

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025,
AT 6:00 PM IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AT CITY HALL.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mayor Melvin Harper, II
Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook
Council Member Patrice Manley
Council Member Lamora Moses
Council Member Chris Paulk
Council Member Clae Wynn
City Attorney Warren Mixon
City Finance Office Paula Ball

Mayor Harper called the meeting to order.

Reverend Jay Roberts of the Ocilla Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The minutes from January 6, 2025, the workshop meeting were approved by a motion from Council Member Patrice Manley with a second from Council Member Lisa Cook. The decision was unanimous.

The minutes from January 6, 2025, regular monthly meeting was approved by a motion from Council Member Lemora Moses with a second from Council Member Patrice Manley. The decision was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem. This position had been rotated in the past, but Council Member Patrice Manley requested not to serve in this position. Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to appoint Council Member Chris Paulk to the Mayor Pro Tem position. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion that all the standing committees remain the same for 2025 as 2024. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Homestead Exemption Resolution. All legal requirements have been met and the resolution to opt out is ready for a vote. Council Member Chris Paulk

made a motion to opt out. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Ratification of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management agreement was the next item needing a vote. Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to adopt the GIRMA ratification. County Member Chris Paulk seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Ordinance and Adoption agreement was adopted by a motion from Council Member Lisa Cook and second by Council Member Chris Paulk. The agreement carried unanimously.

The state required 1st Responder PTSD plan was adopted with a motion from Council Member Lisa Cook and was seconded by Council Member Lemora Moses. The decision was unanimous.

Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority needs to be updated. Blakelyn Rowe and Lindsey Wilson had been requested to serve in this capacity. Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the appointments. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the appointments. The decision was unanimous.

Clae Wynn brought it to the Council's attention that his appointment with the Board needed to be updated. Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to appoint Clae Wynn to another term. Council Member Chris Paulk seconded the appointment that carried unanimously.

Department Head reports were as follows:

Police Chief Ashley Jones gave his monthly report. Council Member Lemora Moses addressed electric golf cart usage in the city. Chief Jones stated they still need lights and reflectors.

Streets Department Director Cornelius Hall stated that a dangerous dog bit our Animal Control Office and that he needed gloves and a net gun. The price on the net gun is \$4,000.00. Director Hall was asked to get more prices on the gun.

Utility Director Bruce Wilder stated we are working on cut off lists for unpaid bills. He added that with weather changes, we are experiencing more water leaks than usual.

City Council Member reports were as follows:

Council Member Lisa Cook presented a problem with holes in the street on Lakewood Drive. She asked Police Chief Ashley Jones to report on the highest speeds that had been recorded on the traffic cameras.

Council Member Patrice Manley asked what happened to the speed bumps on Oak Street near Tyson Funeral Home. She was informed that the snowplows tore them off during the recent

snowstorm. Streets Director Cornelius Hall stated he would order more. Ms. Manley presented concerns over City spending. She stated we should show integrity to City citizens.

Council Member Lemora Moses stated while the vines are dead on the fence at the cemetery, now would be a good time to cut them down. He added last year they were sprayed from a tractor and the area killed was about six feet. He stated he feels they should be sprayed by hand. He further discussed the speed bumps and potholes on Oak Street. His final item was questioning who authorized the cutoffs on overdue utility bills.

Council Member Chris Paulk presented a problem with a culvert on Frank Road and a complaint of garbage being piled by other resident's trash cans. Dogs have strown the garbage. Since we do not have a Code Enforcement Officer, there is no one to address the issue. He further presented excessive spending within some City departments.

Council Member Clae Wynn continued to address the overspending issue.

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There being no decisions made in executive session, the meeting reconvened.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Council Member Chris Paulk. The decision was unanimous.

Mayor Melvin Harper, II

Finance Officer Paula Ball