

# **Canton, Georgia**

*110 Academy Street  
Canton, Georgia 30114*



## **Minutes - Final - Draft**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**City Hall  
110 Academy Street**

**City Council**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

*The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Grant and an invocation was given by City Manager Billy Peppers.*

**2. Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.*

**Members Present:**

*Mayor Bill Grant  
Mayor Pro Tem Dwayne Waterman  
Councilmember Farris Yawn  
Councilmember Shawn Tolan  
Councilmember Bryan Roach  
Councilmember Travis Johnson  
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager  
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney  
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police Chief  
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director  
Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer  
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director  
Ms. Linda Buchanan, Customer Service Manager  
Ms. Kelly Pendley, Public Works Operations Director  
Ms. Hannah Stringer, Accountant  
Ms. Amy Thomas, Human Resources Coordinator  
Mr. Anderson Nations, Code Compliance  
Ms. Marietta Carlisi, Records Technician  
Mr. Alec Robles, Crime Analyst  
Ms. Arielle Hill, Customer Service Representative  
Mr. Russell Martin, IT Systems Analyst  
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

**Absent:**

*Councilmember Sandy McGrew*

**3. Consideration to Approve Agenda**

*Mayor Grant stated an Executive Session needed to be added for the discussion of real estate and litigation. Councilmember Yawn made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

**4. Guests and Visitors****Mr. Peppers provided an introduction of new City staff members:**

*Ms. Amy Thomas, Human Resources Coordinator  
Ms. Hannah Stringer, Accountant  
Mr. Austin Phillips, Building & Fire Safety Technician  
Mr. Anderson Nations, Code Enforcement  
Mr. Larkin Wilson, Police Department Cadet  
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police of Chief*

*Ms. Marietta Carlisi, Records Technician  
Mr. Richard May, Police Department  
Ms. Arielle Hill, Customer Service Representative  
Mr. Walker Bunch, Public Works Technician  
Ms. Ashley Hartwig, Theatre Assistant*

- A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Clay Pilgrim with Rushton & Company Certified Public Accountants - Attachment 4A

Attachments: [2023 Financial Report](#)

*Mr. Clay Pilgrim with Rushton & Company, LLC presented the audit report for the fiscal year that ended on September 30, 2023 noting an unmodified opinion on the financial statements has been given to the City. Mr. Pilgrim thanked the entire Canton team for being helpful throughout the audit process. Mr. Pilgrim reviewed the City's net position and change for the last three years and discussed revenues, expenditures, and fund balance of the General Fund. Mr. Pilgrim further reviewed the operating revenues and expenses of the Water and Sewer Fund. Mr. Pilgrim stated no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies were noted in the internal controls of the City of Canton and no instances of material noncompliance or other matters were noted. Lastly, Mr. Pilgrim discussed current and future reporting changes.*

- B. Presentation of 2023 Annual Report from the City of Canton Police Department - Crime Analyst Alec Robles - Attachment 4B

Attachments: [Annual Police Department Report](#)

*Crime Analyst Alec Robles provided the Council with the 2023 Operational Report. Mr. Robles discussed the department's new reporting system, how it differs from the previous system, and the conversion of data. Mr. Robles reviewed information of the total calls for service, Group A crime cases, and accidents for 2023. Mr. Robles spoke about the Criminal Investigations Division's total cases and the intake and disposition of property and evidence. Mr. Robles informed of the number of training hours received by the department, promotions, and citizens served by the Records Department.*

## 5. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - April 4, 2024 - Attachment 5A

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting - April 4, 2024](#)

*Mayor Pro Tem Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes.  
Councilmember Tolan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

## 6. Informational Items

*Mr. Peppers reviewed the upcoming Georgia Cities Week events and activities.*

## 7. Other Announcements

None.

## 8. Ten Minute Public Input

*Mr. Michael Burnley spoke about parking and speeding concerns in the Hidden Creek neighborhood.*

## 9. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Adopting the City of Canton Sustainability Plan - Public Works Operations Manager Kelly Pendley - Attachment 9A

Attachments: [City of Canton Sustainability Plan](#)

- B. Approval of a Contract for Pest Control Services - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram - Attachment 9B

Attachments: [Pest Control Services](#)

- C. Approval of the Municipal Services Agreement for Animal Control between the City of Canton and Cherokee County - City Manager Billy Peppers - Attachment 9C

Attachments: [Animal Control Agreement](#)

*Councilmember Yawn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Roach seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

## 10. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Letter of Support for the TBG Senior Residential Project Application with Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Update on Funding Request - Housing Initiatives Director Ken Patton - Attachment 10A

Attachments: [TBG Residential Project](#)

*Housing Initiatives Director Ken Patton discussed the application process with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the point system they use for approval. The letter of support will help obtain points for this state-wide competitive process. Mr. Peppers stated the Canton Housing Authority will have a board meeting next week and the City will provide them with a Memorandum of Understanding for their consideration if they would like to participate as the lender on this project on behalf of the City. Mr. Patton discussed the number of affordable housing units within the proposed project as well as throughout the City. Mayor Grant noted the letter of support would be for Phase 1 (96 units) of this project. Mr. Patton stated that was correct. Councilmember Tolan made a motion to approve the drafting of a letter of support for TBG's application for the competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and authorize the Mayor to sign such letter. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved*

*unanimously.*

## 11. New Business

- A. Discussion of Title VI Annual Update - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11A

**Attachments:** [Title VI Update](#)

*City Engineer Bethany Watson stated this item is a yearly update required for the City to remain Local Administered Project (LAP) certified and manage federally funded projects. Ms. Watson noted there are no changes from the previous policy.*

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution to Submit Application for Transportation Improvement Project Solicitation 2024 and Funding Commitment - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11B

**Attachments:** [TIP Solicitation](#)

*Ms. Watson stated this request is for both the State Route 140 at State Route 5 (Marietta Highway) and State Route 140 at State Route 5 (Reinhardt College Parkway) projects. Ms. Watson noted there is an increase in cost for both projects as the original estimates were provided back in 2017. The resolution is for the City's 20% match portion. Of the 20% cost, 34.2% will come from Impact Fees and the remainder will be paid for with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Mayor Pro Tem Waterman made a motion to approve a resolution to submit the application for TIP Solicitation 2024 and funding commitment. Councilmember Roach seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

- C. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution to Authorize the City of Canton to Enter into a Local Government Lighting Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11C

**Attachments:** [Lighting Project Agreement](#)

*Ms. Watson discussed that the project mentioned in the previous agenda item at State Route 140 at State Route 5 (Reinhardt College Parkway) will become a roundabout. During this project, the Georgia Department of Transportation will be installing lighting. The agreement states that the City is responsible for energy, maintenance, and operation of that lighting. Councilmember Roach made a motion to approve the resolution to authorize the City of Canton to enter into a Local Government Lighting Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Mayor Pro Tem Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

- D. Discussion of West Main Street Pedestrian Corridor - Right of Way Acquisition Services and Drainage Redesign - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11D

**Attachments:** [West Main Street Pedestrian Corridor](#)

*Ms. Watson stated the anticipated scope of work includes right of way project management services, right of way negotiation services, and redesign of drainage. Ms. Watson stated the pricing would be a worst-case scenario. Staff will be contacting the nine property owners within the project area.*

- E. Discussion and Possible Action on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Update - City Engineer Bethany Watson - Attachment 11E

Attachments: [ADA Transition Plan Update](#)

*Ms. Watson stated there is a requirement to have an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan to receive federal funds for projects. The plan was originally adopted in 2012. Ms. Watson discussed the self-evaluation conducted at all City buildings. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will look at ADA within all City parks. Ms. Watson stated funding will be requested during the fiscal year 2025 budget for an evaluation of City sidewalks. Councilmember Tolan made a motion to approve the ADA Transition Plan update. Councilmember Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

## 12. City Manager's Report

*Mr. Peppers stated the March Operations Report is now available. Mr. Peppers stated the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved a Tax Allocation District (TAD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a multifamily development at The Mill on Etowah. They are currently working on a Development Agreement which will come before the Council in the next few months. Mr. Peppers stated an agenda item will come to Council at the next meeting for the Police Department to enter into a contract with Axon for body-worn and dash cameras. Mr. Peppers provided information received at a recent meeting with the Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority (CCWSA). Mr. Peppers provided the background of the establishment of CCWSA, spoke about how the multiple jurisdictions within the County buy and sale water to serve their residents, and discussed the possibility of having the City's wholesale customer capacity changed from around 700,000 gallons per day to up to 270,000 gallons per day. This is due to a policy set by the CCWSA Board. Mr. Peppers spoke about issues that may arise from this and noted he will be attending CCWSA's next board meeting to discuss these issues. Mr. Peppers recognized Ms. Josefa Hart as the Team Member of the Month, Corporal Courtney Rogers for receiving a scholarship through the Rotary Club, Officer Alex Bacon for his upcoming six-month deployment, and the Public Works Department for their efforts during the recent storm cleanup and CDL learners permits received. Mr. Peppers reviewed the upcoming budget and millage rate timeline. Mr. Peppers addressed the comments received during the Ten Minute Public Input. Mr. Peppers discussed the City's traffic calming policy and possible parking solutions. Mr. Peppers stated that the Homeowner's Association should provide a proposed solution to the City.*

## 13. Council Introduced Items

*None.*

## 14. Mayor's Report

*Mayor Grant appointed Mr. Jim Ledford to the Board of Appeals. Councilmember Johnson appointed Ms. Teresa Ramsey to the Canton Tourism Board and Mr. Jared Teutsch to the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Board. Councilmember Yawn seconded the appointments and they were approved unanimously.*

**15. Adjourn**

*Mayor Pro Tem Waterman made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss real estate and litigation. Councilmember Roach seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

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*Bill Grant, Mayor*

*Attest:*

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*Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

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*Dates Minutes Approved by Council*