

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes Draft - Draft

Thursday, May 7, 2026

6:00 PM

110 Academy Street

City Council

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Invocation was led by Councilor Darrell Rice.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant.

Members Present:

*Mayor Bill Grant
Mayor Pro Tem Farris Yawn
Councilor Darrell Rice
Councilor Bryan Roach
Councilor Travis Johnson
Councilor Shawn Tolan
Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police Chief
Mr. Ryan Lockett, Finance Director
Ms. Bethany Watson, City Engineer
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Mr. Mike Morgan, IT Director
Mr. Tyler Peoples, City Planner
Ms. Kelly Pendley, Operation Manager
Ms. Amy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Jeff Rusbridge, City Attorney*

Absent:

Councilor Dwayne Waterman

3. Consideration to Approve Agenda

Mr. Yawn moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Guests and Visitors

- A. Presentation of Proclamation for Historic Preservation Month

Presentation of Proclamation for Historic Preservation Month by Mayor Grant to Community Development Director Kevin Turner and City Planner Tyler Peoples. Mayor Grant announced that the City of Canton was presented a preservation award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

5. Consideration to Approve Minutes

- A. Council Meeting Draft Minutes - April 16, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes - Council Meeting April 16, 2026](#)

Council Meeting Draft Minutes from April 16, 2026

Mr. Yawn moved to approve as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Informational Items

- A. Review of Monthly Financial Reports for February and March 2026 - Finance Director Ryan Lockett

Attachments: [FY2026-02 & 3](#)

Mr. Ryan Lockett provided an overview of revenues and expenses from February and March 2026.

- B. Information Only - Cases ANNX2604-001, RZON2604-004, VAR2604-001 - Request to Annex +/- 0.684 Acres Located at 1763 Ball Ground Highway and Rezone from R-40 (County) to GC (City) - City Planner Tyler Peoples

Attachments: [ANNX2604-001 05.07.2026](#)

Mr. Tyler Peoples informed the Council of these applications for a public hearing related to a property just north of Bojangles and would be in Ward 2. The request is to annex and rezone from residential to general commercial to construct a retail building.

- C. Information Only - Case CUP2604-002 - Request for Conditional Use Permit Approval for Multi-Family Residential Component of Proposed Mixed-Use Development at 261 East Main Street - Community Development Director Kevin Turner

Attachments: [CUP2604-002_05.07.206](#)

Mr. Kevin Turner informed the Council of this application for a public hearing related to a property in the Central Business District to be constructed as a four-story building including 10 units of residential. The project meets zoning, but requires a CUP for the multifamily component.

7. Ten Minute Public Input

Mr. Thomas Weaver--131 Old Marietta--new state law that preempts the regulation of livestock and wants to make sure the City is looking into this; appropriation of funds for the gymnasium

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Discussion and Possible Action for the Authorization of Burge Street Stormwater Repair Project - Operations Manager Kelly Pendley

Attachments: [Burge Street](#)

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Award of the Task Order 9 for the

Transportation Improvement Project Marietta Hwy/Riverstone Parkway at Hwy 140 Intersection Improvement Project Design Services to Michael Baker International in the amount of \$34,271.18 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Task Order 9 Marietta Hwy - Riverstone Pkwy](#)

- C. Discussion and Possible Action on the Award of the Task Order 10 for the Transportation Improvement Project Hwy 140 at Reinhardt College Parkway Intersection Improvement Project Design to Michael Baker International in the amount of \$84,789.76 - City Engineer Bethany Watson

Attachments: [Task Order 10 - Hwy 140 - Reinhardt College Pkwy](#)

Mr. Roach moved to approve the consent agenda as read. Mr. Yawn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Fuel Surcharge on Sanitation Rates - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram and Division VP Waste Pro Jerry Harrison

Attachments: [Waste Pro](#)

This item was presented by Waste Pro Mr. Josh Beck. He noted that fuel prices were up about \$2 gallon of diesel since January and the sanitation provider was seeking a 10 percent surcharge for fuel on residential accounts to offset fuel costs. The next billing cycle is July, so the Council has time to consider the matter. Council asked Mr. Ingram to look at other municipalities and how they have potentially created termination points or metrics for the surcharge, whether by time or average fuel costs. This will be brought back to the Council to discuss further.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Cases ANNEX2601-003, RZON2601-004 - Request to Annex +/- 4.2 Acres Located at 2521 Reinhardt College Parkway and Rezone from R-40 (County) to GC (City) - Community Development Director Kevin Turner

Attachments: [ANNEX2601-003 .05.07.2026](#)

Mr. Turner overviewed the case, which is a headquarters/office of a local pool company that includes offices, and storage of non-hazardous/non-toxic chemicals. Staff Recommends a motion to approve the annexation but rezoning the property to Office-Institutional (O-I) as a more appropriate zoning for the use intended. Staff further recommends a condition: A landscape screening of Leyland cypress and/or other evergreen trees of the like shall be installed in close conformance with the tree plan presented to the Mayor and City Council on April 2, 2026. A landscape plan shall be submitted and approved by the Community Development Director prior to planting.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the annexation and rezone to O-I and a condition of a landscape screening of evergreens from the City's plant palette. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Update and Discussion on the Public Safety Building Roof Replacement - Assistant City Manager Nathan Ingram

Attachments: [Public Safety Building](#)

Mr. Ingram noted an RFQ was issued in April. There were 4 proposals received on May 6. There will be a review committee and interviews with hopes for a recommendation on May 21 but by June 4. The RFQ has sealed cost proposals that will only be opened after qualifying proposers.

- D. Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint Municipal Court Officers - City Manager Billy Peppers

Attachments: [Court Officers April 2026](#)

Mr. Peppers noted the Council needed to formally approve court officers. The municipal court judge is a two year term by statute and the recommendation was to reappoint Tom Roach. The remaining court officers are for the calendar year and were recommended to be Jeff Rusbridge (Chief Solicitor), Laura Derrick (Solicitor), Audrey Conley (Solicitor), Seth Stroud (Solicitor), Chris Bishop (Public Defender). Mr. Roach recused himself from the discussion and action as Tom Roach is a relative.

Mr. Yawn moved to approve the slate as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved 4-0, with an abstention from Mr. Roach

10. New Business

- A. Discussion of Proposed Personnel Manual Changes - Human Resources Director Amy Thomas

Attachments: [Personnel Manual Updates 052026](#)

This item was presented by Human Resources Director Ms. Amy Thomas. The last minor updates were in 2023. Human Resources did a comprehensive review of the entire manual to improve outdated language, removal of redundancy, improved flow, and terminology. Forms were removed as appendices. Thomas provided an overview of the changes by chapter and staff will seek action at the May 21 meeting.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action of Resurfacing Intergovernmental Agreement with Cherokee County - Operations Manager Kelly Pendley

Attachments: [2026 LRA Funding](#)

Ms. Pendley noted the City is scheduled to receive \$471,270.85 in additional LRA funds, which do not require a match. The City is partnering with Cherokee County on a multi agency bid and paving project which makes a more competitive bid and lowers mobilization fees. The City proposes to have 1.774 miles resurfaced on the following streets that were next in the list under the pavement management process: Woodbury Lane, Market Court, Market Lane, Ridgewood Lane, Parkview Drive, Racquet Drive, Arbor Court, Green Street, Founders Court, Riverpoint Parkway, Cannon Street, Woodland Way, Edge Hill Court. Pendley requested approval of the agreement to move the work forward. Mayor Grant asked about the total amount. Peppers noted that the estimate for these streets is slightly under the amount received but the balance will supplement phase 1 paving.

Mr. Tolan moved to approve the IGA at \$463,569.47. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion of Request for Master Signage Plan at Canton Overlook located at 205 Hospital Road - City Planner Tyler Peoples

Attachments: [CantonOverlookMSP_05.07.2026](#)

Mr. Peoples provided background on this townhome project that is part of a master planned development. The applicant is eligible to seek a master sign plan. Mr. Johnson asked if the signs had any water feature. Peoples noted there was no water feature and maintenance would be by the HOA. Mr. Rice noted this seems more administrative than Council-oriented. Turner noted the code as written requires this go to Council, the signs are not related to variances, but are required to be approved as a master plan. He noted this could be cleared up on the UDC update so that it is staff reviewed.

- D. Discussion on Request for Abandonment of Unopened Alleyway between East Main and Tanyard Streets - Community Development Director Kevin Turner

Attachments: [EMainTanyardAlley_05.07.2026](#)

Mr. Turner noted that this alley is actually between East Main and Teasley Streets and was abandoned sometime between the 1950s and 1970s. Staff is seeking to file the paperwork to reflect that the property was abandoned disposed of to the adjacent property owners. Mayor Grant noted the City has done this before. The alley is currently 10' and would be split to abandon. Mr. Yawn noted that the City has no value in the property. Mr. Roach noted that as it is, anyone could use that as a cut-through and this is good for the property owners.

- E. Discussion on 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 Gateway Project 2026](#)

Ms. Watson noted staff put out a request for proposals in December. PDP was one of two proposers and was interviewed and received unanimous support from the staff committee. The time for work on this preliminary engineering is 13 months with another 9 months to complete the plans. Mr. Rice asked about the current bridge and how it matches with this project. Watson noted that the current bridge is pedestrian and had state grant funds.

- F. Discussion 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: [IPAWS MOU with Cherokee County 052026](#)

Mr. Peppers noted that the Cherokee County EMA received approval to use a new electronic warning system from FEMA. GEMA requires that entities using such systems where messages spill over into other jurisdictions must have a memorandum of understanding. Peppers noted there is no cost to the City and this item would be brought for approval on May 21.

11. City Manager's Report

Mr. Peppers noted that Sergeant Mary Turner of the Police Department was selected as the March 2026 Team Member of the Month. He noted that he would be presenting the traffic plan on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the School Board on May 14 and that the construction of the R-Cut would begin in the next week. He also noted that a test launch of fireworks would occur later that evening as the former launch site on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard would not be possible given recent construction projects in the area.

12. Council Introduced Items**13. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Grant made a motion to reappoint Carmen Slaughter to the Library Board. Mr. Tolan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Litigation, Real Estate, and Personnel

Mr. Yawn moved to adjourn to executive session. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.