

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Final

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 PM

110 Academy Street

City Council

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Mr. Johnson

Present:

Mayor Bill Grant

Mr. Farris Yawn

Mr. Travis Johnson

Mr. Darrell Rice

Mr. Bryan Roach

Mr. Shawn Tolan

Mr. Dwayne Waterman.

Also present:

Billy Peppers

Nathan Ingram

Kevin Turner

Ryan Lockett

Amy Thomas

Nichole Parks

Jakob Allen

Marty Ferrell

Bethany Watson

Thomas Trawick

Ken Patton

Lauren Johnson

Russell Martin

Bobby Dyer

2. Call to Order

Call to Order by Mayor Grant

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mr. Yawn moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved

4. Guests and Visitors**A. History Cherokee Presentation - Rebecca Johnston**

Ms. Johnston presented an overview of History Cherokee including programming, museum operations, fundraising, and preservation advocacy.

5. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - May 7, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting - May 7, 2026](#)

Mr. Roach moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. Ten Minute Public Input

Thomas Weaver--131 Old Marietta Road--HB 295 and HB1161

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Possible Action on Revised Personnel Manual - Human Resources Director Amy Thomas

Attachments: [Personnel Manual Updates 052026](#)

- B. Possible Action on Request for Master Signage Plan at Canton Overlook located at 205 Hospital Road - City Planner Tyler Peoples

Attachments: [CantonOverlookMSP_05.21.2026](#)

- C. Possible Action of Preliminary Design of the Hickory Flat Highway Gateway Project to Practical Design Partners, LLC. in the amount of \$1,659,900 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Hickory Flat Highway Gateway Project](#)

- D. Possible Action of a Memorandum of Understanding with Cherokee County to Utilize an Integrated Public Awareness Warning System (IPAWS) Platform for Emergency Communication - City Manager Billy Peppers

Attachments: [05212026 IPAWS MOU](#)

Mr. Tolan moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Yawn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved

8. Old Business

9. New Business

- A. Discussion of the FY 2026 Mid-Year Budget Amendment - Finance Director Ryan Lockett

Attachments: [FY 2026 Mid-Year Budget Amendment](#)

This item was presented by Finance Director, Mr. Ryan Lockett. Primary reasons include financing for items approved in that were not originally in the budget, increase expenses for items that have come in over budget, and to reflect the start of Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Mr. Lockett reviewed specific items outlined in the amendment. The amendments impact the general fund with \$1,226,174 in additional revenues and expenditures, the hotel tax fund with \$33,204 in revenues and expenditures, TSPLOST with revenues of \$3.7 million and \$400,000 of expenditures, and in the sanitation fund \$100,000 in revenues and expenditures. The Mayor appreciated hearing the adjustments mid-year. He asked about the increase in fire service costs and the timing of that actual cost versus our budget adopted. Mr. Lockett noted that it is a guessing game based upon the two groups approving tax rates and budgets in the same time frame. Staff will request action on the Budget Amendment on June 4.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to Join an Amicus Brief with the City of Milton - City Manager Billy Peppers

Attachments: [05212026_Amicus Milton v. Chang](#)

Mr. Peppers outlined that this legal case in which the City had once before signed onto a Amicus Brief had been heard by the Georgia Supreme Court with a partial ruling and then remanded to the Court of Appeals. He asked the Council if they wished to rejoin the Amicus Brief for the appeals hearing.

Mr. Yawn moved to approve a resolution to join the Amicus Brief. Mr. Rice seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. City Manager's Report

The City Manager gave an update on a presentation he had previously made to the Board of Education on traffic plans for the new Cherokee High School. He also updated the Council on the Board of Education's released timelines for the reopening of Canton Elementary School and the disposition of the historic Cherokee High School campus. He provided an overview of the FY2027 budget process. He outlined a request from Cherokee County to abandon a portion of Lee Street and potential convert the remainder of the street to one-way as part of a surface parking lot project. He recognized various employees for certifications, awards, and new hires.

11. Council Introduced Items

12. Mayor's Report

The Mayor congratulated Chief Eddie Robinson of Cherokee County Fire on his retirement and also congratulated new fire chief Kevin Lanier. He also notified Council of a letter he received showing the Canton Main Street program had been recertified for designation by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

13. Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Litigation, Real Estate, and Personnel

Mr. Yawn moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate, litigation, and personnel. Mr. Waterman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Billy Peppers, Interim City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council