MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
July 21, 2025
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, July 21, 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	Present
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Steve Morgan; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, Dave Williams; Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; Community Development Director, Sylvia Smith; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Budget Manager, Dana Strickland; Open Records Officer, Kathy Story; and Help Desk Technician, Robinson 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 a Proclamation Recognizing the Payton Family Reunion and the presentation of an award to Councilmember Thomas from Freddie Broome, on behalf of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Public Comments

1. Montena Frazier Young – vacant properties within the City
2. Eddy Smith – Covenant for Jean Charlot mural in the Polk Museum
   Proposed increase in compensation for the Governing Body
   Henry County Tax Commissioner collects 1.5% of taxes collected for the City.
3. Terique Bill – new resident who is interested in City Council and Police Department
4. Nonia Amis – issues on Phillips Drive with potholes, streetlights and Code Enforcement
   Safety issues on James Street
   Noise ordinance enforcement
5. Jason Elkady – homelessness in the City is on the rise
   Sidewalks need repairs on Jonesboro Street
6. Ricky Beauchamp – Proposed increase in compensation for Mayor and Council
   What benefits do the Governing Body receive in addition to compensation?
7. Omega Finney – vacant homes in the Blacksville Community
   Code Enforcement
   Community Meetings regarding FLOCK were informative

Mayor Vincent noted that Proclamations were issued Celebrating the 40th Birthday of Pastor Jarvis Alls and Recognizing the Payton Family Reunion.

Mr. Freddie Broome with GMA presented an award for Municipal Leadership Training to Councilmember Vanessa Thomas upon her completion of the course.

Police Chief, Ken Noble presented a request for approval to pay the FLOCK Safety Platform LPR Falcon Maintenance invoice in the amount of $70,000.00. He identified the Funding Source as Line Item 214-5.3210.53.1795 (RedSpeed).

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the request for payment of the FLOCK Safety Platform LPR Falcon Maintenance invoice in the amount of $70,000.00; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Administrator, Steve Morgan presented a request for authorization for the Mayor to execute the GDOT Memorandum of Understanding for the Crossing at Racetrack Road at RR MP 181. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the GDOT MOU for the Crossing at Racetrack Road at RR MP 181, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Fire Chief Dave Williams presented a request for authorization to pay Ten-8 Fire and Safety invoice for emergency repairs to Engine 51, at a cost of $24,006.17. He identified the Funding Source as 2024-25 GL 100-5.3520.52.2210 (Auto & Truck Repairs and Maintenance).

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to authorize the payment to Ten-8 Fire and Safety for the emergency repairs to Engine 51 at a cost of $24,006.17, as requested; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie presented a request for authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement to purchase Debtbook software, which will be used to maintain leases and subscriptions to comply with GASB 87 and 96, at a cost of $5,000 per year for three years. He identified the Funding Source for the expenditure as Line Item 100-5.1535.52.1301. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Debtbook software agreement as requested, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Finance Department Budget Manager, Dana Strickland presented an Excel spreadsheet showing the requested FY 2024-2025 Budget amendment for all accounts. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment as requested, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community Development Director, Sylvia Smith reviewed case number 250502, the request to rezone property at 310 Griffin Street from M-1 (Light Industrial) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) for use as a medical office. She noted that staff has recommended a postponement until the August 18, 2025, City Council Meeting; so, the case can be reviewed by the Planning Commission for their recommendation prior to a vote by the Governing Body.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to postpone the vote on case number 250502 to the August 18, 2025, City Council Meeting, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Sandra Vincent stated that the City had received an invitation from the Board Commission Chair to attend a Joint Meeting on July 29 for a proposed FLOST Discussion. Discussion ensued. It was determined that the Council would need more information on the matter and offered a consensus that they are not in favor of increased taxes.

City Administrator Morgan presented a request for authorization to utilize Moss and Associates to provide architectural services and prepare drawings that will allow the City to draft an RFP for construction of the new police precinct at Avalon. This vendor is the original architect of the existing four-story office building. He identified the Funding Source as SPLOST VI. Discussion ensued.

It was determined from the discussion that Mr. Morgan would bring back the costs of the project at the August 7, 2025, City Council Workshop, for further consideration by the Council.

City Attorney, Emilia Walker presented the request for the adoption of a Resolution approving the proposed Increase to Mayor and Council Annual Compensation, as stated below:

- Mayoral compensation to be increased from $18,000 annually to $24,000 annually, as of January 1, 2026.
- Councilmember compensation to be increased from $12,000 annually to $20,000 annually, as of January 1, 2026.

Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-07-21, approving the proposed Increase to Mayor and Council Annual Compensation, as presented; and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was four in favor, one in opposition, and two abstentions. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Reeves voted in opposition. Mayor Vincent and Councilmember Thomas abstained.

Councilmember Reeves requested a roll-call vote of the Governing Body, which yielded the following results:

Councilmember Burt	In Favor
Councilmember Reeves	In Opposition
Councilmember Payton	In Favor
Mayor Vincent	Abstained
Councilmember Stewart	In Favor
Mayor Pro Tem Varner	In Favor
Councilmember Thomas	Abstained

Mayor Vincent 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 Varner made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to go back into Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to reconvene, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

No action items were reported from Executive Session.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the approval of the June 30, 2025, Special-Called Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt 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 June 30, 2025, Special-Called City Council Meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the approval of the July 1, 2025, City Council Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, 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 July 1, 2025, City Council Workshop.

The City Clerk noted that an invitation from the City of Locust Grove to attend the quarterly Henry Municipal Association Dinner on August 14, 2025, was left at each of the seats on the dais.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:32 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.