



**MINUTES**  
**City of McDonough**  
**City Council Workshop**  
McKibben Chambers City Hall  
136 Keys Ferry Street  
April 02, 2026  
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Workshop of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Kamali Varner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The City Clerk called roll for the meeting, as follows:

Mayor Kamali Varner	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Larry Blue	Present
Councilmember Xavier Johnson	(Arrived after roll call)
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Keith Dickerson; Attorney, Alicia Thompson; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, David Williams; Interim Deputy City Administrator, Sylvia Smith; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Human Resources Director, LaTangela Hill; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; Municipal Court Clerk, Trisha Morgan; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the Agenda, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Johnson was not present for the vote.

The City Clerk sounded the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

**6A. Technology Services**

**Brian Linton, Director**

Request for approval to pay Placer.ai invoice in the amount of \$25,358.00.

Funding Source: Line Item 100-5.1535.52.1301

**6B. Public Works**

**William VonDenBosch, Director**

Request for approval to authorize Current Edge Solutions to install a 104-amp transfer switch in the IT computer room at Public Works, at a cost of \$34,106.00. Funding

Source: SPLOST V – Project 11 326 5.1535.54.2599

**6C. Public Works**

**William VonDenBosch, Director**

Request for approval to authorize Troy Customer Builders LLC to make repairs to 32 Jonesboro Street building (Veterans Affairs building), at a cost of \$18,200.00. Funding

Source: Line Item 327 5.6180.54.1000

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Councilmember Thomas made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Johnson was not present for the vote.

Yasna Grainger, Director of the McDonough Tourism Board presented an update on the current initiatives for promoting travel and tourism in the City of McDonough.

Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts presented a request for approval to purchase hoses and fittings for the diesel bypass pump from Xylem at a cost of \$27,738.37. He identified the funding source as SPLOST VI 327-5.4335.54.2148. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Assistant Director Butts then presented a request for authorization to purchase and install 15 speed bumps on Lakemont Drive going to the Southern Crescent College, at a cost of \$3,000 + \$6,000 labor costs. He identified the funding source as line item 100-5.4210.54.1406. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Varner requested that Mr. Butts get the costs for what speed tables would cost in lieu of speed bumps and bring that information back for consideration at the next meeting.

City Administrator, Keith Dickerson presented a request for the review and approval of two proposed murals to be installed within the downtown Main Street District. The first mural is planned near 20 Macon Street, along the side of the New Sole Running building, with the second mural near 45 Macon Street. He noted that the total costs associated with the requests will be \$42,700.00, funded through 100-5.7540.53.3325.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the murals as presented, and Councilmember Johnson seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community & Economic Development Director, Sylvia Smith presented case number Case #260204, a petition to rezone property located at 175 & 199 Griffin Street and Highland Avenue, from RM-75 (Multi-Family Residential) & M-1 (Light Industrial) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) consisting of Family Residential and Office/Commercial uses. The Applicant was in attendance and discussed the plan to offer both ranch and two-story homes within the development, and to utilize an existing home on the property for office space. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Johnson asked about the Developer's plans to protect quality of life for residents with the property located so close to the train tracks. Mayor Pro Tem Burt expressed concerns about low visibility for drivers at Hampton and Highland Avenue. This case is scheduled to come back for a Public Hearing and vote at the April 20, 2026, City Council Meeting.

City Clerk, Christy Taylor presented the 2025 Annual Report for the Clerk's Office.

Municipal Court Clerk, Trisha Morgan presented the 2025 Annual Report for Municipal Court.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to defer the discussion and vote related to the Solicitation Ordinance to the April 20, 2026, City Council Meeting; and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Administrator Dickerson presented the request for authorization to award Goodwyn Mills & Caywood (GMC), the contract for the design of Geranium Park, at a cost of \$44,000. He identified the funding source for the project as SPLOST VI 327-5.6220.54.1208. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to award the contract for the design of Geranium Park to GMC, at a cost of \$44,000.00, and Councilmember Blue seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-2; Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1); and Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to go into Executive Session, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to reconvene Regular Session. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to reconvene, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to hire Andrew Cauthen as the Communication Director, and Councilmember Johnson seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Blue made a motion to promote Sylvia Smith to the position of Deputy City Administrator, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion for the approval of the March 16, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

After closing comments, Mayor Varner adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Christy L. Taylor, CMC  
City Clerk

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This is a regularly scheduled meeting of Mayor and Council of the City of McDonough duly noticed pursuant to the requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings Law (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1, et seq). Notice of the meeting schedule was published in the *Henry Herald* on November 22, 2025; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.