



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
June 16, 2025
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sandra Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Sandra Vincent	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kamali Varner	(Arrived after roll call)
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Dave Williams; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Budget Manager, Dana Strickland; Open Records Officer, Kathy Story; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

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

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Proclamations for McDonough International Gospel Festival and Flag Day. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda as stated, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the vote.

Public Comments:

- Lori Soward – negative social media posts by the public and proposed Resolution
- Eddie Smith – Hazelhurst House and concern over proposed PRIDE Resolution
- Christine Thorton – Proposed Resolution discussion
- Morrelle McCrary – social media posts; and Thank you Public Works
- Simone Katona – Will Geranium Drive be replaced in the City?

- Lisa Crawford – Great job by Police Department at NoKings Protest; Constitutional Rights protect all people
- Lilten Marks – Constitutional Rights and Proposed PRIDE Resolution

During the public comments, Mayor Vincent expressed that the communication regarding a PRIDE Resolution was an email she drafted directly to the Governing Body, to survey the Council on whether there was support to move forward. She stated that the responses she received from the Council indicated no support for the City to adopt the Resolution; therefore, no Resolution was presented.

The Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation Honoring Ms. Verlia Mae Price as well as a Proclamation Honoring Ms. Fannie Crawford during the meeting. Mayor Vincent noted that a Proclamation for McDonough International Gospel Festival was also issued on behalf of the City.

A Flag Day Proclamation was read into the record by Mayor Vincent. Councilmember Reeves stated that he did not fully support the language in the Proclamation and requested that it be issued on behalf of the Mayor and not the City Council or City Administration. Mayor Vincent requested that the Clerk make the requested change to the Proclamation.

Masharn Wilson with NCRAD offered an update related to current Housing Rehabilitation projects within the City of McDonough. Ms. Wilson stated that the organization has received 82 application requests, 11 completed applications, and that 5 of those applications have received tentative approval. She said that construction on those projects would begin around July 2025.

Technology Services Director, Brian Linton presented a request for approval to purchase the GoGov application for the City of McDonough at a cost of \$5,800.00; and authorize the Mayor to sign the documents. He identified the Funding Source for the purchase as SPLOST V

Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker, and Public Relations Contractor, Hope Vincent gave a presentation and discussed opportunities for Art in Public Spaces. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Reeves asked that the Main Street Board be more involved in these discussions; and Morrell McCrary from the Main Street Board came forward to confirm that the discussions had recently included members of the Board.

Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie, along with Budget Manager, Dana Strickland offered a presentation of the FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget:

- The proposed budget represents an increase of 7.99% over the current FY 2024-2025 budget.
- FY 2025-2026 proposed budget revenues for all funds total \$85,550,106.
- FY 2025-2026 proposed expenditures for all funds total \$85,550,106.
- There are 20 new positions in the proposed budget.

Mayor Vincent opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in opposition; and no one spoke in favor. Ms. Christine Thornton expressed concerns over increasing property taxes. Mike Crawford said he would like to see more enforcement on rental properties. Mayor Vincent closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the FY 2025-2026 Budget as presented, and as required by Georgia Code, O.C.G.A. 36-81-5 (2010); and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves abstained.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2). Councilmember Burt motioned and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

There were no action items to report.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Burt motioned and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Payton was not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Executive Session for Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1). Councilmember Reeves motioned and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Payton was not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Councilmember Thomas motioned and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the vote.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to authorize the Mayor to finalize and execute lease assignment agreements and a related purchase and sale agreement with The Commerce Building, LLC, and McDonough Commercial Properties, LLC, and related tenants for the purchase and assignment of commercial and residential property within the City, at or about Zack Hinton Parkway and Bryan Street, for a purchase price of \$8.4 million. Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves voted in opposition; and Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the May 19, 2025, City Council Minutes. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the June 5, 2025, City Council Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the vote.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:52 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 20, 2024; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.