JB are working on legislation to ban that.

- Lastly, Mr. Nickolas notified the Council of a current proposal about eliminating the state income tax. Part of that bill is that the state legislature would be allowed to raise sales taxes without a vote from the people. The thought is that they are likely to raise state sales taxes and cut income taxes. If the state sales tax goes up, it's harder for the city to pass a sales tax. He also mentions it is being looked at reducing property taxes, although schools mainly revenue from this, the city does receive some income, and the reduction would affect the city.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL AS HOWARD COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT MEMBER TO INCLUDE HOWARD COUNTY CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT #2 AS A NEW MEMBER AND PURCHASING CUSTOMER TO HOWARD COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT.**

Water Superintendent, Curtis Hammons informed the council that the Howard County Regional Water board members have been discussing adding Consolidated Water District #2 as a member. Their plan would be to add the south side now, and within five years add the north side. Mr. Hammons recommends allowing them to join onto the board.

Alderman Waggoner made a motion to support Mr. Hammons recommendation and approve the addition to the district. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL BUILDING CODE AMENDMENT 500.010, NEW SECTION 1401.6.17.2 ALTERNATIVE FIRE PROTECTION. FIRST READING AND SECOND READING.**

Building Inspector Jason Hampton informed the Council that this amendment would be for existing building structures and historical buildings, making it so a fire prevention sprinkler system would not be required.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Alderman Frees moved to proceed with the first reading, Alderman Roll seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Alderman Frees, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderman Roll, Alderman Cook, Alderwoman Ishmael and Alderman Waggoner. Nays – none.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

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

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

**2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL BS&A CHANGE ORDER**

City Administrator Cooper informed the council that as we merge to BS&A many of the files going forward will need to be sent via excel files as they were in a COBALT file format making it difficult to extract. There is no extra charge for this, it is just a formality.

Alderman Roll made a motion to approve the change over. Alderman Cook seconded this motion. Six voting Aye. Motion approved.

**3. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL FOR BATTERIES AND GENERATOR MAINTAINANCE PARTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.**

City Administrator Cooper explained to the council this is part of regular maintenance. The backup batteries are aging and needing replaced along with other parts. The amount is approximately \$8,000 which is in the budget.

Alderwoman Ishmael made a motion to approve maintenance parts needed for Wastewater treatment plant. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion approved.

**4. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION # 2026-04 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.**

Alderwoman Gerlt noted that the 3 loads should be updated to 5 loads of rock, the price would remain the same.

Alderman Frees motioned to approve the payment for invoices. Alderman Cook seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion approved.

**5. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF KATHY BRADY TO HPC.**

Alderman Cook made a motion to approve the reappointment. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Motion approved.

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**Alderman David Frees - East Ward**

Nothing to report.

**Alderman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward**

Alderman Gerlt informed the council as a volunteer member of Golden Study Club, they will be hosting a candidate forum for the municipal candidates. This will be hosted at the Keller Building, Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm. All candidates will receive an invitation with attached questions.

**Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward**

Nothing to report.

**Alderman Grafton Cook - Southwest Ward**

Alderman Cook inquired about the relocation of the police department to the Keller Building. Chief Wells believes this would be a great option as it has plenty of space available inside for what they need, parking and rooms they need such as evidence and interview rooms. Mayor Stidham also responded that it is something for them to check into more. Alderman Cook asked that it be put on for the next agenda for more discussion and to move forward with it.

**Alderman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward**

Alderman Ishmael thanked Jason Hampton and Curtis Hammons for attending and giving the council an update on things. She also wished Greg a Happy Retirement.

**Alderman JB Waggoner - Southwest Ward**

Alderman Waggoner inquired where we were on the electric reliability study. City Administrator Cooper answered we are waiting on more information, but she'd reach out for an update. Alderman Waggoner also suggested to get started on a finance committee meeting, as budget time will be here soon. He also questioned if there are any alternatives or options for the HoCo ambulance? Mayor Stidham responded he did speak with Frank regarding an option the city may have available, but he had not heard back from him. Lastly, Mr. Waggoner stated he'd like the board to focus on housing as one of their first grant applications.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Frees motioned to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Alderman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

 \_\_\_\_\_ DaShayla Bush

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