

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Thursday, July 16, 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 Councilor Roach.

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 Bryan Roach
Councilor Travis Johnson
Councilor Shawn Tolan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Bobby Dyer, City Attorney
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Mr. Tyler Peoples, City Planner
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. Kelly Pendley, Operations Manager
Mr. Jacky Cheng, Marketing Manager
Mr. Russell Marting, IT Systems Analyst
Ms. Annie Fortner, Assistant City Clerk*

Absent:

None

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mayor Grant requested to add an Executive Session to discuss real estate. City Manager Billy Peppers requested to add a Resolution of Recognition under Council Introduced Items. 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.** Update of Unified Development Code Review - Tim Hancock with Kimley-Horn

Tim Hancock with Kimley-Horn provided a presentation overviewing the update to the Unified Development Code (UDC). Mr. Hancock discussed key project goals, schedule of the review, preliminary findings, and next steps. A copy of the presentation can be found in the office of the City Clerk. Community

Development Director Kevin Turner asked Council how to proceed with the proposed UDC changes, and Mayor Grant suggested scheduling a Work Session to discuss the proposed changes and next steps.

5. Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2027 Millage Rate - Finance Director Ryan Luckett

Attachments: [FY 2027 Millage Rate](#)

Finance Director Ryan Luckett provided a presentation which reviewed the millage rate process, provided an update of the 2026 property tax digest, and discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 millage rate. A copy of the presentation can be found in the office of the City Clerk. Mayor Grant opened the public hearing. Mr. Thomas Weaver advised the Council to exercise caution when using reserve funds and urged them to implement strategies to offset further millage rate increases. Mayor Grant closed the public hearing. Council and staff discussed the City's senior exemption, the feasibility of increasing the millage rate concurrently with the Fire Millage Rate, reviewing the proposed budget for expenditure reductions to prevent a rate increase, and the appropriate allocation of reserves.

- B. Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget and Fee Schedule - Finance Director Ryan Luckett

Attachments: [FY 2027 Budget and Fee Schedule](#)

Finance Director Ryan Luckett provided a presentation which highlighted the City's funds, noted major budget additions and changes, and discussed the Capital Improvement Program. A copy of the proposed budget is on the City's website and in person at City Hall. The proposed budget will be placed on the August 6th Council agenda for possible adoption. A copy of the presentation can be found in the office of the City Clerk. Mayor Grant opened the public hearing. Mr. Thomas Weaver questioned pay increases for City employees as well as allocations to third parties. Mr. Weaver asked Council to ensure the fee schedules adhere to all applicable laws. Mayor Grant closed the public hearing. Council and staff discussed City staffing and the largest expenditures of the budget.

6. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - July 2, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes - Council - July 2, 2026](#)

Councilor Tolan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

7. Informational Items

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

Attachments: [May Financials](#)

Finance Director Ryan Luckett provided and reviewed the May Financial Report.

8. Other Announcements

None

9. Ten Minute Public Input

Mr. Russ Guinn presented a petition for a traffic signal at the intersection of Reinhardt College Parkway and Riverstone Terrace.

Mr. Thomas Weaver discussed support for the update to the School Safety Zone Maps.

Mr. Jeff Johnson expressed concern with Flock cameras and AI data centers.

10. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Proposed Right of Entry Agreement with Georgia Power - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram

Attachments: [Georgia Power Right of Entry Agreement](#)

- B. Approval of Amendment to the School Safety Zone Maps - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram

Attachments: [School Safety Zone Maps](#)

- C. Approval of Proposed Georgia Power Company Underground Easement for South Canton Park - Operations Manager Kelly Pendley

Attachments: [Georgia Power Easement Agreement - South Canton Park](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Yawn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and authorized the Mayor to sign all approved documents. Councilor Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Lighting Service Agreement with Georgia Power for South Canton Park - Operations Manager Kelly Pendley

Attachments: [Georgia Power Lighting Service Agreement - South Canton Park](#)

Operations Manager Kelly Pendley informed that Georgia Power will install eight LED streetlight poles with 400 feet of underground trench for power at the new South Canton Park. The service agreement is for a 24-month term and has a monthly cost of \$304.56. Georgia Power also requires a pre-payment of \$38,500 before the lighting is installed. As the lighting service agreement must be approved and executed prior to construction of underground distribution can begin, staff is seeking action on this item. Councilor Rice made a motion to approve the Lighting Service Agreement with Georgia Power for South Canton Park. Councilor Waterman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

13. City Manager's Report

City Manager Billy Peppers provided Council updates on the following:

- *Cherokee County Fire Tax Rate and Timeline*
- *Back to School Information Regarding the New Cherokee High School*
- *Hometown Connections Program through GMA*
- *Staff Recognitions*
 - o *Gunnar Redd – Promoted to Sergeant (Uniform Patrol)*
 - o *Robert Severance – Promoted to Sergeant (Training & Evidence)*
 - o *Jacky Cheng – Promoted to Marketing Manager (Tourism)*
 - o *Anijah Jones – Georgia Forward – Young Gamechangers*
 - o *Donna Bell – Team Member of the Month (June)*
 - o *Adam Dodson – Fourth of July Parade & Fireworks Event*
- *Citizen Survey Results*
- *June Operations Report*

Councilor Johnson asked about the cost of the City's fireworks display and First Friday events. Mr. Pepper stated the fireworks event cost around \$50,000 and was paid for with Hotel/Motel Taxes. First Friday events are mostly paid for through sponsorships. Councilor Johnson asked if adjustments can be made to the traffic signal at the new high school if needed. Mr. Peppers stated yes.

Councilor Roach left the meeting at this time.

Mayor Grant stated he would like to see the City pursue the Hometown Connections Program and congratulated those employees recognized for their achievements.

14. Council Introduced Items

Councilor Rice read and presented a Resolution Congratulating Mayor Bill Grant on His Appointment as North Area President of the Georgia Municipal Association's District 3 and His Reelection to the GMA Board of Directors to Mayor Grant.

15. Mayor's Report

Mayor Grant appointed Mr. Josh Bagby to fill his interim role on the Downtown Development Authority. Councilor Tolan seconded the appointment and it was approved unanimously.

16. Adjourn

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

Bill Grant, Mayor

Attest:

Annie Fortner, City Clerk

Dates Minutes Approved by Council