

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Thursday, June 18, 2026

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 Ms. Tannish Welch, Executive Director of the Charlie Ferguson Community Center.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tem Farris Yawn
Councilor Dwayne Waterman
Councilor Darrell Rice
Councilor Travis Johnson
Councilor Shawn Tolan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police Chief
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Mr. Jakob Allen, City Planner
Mr. Thomas Trawick, Planning & Zoning Manager
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director
Mr. Ryan Lockett, Finance Director
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer
Mr. Russell Martin, IT Systems Analyst
Ms. Annie Fortner, Assistant City Clerk

Absent:

Councilor Bryan Roach

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mayor Grant requested to add an Executive Session for the discussion of real estate and litigation and to remove Old Business Item C. Councilor Waterman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

4. Guests and Visitors

- A.** Presentation of Pearidge Small Area Plan - Atlanta Regional Commission Senior Planner Jillian Porter-Willis

Attachments: [Pearidge Small Area Plan](#)

Atlanta Regional Commission Senior Planner Jillian Porter-Willis presented the Pearidge Community Small Area Plan which details a community-led initiative focused on historic preservation and housing affordability. Developed through the Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Development Assistance

Program, the plan outlines a vision for the community based on extensive public engagement and research into existing conditions. Key recommendations include pursuing zoning updates to support attainable housing, improving pedestrian safety through sidewalks and trails, and preserving historic assets. The final deliverable aims to foster a healthy, livable community by establishing clear priorities for land use, transportation, and community services. Councilors stated they are motivated by the information provided, however they questioned the next steps given that this area is not completely within the City limits.

5. Public Hearing

- A. Public Hearing for Text Amendment to Unified Development Code Regarding Artisan and Small-Scale Manufacturing - Community Development Director Kevin Turner

Attachments: [Artisan and Small-Scale Manufacturing Text Amendment](#)

Community Development Director Kevin Turner informed that staff is proposing amendments to Section 104.03.27 and Table 102-4 of the Unified Development Code (UDC) to clarify development standards regarding artisan and small-scale manufacturing in the Central Business District (CBD), General Commercial (GC), Planned Development (PD), and Light Industrial (LI) zoning districts. Proposed amendments include: (1) Adding "Permissible" to GC and LI, and adding "Allowed upon Master Plan Approval" to PD zoning districts in Table 102-4; (2) Establishing a maximum size of an individual small-scale manufacturing development in L-I zoning districts as 10,000 sq. ft. in Section 104.03.27.B(1); and (3) Deleting the eliminated PD-B/O zoning district from Section 104.03.27.B(1). Mayor Grant opened the public hearing. There being no one to speak in support of or against the request, Mayor Grant closed the public hearing.

6. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - June 4, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes - Council - June 4, 2026](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Yawn made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Councilor Johnson was not present during the vote.

7. Informational Items

- A. Review of April Financial Report - Finance Director Ryan Luckett

Attachments: [April Financials](#)

Finance Director Ryan Luckett provided and reviewed the April Financial Report which included the mid-year budget amendment that was recently approved by Council.

8. Other Announcements

None

9. Ten Minute Public Input

Mr. Thomas Weaver encouraged Council to annex Pearidge into the City and discussed traffic concerns at Exit 20 on I-575.

10. Consent Agenda

Consent

11. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on FY25 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update and 5 Year Short Term Work Plan for Impact Fees - Community Development Director Kevin Turner

Attachments: [Resolution to Adopt FY25 Update](#)

Community Development Director Kevin Turner stated the City is required to submit an annual update to Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for its impact fee program. Canton's annual update deadline is June 30th each year. At the November 6, 2025 City Council meeting, the plan was transmitted to Georgia DCA and ARC for review and comment. DCA and ARC have reviewed the annual update and has approved it for adoption. The City is now required to approve a resolution to adopt the annual update Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and 5 Year Short Term Work Plan (STWP) Addendum. After adoption, staff is required to submit the executed Resolution to Adopt to Georgia DCA and ARC prior to June 30, 2026. Failure to meet the June 30, 2026 deadline would result in the City losing "Qualified Local Government Status." Mayor Pro Tem Yawn made a motion to adopt the FY2025 annual update to the Capital Improvements Element and 5 Year Short Term Work Plan. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Fuel Surcharge on Waste Pro Sanitation Rates for the July through September Quarter - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram

Attachments: [Waste Pro Sanitation Rates](#)

Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram informed that Waste Pro is seeking a fuel surcharge to offset costs on fuel prices. They are seeking a 10% surcharge for the upcoming quarter (July to September), equating to roughly \$2 per residential bill. Waste Pro agrees to come back to the City Council quarterly for updates on fuel costs prior to continuing the surcharge on the next quarterly bills. Council discussed that the request has been reduced from 20% to 10% and will be reviewed quarterly. Councilor Waterman spoke about his concerns with variability. Councilor Rice made a motion to approve the Waste Pro fuel surcharge at 10% for the ensuing quarterly billing period (July through September 2026); further, Waste Pro agrees to come back to City Council quarterly for updates on fuel costs prior to continuing on the next quarterly bills

and understanding that when fuel prices return to the pre-Iran war price per gallon February 2026, the fuel surcharge will be removed the following quarter. Councilor Tolan seconded the motion. The motion passed. Councilor Waterman voted against the motion.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action on Abandonment of Lee Street in Downtown Canton to Cherokee County - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram

Attachments: [Lee Street Abandonment](#)

This item was removed from the agenda.

12. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Amendment to Limited License Agreement for the Use of PremierOne CAD System - Police Chief Marty Ferrell

Attachments: [First Amendment to PremierOne License Agreement](#)

Police Chief Marty Ferrell stated the Police Department requests to have Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) data integrated into its PowerDMS Field Training Officer Platform and discussed the benefits of the system. Cherokee County has asked that this be completed through an amendment to the original contract from October 2024. There is no cost associated with the amendment. Councilor Waterman made a motion to approve an amendment to the Limited License Agreement for the Use of PremierOne CAD System. Mayor Pro Tem Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- B. Discussion of the Award of Task Order 9 to Practical Design Partners, LLC for West Main Street Pedestrian Corridor Construction Management Services in the Amount of \$258,370 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Practical Design Partners - Task Order 9](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson stated the West Main Pedestrian Corridor Project is part of the City's Transportation Improvement Plan and includes construction of a 10' sidewalk, Construction of on-street parking, converting West Main Street to a one-way street with westward traffic routing, and burying overhead utilities. Practical Design Partners (PDP) designed the project and previous task orders included concept development, survey, design, right-of-way acquisition, and bidding assistance. This task order allows PDP to provide inspection and testing services, construction administration services, and utility coordination, either directly or through subcontractors. The cost of Task Order 9 is \$258,370 and is funded through SPLOST.

- C. Discussion of the Award of the West Main Street Pedestrian Corridor Project to Wilson Construction Management, LLC in the Amount of \$1,342,439 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

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

City Engineer Bethany Watson information that the City received eleven bids on this project ranging from \$1.26 million to \$2.158 million. The low bid (Complete

Site, LLC at \$1,260,500.25) is being rejected by the City based upon prior performance of the bidder on City of Canton projects. Staff recommends awarding the next lowest bidder, Wilson Construction Management, LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$1,342,439, which is funded through SPLOST. Council already approved an agreement with Georgia Power for approximately \$750,000 in costs associated with its infrastructural portion of the project. Councilor Tolan asked when the project is set to begin and how long business would be without power during the transition from overhead to underground utilities. Ms. Watson stated that construction will begin in September or October and noted that businesses in that area would only be disrupted for a couple of hours.

- D. Discussion of Change Order 1 for Time Extension on the Ridge Pine Elevated Tank - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Ridge Pine Elevated Tank Change Order 1](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson discussed that as part of the site work for the elevated tank, 125 loads of unsuitable soil is being removed and another 155 loads of good soil is being delivered. In combination with this change of soil, additional time for dewatering on site was necessary due to heavy rains. The contractor is seeking a change order for time in the amount of 98 days of extension. Staff is working with the contractor to mitigate the costs of labor and equipment for this change order within the project budget and current contract.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action on the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) List of Roads - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [GDOT List of Roads](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson stated that the City is responsible for providing a list of roadways to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for permission to utilize Speed Detection Devices. In submitting paperwork to have Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard as a School Zone, it was discovered that the old road list had not been updated to reflect the renaming of that portion of roadway from Riverstone Boulevard. Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve the GDOT List of Roads. Mayor Pro Tem Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- F. Discussion to Renew the Task Order Agreement Contract for Professional Engineering Services with Keck & Wood, Inc - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Keck & Wood Task Order Agreement Renewal](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson informed that Keck & Wood's Task Order Agreement Contract has recently expired. The proposed renewal will be for three years from the date of approval. The agreement contract does not have any monetary value. It allows Keck & Wood to submit Task Order proposals, if requested by the City.

- G. Discussion of Task Order 9 to Keck & Wood, Inc for Intersection Upgrade for Railroad Street at Waleska Street in the Amount of \$51,000 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Keck & Wood - Task Order 9](#)

City Engineer Bethany Watson stated the City's Transportation Master Plan and Downtown Master Plan call for an intersection upgrade via signal improvement at Railroad Street and Waleska Street. Staff recommends a Task Order with Keck & Wood, Inc. for a traffic memo, survey, and traffic signal design. This project is eligible for to be paid for through TSPLOST and Impact Fees.

13. City Manager's Report

City Manager Billy Peppers updated Council on the budget process, South Canton Park's erosion control issues and remediation, and Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST). Mr. Peppers also recognized Daniel Sadowski of the Building and Safety Services Department for obtaining the Fire & Safety Inspector II Certification and Sergeant Mary Turner of the Canton Police Department for her achievements during the Police and Fire Games.

14. Council Introduced Items

None

15. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grant noted a vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission with Mr. Nathan Rich stepping away. Mayor Grant nominated Ms. Ann Fincher to serve on the HPC to fill Mr. Rich's term. Mayor Pro Tem Yawn seconded the nomination. All voted in favor of the nomination.

16. Adjourn

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

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council