



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Workshop
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
March 5, 2026
6:00 PM

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; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Interim Deputy City Administrator, Sylvia Smith; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Human Resources Director, LaTangela Hill; Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Wastewater Plant Director, Jeremy Newton; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; Budget Manager, Dana Strickland; Building Official, Ayiende Toby; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Thomas gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Payton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the agenda with one amendment, to reorder Items 16 and 17, and make those items 9A and 9B. Councilmember Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

The City Clerk sounded the Consent Agenda as follows:

6A. Technology Services

Request for authorization to pay the Civic Plus invoice for the See-Click-Fix Annual Renewal, in the amount of \$13,573.52. Funding Source: 100-5.1535.52.1301

Brian Linton, Director

6B. Administration

Approval of the February 16, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Christy Taylor, City Clerk

6C. Wastewater Department

Jeremy Newton, Director

Request approval for Cornerstone Mechanical to replace the shaft and bearings on Aeration 1, at a cost of \$34,995.00. Funding Source: 505-5.4335.52.2200

D. Wastewater Department

Jeremy Newton, Director

Request authorization to purchase one Xylem 85 H.P pump for Garden Walk pump station, at a cost of \$85,594.40. Funding Source: 505-5.4335.54.2501

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Blue made a motion to approve, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Public Comments:

1. Michael Williams – received a ticket for loud noise
2. Scott Nyman – Discussed the potential for increase in traffic volume related to the proposed McDonough Civic Complex; and asked if the impacts to connecting streets is considered in rezoning decisions.
3. Deborah Akpa – Discussed the lack of infrastructure, traffic impacts and sewer capacity related to the proposed Anderson Landing development

Mayor Varner called for a motion to adopt a Resolution Establishing the Rules of Decorum for City of McDonough Meetings. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-03-05.1, Establishing the Rules of Decorum for City of McDonough Meetings, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to adopt a Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility In the City of McDonough. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Wastewater Plant Director, Jeremy Newton presented the Annual Report for the Wastewater Plant.

Technology Services Director, Brian Linton presented the Annual Report for the Technology Services Department.

Communications Director Andrew Cauthen reviewed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) related to Communications within the City. Discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to adopt the Communications SOP as presented, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Police Chief Ken Noble presented a request for authorization to purchase a narcotic and tracking canine, for a cost of \$10,800.00. He noted that the cost includes the purchase of the canine and the training of the officer that will be appointed to the canine, and he identified the funding source as 214-5.3210.54.2500 (RedSpeed Account). Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Blue made a motion to authorize the purchase of a narcotic and tracking canine for a cost of \$10,800.00, as requested, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie, along with Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw and Budget Manager, Dana Strickland presented the request for the adoption of a Resolution to approve the Budget amendment #2 for the FY 2025-2026 for certain accounts. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Thomas requested that in the future, the details of any proposed budget amendments be provided to the Governing Body before the day of the meeting.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-03-05, approving Budget Amendment #2 for the FY 2025-2026, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch presented a request for the approval of the release of the remaining authorized funds for SPLOST VI Project #29 (Roadway Plantings) in the amount of \$500,000.00. He said that the funds would support the ongoing planting initiatives, which are scheduled for completion within the current fiscal year.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the request to release the remaining authorized funds for the project as requested, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Attorney, Emilia Walker requested that the City adopt a Resolution authorizing the City's participation in AFFF-PFAS Class Action Litigation. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the City's participation in AFFF-PFAS Class Action Litigation, and Councilmember Johnson seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community & Economic Development Director, Sylvia Smith reviewed case #250903, MTS ATL, LLC c/o Eastwood Homes of GA for Anderson Landing. She noted that the request is to rezone approximately 54.54 acres on Turner Church Road from RA-200 (Residential Agricultural) to R-75 (Single-Family Residential). Attorney Stephen Jones, along with the Applicant, Nick Whitson, Engineer Brian Howell, and Vern Wilburn addressed the Governing Body about the proposed development.

After the presentations were concluded, the City Attorney advised that the case had not been properly advertised; therefore, it should be postponed for up to 45 days. Councilmember Reeves made a motion to postpone case number 250903, for up to 45 days, and Councilmember Blue seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Thomas presented a Solicitation Ordinance for consideration by the Governing Body. Discussion ensued. After the discussion, it was determined that the Solicitation Ordinance will be brought back at the March 16, 2026, City Council Meeting for a vote.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of 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). Councilmember Reeves made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to reconvene Regular Session. Councilmember Thomas made a motion to reconvene, and Councilmember Johnson seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Blue left the meeting prior to Executive Session.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the employment agreement between the City and Keith Dickerson for City Administrator, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Blue was not present for the vote.

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

After closing comments, Mayor Varner adjourned the meeting at 10:03 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.