

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Thursday, August 17, 2023

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 followed by an invocation given by Councilmember Wilson.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

*Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tem Brooke Schmidt
Councilmember Sandy McGrew
Councilmember JoEllen Wilson
Councilmember Shawn Tolan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney
Mr. Steve Green, Zoning Administrator
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Ms. Brittany Anderson, City Planner
Mr. Russell Martin, IT Systems Analyst
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

Absent:

Councilmember Dwayne Waterman

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Tolan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

4. Guests and Visitors

A. Presentation of Proclamation for National Health Center Week

Mayor Grant read and presented a proclamation for National Health Center Week to Mr. Eddie Gaitan and associates of Georgia Highlands Medical Services.

- B. Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services Update - Fire Chief Eddie Robinson

Cherokee County Fire Chief Eddie Robinson began the presentation by discussing the mission, vision, and values of the Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services. Chief Robinson spoke about staffing and noted the department is internationally accredited. Chief Robinson reviewed notable highlights and discussed their budget. Incident volumes and response times were discussed as well as training within the department and community risk reduction. Chief Robinson noted several promotions and retirements. Chief Robinson introduced Austin Herre as a junior firefighter and presented a video of a citizen who received care from the department to demonstrate how Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services provide for the community through core values. Chief Robinson provided an update on a replacement for the downtown fire station stating considerations for a facility are still ongoing and it remains a priority.

5. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - August 3, 2023 - Attachment 5A

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting - August 3, 2023](#)

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

6. Informational Items

- A. Police Department Updates - Police Chief Stephen Merrifield - Attachment 6A

Attachments: [Police Updates](#)

Police Chief Stephen Merrifield and Pastor Eduardo Brando discussed community outreach events such as Coffee with a Cop, Citizen Police Academy, and Canton's Multicultural Festival. Chief Merrifield discussed crime statistics reporting and informed how the new reporting system differs from the previous system. Chief Merrifield also introduced newly hired officers.

7. Other Announcements

Councilmember Tolan stated he will be speaking at the Georgia Home Builders Association meeting on August 22nd at 11:30 am to discuss housing in Canton.

8. Ten Minute Public Input

Ms. Amy Moore spoke about her business, Pedal Punk ATL, in Woodstock. Ms. Moore stated she would like to bring her business to Canton but amendments to the City's ordinances would be needed.

9. Consent Agenda

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

- A. Discussion of Revisions to the Unified Development Code for Consolidation of Zoning Districts - Zoning Administrator Steve Green - Attachment 11A

Attachments: [Zoning Districts](#)

Zoning Administrator Steve Green stated the goal of these modifications is to eliminate and/or consolidate zoning districts. There have been discussions of having one residential zoning category which would establish minimum lot sizes, setbacks, buffers, etc. Any deviation from those standards would require Council approval. Mr. Green also reviewed the proposed changes to the commercial zoning categories. Councilmember Tolan asked if a document could be created which compares the current zoning districts to the proposed zoning districts as well as the pros and cons for the changes. Mr. Green stated numerous amendments to the Unified Development Code will occur if changes are made as the zoning categories are referenced throughout. Mayor Grant asked if the areas where the most change will occur can be identified and the reason behind the changes noted.

12. City Manager's Report

Mr. Peppers recognized Canton's Employee of the Month for July as Audrey Musil. Mr. Peppers stated next week will be the Georgia Downtown Association Conference in Canton and reviewed the planned events and trainings. Mr. Peppers stated he has discussed the City's ordinances with the City Attorney regarding the proposed Pedal Punk business. If Council would like to add an item to an agenda at an upcoming meeting to discuss what those changes would be, Mr. Peppers stated he would be happy to do so. Mr. Peppers stated the July Operations Report has been placed on the City's website.

13. Council Introduced Items

None.

14. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grant stated he is excited to be hosting the Georgia Downtown Association Conference and thanked everyone who has helped make Canton look so inviting.

**15. Adjourn to Executive Session for Real Estate, Litigation,
and Personnel**

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

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council