

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,
MISSOURI
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

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., April 14, 2026, 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 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

Alderman Frees moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Alderman Waggoner seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN
HELD ON MARCH 24, 2026**

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2026. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

INVITED GUESTS:

- **Bekki Galloway – Activity summary of the Tree Board and budget request.**
Ms. Galloway presented a yearly summary of the Tree Board's activities, including watering, planting, and tree removal, as well as community education and Arbor Day Celebration. She noted that the Board expects to plant 12 trees next week, in order to get the Cost Share Grant reimbursement of \$6,614.40.
Ms. Galloway also requested that the Council approve a \$6,000 budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which would cover the treatment of nine ash trees, tree replacement and maintenance, and school and community outreach.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

- **Kelly Beeler**
Ms. Beeler stated that she had reached out to several citizens regarding the animal and cat trapping issue in the City. She expressed her interest in proposing the formation of a committee to review the current Ordinances and discuss possible solutions.

Ms. Galloway noted that this has been an ongoing problem and requested the Council consider adopting an Ordinance to regulate cat trapping.

Alderman Waggoner stated that the issue extends beyond cats to other type of animals as well. He suggested that the Mayor could form an Ad-Hoc committee composed of citizens and Council representatives to address the issue, including involvement from the Police Department and Prosecutor's office to ensure a coordinated approach.

Mayor Stidham indicated that he would contact Ms. Beeler to organize a group and bring the matter forward for discussion at the next Council meeting.

- **Regina Powell**

Ms. Powell stated whether the City has considered purchasing the lot across from Liberty Park to convert it into a parking area. She also asked if the Council has discussed providing activities for your and children.

- **Marsha Broadus**

Ms. Broadus inquired whether there have been any updates regarding the nursing home building and whether there has been any interest in purchasing it. Mayor Stidham stated that several individuals have viewed and toured the property, however, no offers have been made.

Ms. Broadus also informed the Council that the road that is being repaired near C&R is beginning to crack.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

- **Timothy Wells – City Marshal**

Marshal Wells informed the Council that a Police Officer responded to a medical emergency involving a choking incident and recognized Officers Parris and Wagner for the life-saving measures performed to assist that person who was transported to the hospital but later passed away due to other complications.

Marshal Wells also informed that Officers are actively addressing the issue of loose dogs. Officers are picking up loose dogs, and if found with no tag, the dogs are taken to the vet for vaccination before being transported to the pound. Owners are required to pay the pound fee, vaccination costs, and licensing fees prior to retrieving the dog.

Mayor Stidham inquired about the status of overnight parking on the square and vandalism at the City Park. Marshal Wells responded that officers have been issuing tickets for overnight parking on the square. Regarding vandalism, he stated that cameras will be installed at the park to help address the issue.

Finally Marshal Wells expressed his gratitude to the Council for its support and stated that he looks forward to continuing to work for the City over the next four years.

- **Sonny Conrow – Electric Superintendent**

Did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Deanna Cooper, City Administrator, reported that the Electric Department crew is working on trimming tree branches and preparing for severe weather. Mr. Conrow, Electric Superintendent, has also been working on getting quotes in preparation for the Grid Resilience Grant application and potentially funding opportunities.

Alderman Waggoner stated that the Mayor should form an Ad-Hoc Committee to work on the Grid Resiliency Grant.

- **Curtis Hammons – Water Superintendent**

Mr. Hammons expressed that he was present to provide a report on the Water Main replacement at Cleveland and Lucky Street, which would be discussed on New Business, Item #3.

- **Dennis Daniels – Street and Park Superintendent**

Did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Cooper, City Administrator, reported that the Streets and Parks Department crew have been working on distributing the park tables received through the DNR Grant, assembling wheelchair accessible park tables, and relocating old tables that are still in good condition. She also reported that street signs and DC Rogers Lake signs have been installed, and that the boat ramp at the lake is now open. Ms. Cooper also noted that they are working on implementing an online reservation system for the parks.

- **Jason Hampton – Building Inspector**

Did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Cooper, City Administrator reported that the Building Inspector had been working on enforcement letters and placing door hangers with animal ordinance reminders. Additionally, she noted that Mr. Hampton will be working with the City Marshal on the Camping Ordinance.

- **Deanna Cooper – City Administrator**

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

- The 2022 Audit is complete, which allows the City to apply for a CDBG Grant.
- A letter of engagement for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Audits will be presented on New Business, Item #1.
- The City is in the process of applying for a \$500,000 CDBG Grant for the next phase of the Streets project. Ms. Cooper informed that she was appointed to the Mid Missouri Regional Planning Board, which creates a conflict of interest in the CDBG Grant application, so the City Clerk, Ms. Rogers, will handle the process.
- Ms. Cooper stated that the City may also apply for another CDBG Grant next year for derelict housing.
- Ongoing planning and coordination for the Street project.
- Ongoing work on the budget, and a preliminary meeting has been held.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF HOWARD COUNTY REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION PROMISSORY NOTE REFUND ALLOCATION

Alderman Cook moved to approve the reimbursement of the Promissory Note through a structured payment plan. Alderman Frees seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

COUNCIL ADJOURNS SINE DIE

Alderman Waggoner moved to adjourn Sine Die. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Mayor Stidham presented Certificates of Appreciation to Alderwoman Gerlt and Alderman Cook in recognition of their dedication and valuable service for the City of Fayette.

NEW ALDERMEN SWEAR IN

The City Clerk proceeded to administer the oath of office to the newly elected officials in accordance with the previously certified election results.

Alderman Waggoner moved to return to the open session to continue with the Agenda. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion.

Responding to Roll Call: Alderman David Frees, Alderman Austin Ivy, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Bradley Patty, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM KPM CPAS & ADVISORS FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 2023, 2024, AND 2025.

Alderman Waggoner moved to approve the Engagement Letter from KPM CPAS & Advisors for the Audit of the Financial Statements of the Years ended June 2023, 2024 and 2025. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF THE HIRING OF HOWE COMPANY, LLC (LPA On-Call Consultant) FOR BRIDGE ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE MULBERRY STREET BRIDGE

Ms. Deanna Cooper, City Administrator, explained that the Mulberry Street bridge was closed by the State and that, in 2023, the estimated cost for replacement was \$423,000. She noted that the replacement of the bridge is urgent.

Ms. Cooper proposed engaging Howe Company, LLC, an engineering firm on the State's LPA-On-Call Consultant list, meaning the firm is prequalified and pre-certified, with extensive experience in bridge projects across the State. She explained that the contract would be for a bridge assessment study, including a hydraulic study and recommendations. This report would be used to support funding application for the upcoming MODOT grant programs.

Alderman Frees moved to approve the contract with Howe Company, LLC, for the Mulberry Bridge assessment. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AT CLEVELAND STREET AND LUCKY STREET

Mr. Curtis Hammons, Water Superintendent, explained to the Council that the Water crew has been working on replacing the water lines at Cleveland and Lucky Street before the street overlay project. He noted that work on Lucky Street cannot proceed because it is not included in the City's five-year plan. Mr. Hammons stated that Own Engineering mentioned that it may be possible to obtain faster approval from DNR by submitting a change order to complete the line replacement prior to the overlay, anticipated for late June or early July.

Alderman Frees moved to table the water main replacement at Cleveland and Lucky Street to have more time for discussion. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

4. OPENING OF SEALED BIDS FOR A 3-YEAR LEASE OF FARMLAND LOCATED NEAR THE FAYETTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Bid Received:

- Mike Hustedde \$1,000 per year

Alderman Patty moved to reject the bid and proposed to advertise requesting bids for next Council meeting. Alderman Waggoneer seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

5. OPENING OF SEALED BIDS FOR A 3-YEAR LEASE OF HAY TO BE MOWED AND REMOVED FROM DC ROGERS LAKE AREA

Bids received:

- Harry Marshall Dougherty \$4,306.00 per year
- Glen Conrow \$3,500.00 per year

Alderman Roll moved to approve Harry Marshall Dougherty for \$4,306.00 per year. Alderman Patty seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

6. OPENING OF SEALED BIDS FOR MOWING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE FAYETTE CEMETERY

Bids received:

- Travis Wies and Son's Lawncare \$984.00 April to October
- Carmack Lawncare LLC \$75.00 per service
- Jordan Fuemmeler Lawn Care \$90.00 per service

Alderman Frees moved to approve Travis Wies and Son's Lawncare for \$984.00 per year. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION # 2026-08 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Alderman Roll moved to approve the Resolution #2026-08 approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$593,358.94 which includes, General Fund \$230,870.41, Electric Fund \$245,003.89, Water Fund \$86,081.33, Sewer Fund \$31,403.31. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Alderman David Frees - East Ward

Alderman Frees expressed his appreciation to Ms. Ronda Gerlt for her service to the City as Alderwoman. He also expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the Street project, stating that the City is moving in the right direction and hoped that the new Council members continue with the same forward-looking vision.

Alderman Austin Ivy - East Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderman Patrick Roll - Northwest Ward

Alderman Roll expressed his appreciation as well to Ms. Ronda Gerlt for her service to the City, He expressed his satisfaction not only with the Streets project but also with the efforts of all individuals involved, noting that they are doing a great job. He thanked Marshal Wells for his report and stated that animal-related issues are the majority of police calls, emphasizing that this matter should be addressed.

Alderman Bradley Patty - Southwest Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman Ishmael welcomed the new Council members and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Ronda Gerlt for her service to the City. She also thanked Mr. Justin Addison for his participation as facilitator in the candidate forum as well as Ms. Ronda Gerlt and the Golden Study Club for their sponsorship. She further thanked Ms. Cooper for her work on the Audit and for providing updates on the Streets improvement project. Alderwoman Ishmael informed the Council that Downtown Fayette has moved to 107 Church Street. Finally, she revisited an idea raised by Alderman Waggoner regarding reviewing Ordinances.

Alderman JB Waggoner - Southwest Ward

Alderman Waggoner expressed his gratitude to Ms. Ronda Gerlt for her service to the City and welcomed the new Council members, encouraging them to serve actively. He advised them to read the City Ordinances to understand their authority and to take advantage of training opportunities offered through MML or Lauber. He also encouraged Council members to review meeting packets in advance in order to make well-informed decisions.

Alderman Waggoner inquired about an update regarding the sewer situation of Mr. Hank Hildebrand. The City Administrator responded that she had contacted Mr. Caleb Walker, the insurance broker, and provided him with information regarding the company that performed the work along with its bond and insurance details. She stated that Mr. Walker believed a claim should be opened.

Alderman Waggoner stated that forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to address the City's animal issues, including the Police Department, would be very helpful.

Alderman Waggoner also mentioned that the City Clerk and the City Administrator are two separate positions. He stated that the current Ordinance provides that the City may hire a City Administrator; however, he proposed amending the Ordinance to require that the City must hire a City Administrator.

Finally, he noted that Ms. Bekki Galloway is doing a great volunteer work for the City with the Tree Board and dedicates a significant amount of her time to it, and he asked whether the Council could consider recognizing her in some way.

Mayor Greg Stidham

Mayor Stidham expressed his satisfaction with the City’s accomplishments, highlighting some of the biggest initiatives like hiring a City Administrator and Building Inspector, the Streets Project, the Electric Reliability Study, the DC Rogers Dam repair project, which is expected to be completed within the next 30-60 days. He also noted that while the Council does not always agree, the Council members show the willingness to compromise to move the City forward.

TO CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Roll motioned to move to closed session at 7:30 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderman David Frees, Alderman Austin Ivy, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Bradley Patty, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

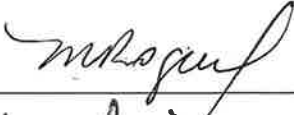
Alderman Frees moved to adjourn closed session at 7:50 p.m. and go into open session. Alderman Roll seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderman David Frees, Alderman Austin Ivy, Alderman Patrick Roll, Alderman Bradley Patty, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderman J.B. Waggoner.

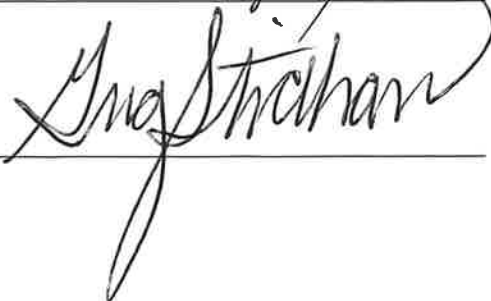
ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman Ishmael moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Alderman Patty seconded the motion. Six voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:



Maria Rogers, City Clerk



Greg Stidham, Mayor