

# **Canton, Georgia**

*110 Academy Street  
Canton, Georgia 30114*



## **Minutes - Final - Draft**

**Thursday, March 13, 2025**

**12:30 PM**

**Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge  
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, Georgia 30518**

**Council Retreat  
March 13-15, 2025  
City Council**

**Thursday, March 13th****12:30 pm****1. Welcome and Retreat Called to Order - Mayor Bill Grant*****Members Present:******Mayor Bill Grant******Mayor Pro Tem Shawn Tolan******Councilmember Farris Yawn******Councilmember Bryan Roach******Councilmember Sandy McGrew******Councilmember Travis Johnson******Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager******Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager******Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director******Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer******Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk***

***Mayor Grant called the retreat to order. Mayor Grant welcomed and thanked those in attendance.***

**2. Overview of Agenda and Ground Rules - City Manager Billy Peppers**

***City Manager Billy Peppers reviewed the agenda for the afternoon.***

**3. City of Canton Roadmap Overview - City Manager Billy Peppers**

***Council and staff reviewed each of the City's tenets discussing items of consideration, successes, and areas of improvement.***

**4. Growth & Development - Community Development Director Kevin Turner**

***Council and staff spoke about residential development. Topics discussed included affordable/attainable housing, missing types of development, and a process for mitigating blight.***

**5. Infrastructure - City Engineer Bethany Watson**

***Council and staff discussed the recent Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study. A presentation will be provided to Council at the March 20th Council meeting regarding options for upgrades.***

**6. Downtown Development - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram**

***Council and staff discussed next steps for the North Street Mixed-Use Project and other upcoming downtown plans.***

**7. Visit to the City of Gainesville**

**Friday, March 14th****8:30 am****1. Welcome and Retreat Day Called to Order - Mayor Bill Grant*****Members Present:***

***Mayor Bill Grant  
Mayor Pro Tem Shawn Tolan  
Councilmember Farris Yawn  
Councilmember Bryan Roach  
Councilmember Sandy McGrew  
Councilmember Travis Johnson  
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager  
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police Chief  
Mr. Ryan Lockett, Finance Director  
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director  
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager  
Ms. Aundi Lesley, Economic Development Manager  
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director  
Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer  
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk***

**2. Overview of the Agenda and Recap of Day 1 Discussions**

***Council and staff spoke about things they observed from the trip to the City of Gainesville. Some of the topics discussed were the cottage homes and delivery areas.***

**3. Engineering - City Engineer Bethany Watson**

***City Engineer Bethany Watson along with staff and Council discussed project updates that included water and sewer, transportation, Hickory Flat Highway Corridor, and the Downtown Master Plan.***

**4. Housing - Housing Initiatives Director Ken Patton**

***Housing Initiatives Director Ken Patton along with staff and Council discussed housing related projects such as the Down Payment Assistance Program, Land Bank, North Canton Cottage Village, and the North Canton School Site.***

**5. Economic Development - Economic Development Manager Aundi Lesley**

***Economic Development Manager Aundi Lesley along with staff and Council discussed the recent business survey, possible updates to the City's Business Guide, and what types of businesses are missing within the City.***

**6. Public Safety - Police Chief Marty Ferrell**

*Police Chief Marty Ferrell along with staff and Council discussed the Ambassadors and Co-Responders Programs, possible changes to RedSpeed, Flock Cameras, and updates regarding the Public Safety Building.*

**7. Communication - Communications Manager Lauren Johnson**

*Communications Manager Lauren Johnson along with staff and Council discussed citizen surveys and what could be included in an upcoming survey, City communications, and Town Hall meetings.*

**8. Finance - Finance Director Ryan Luckett and Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram**

*Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram introduced Finance Director Ryan Luckett. Mr. Ingram and Mr. Luckett along with staff and Council discussed the upcoming budget calendar and year end budget amendment.*

**9. Parks and Recreation / Public Works - Public Works Director Scott Hooper**

*Council and staff discussed the North Canton gymnasium, paving for 2025, stormwater projects, and building maintenance updated for City Hall and the Public Safety Building.*

**10. Visit to the City of Sugar Hill**

**Saturday, March 15th**

**9:00 am**

**1. Welcome and Retreat Day Called to Order - Mayor Bill Grant**

*Members Present:*

*Mayor Bill Grant  
Mayor Pro Tem Shawn Tolan  
Councilmember Farris Yawn  
Councilmember Sandy McGrew  
Councilmember Travis Johnson  
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager  
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager  
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

**2. Overview of the Agenda and Recap of Day 2 Discussions**

*Council and staff spoke about things they observed from the trips to the City of Gainesville and the City of Sugar Hill. Some of the topics discussed from the trip to Gainesville were the cottage homes, community space, well thought downtown hotel, and downtown delivery zones. Some of the topics discussed from the trip to Sugar Hill were innovative use of detention pond, mixture of citizens using downtown, and mixed-use buildings.*

**3. Communication and Organization**

*Council and staff discussed how to better inform Council and citizens of projects and activities within the City.*

**4. Takeaways**

*Council and staff discussed upcoming projects they are excited about such as the North Canton Cottage Village, Hickory Flat Highway Corridor, and North Street.*

**5. Adjourn**

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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*