MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting

McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
August 18, 2025
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, August 18, 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	Absent
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, David Williams; Police Major Kyle Helgerson; Police Major Paul Honcharik; Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Public Works Director, William VonDenBosch; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; Open Records Officer, Kathy Story; Planning Tech, Tina Tebo; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Burt 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 the consideration of a Resolution Encouraging the Obtainability of FLOST Tax Relief in Collaboration between Henry County and Its Respective Cities, as Item 7A; and recognizing Andy Butts as the presenter for Agenda Items 15 through 17. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

The City Clerk sounded the Consent Agenda, as follows:

Consent Agenda

6A. Technology Services **Brian Linton, Director**

Request for approval to pay the SHI invoice for PaloAlto Appliance Firewall, in the amount of $12,152.25. Funding Source: Line Item 100-5.1535.52.1301

6B. Technology Services **Brian Linton, Director**

Request for approval to pay the Civic Plus Agendas and Meetings platform renewal invoice, in the amount of $19,731.56. Funding Source: Line Item 100-05.1535.52.1301

6C. Administration **Christy Taylor, City Clerk**

Approval of the August 7, 2025, City Council Workshop Minutes

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Public Comments:

- Susan Sparrow – McDonough Civic Complex
  What changes were adopted to the Zoning Code in January?
- Noni Amis – Thank you Chief Noble for addressing the issues on James Street
  Code Enforcement issues remain on Phillips Drive
  Request for a copy of the Nuisance Code.

City Attorney Emilia Walker presented Resolution 25-08-18, for adoption, Encouraging the Obtainability of FLOST Tax Relief in Collaboration between Henry County and Its Respective Cities; and for Other Purposes. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-08-18, as presented; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Planning Technician, Tina Tebo notified the Governing Body that the Applicant in case 250502 has requested a postponement of the Public Hearing and Vote on their petition to September 15, 2025.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to postpone case number 250502, to September 15, 2025, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Drew Walston, CEO & President of Mighty Hero Homes and Mr. Alton Head offered a Concept Presentation of a proposed 12-unit housing community for homeless veterans to be developed on Legion Road.

After the presentation was concluded, Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to proceed with a city-initiated petition to rezone property located at or about 122 Legion Road, from R-75 to PUD, for the purpose of assisting homeless veterans; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Finance Director Dr. Ralph Igwedibie made presentation reviewing the proposed 2025 Millage Rate of 3.033, for the City of McDonough. He noted that the Henry County Tax Commissioner had proposed a Rollback Rate of 3.009; however, the recommendation is for the City to maintain the Millage Rate of 3.033, which has been consistent since 2022. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Vincent opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in opposition; Ms. Omega Finney spoke in favor. Mayor Vincent closed the Public Hearing. Henry County Tax Commissioner Michael Harris was present for the meeting, and he addressed how the Rollback Rate of 3.009 was calculated.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 25-08-18, establishing the 2025 Millage Rate of 3.033; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Police Major Paul Honcharik presented a request for the approval to purchase of two (2) 2026 Kia EV9 Light Long Range RWD vehicles from Hutchinson Kia in Macon, GA, for the McDonough Police Department. He stated that each vehicle will be equipped with the base emergency equipment used in all admin vehicles with the equipment being purchased from West Chatham Warning Devices in Savannah, GA (installed in Griffin, GA location), at a total cost of $115,613.98. He identified the funding source as Public Safety Facility and Equipment - RedSpeed 214-5.3210.53.1795.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the vehicle purchases as presented, and Mayor Pro Tem Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Major Honcharik presented a request for the approval of the purchase of (5) 2025 Ford Interceptor SUVs with police package, from Legacy Ford for the Uniform Patrol Division, to include the addition of emergency lighting packages from West Chatham in Griffin, GA; Emergency Radios from Loudoun Communications in Douglasville, GA; and striping from Sign Craft in McDonough, GA, at a cost of $76,658.90 per vehicle, totaling $366,804.43. He identified the funding source as SPLOST VI Project 19 Line Item: 326-5.3210.54.2200

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the purchase of five (5) 2025 Ford Interceptors as presented, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Madison Doty with Lexis Nexis made a presentation for LexisNexis Risk Solutions- Accurint Virtual Crime Center, Accurint TraX, and Clearview AI. She reviewed how the different technologies can be utilized in both crime prevention and investigation.

After the presentation, Major Kyle Helgerson presented a request for approval for the purchase and implementation of LexisNexis Risk Solutions- Accurint Virtual Crime Center, Accurint TraX, and Clearview AI, at the following costs: Year 1- $18,753.00; Year 2- $22,063.00; Year 3- $26,361.00. Funding Sources: Year 1- Public Safety Facility and Equipment (RedSpeed) GL Account 214-5.3210.53.1795; Year 2 and 3- IT Software GL Account 100-5.1535.52.1301. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to approve the purchase and implementation of LexisNexis Risk Solutions, as presented; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Public Works Director William VonDenBosch presented a request approval for the Mayor to sign all documents approving Georgia Safe Sidewalks to repair the sidewalk trip hazards in Brush Arbor Subdivision and bring the sidewalks up to ADA guidelines, at a cost of $38,750.00. He noted that Georgia Safe Sidewalks is a sole-source provider; therefore, no competitive quotes were presented; and he identified the funding source for the project as 326-5.4210.54.1402 SPLOST V. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Mayor Pro Tem Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts presented a request for approval to authorize Pump and Process Equipment to replace a broken pump at Church Circle pump station, at a cost of $14,036.00. He identified the funding source as Line Item 505-5.4335.52.2200.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the request to replace the broken pump as presented, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Butts presented a request for approval to purchase a replacement pump for Bridle Ridge pump station from GoForth Williamson at a cost of $16,170.00. He identified the funding source for the replacement as 505-5.4335.52.2200.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Butts then presented a request for approval to authorize Cornerstone Mechanical to replace an ageing gearbox on Clarifier 5, at a cost of $72,865.00. He stated the funding source for the replacement as 505-5.4335.52.3850.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Mayor Pro Tem Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Public Works Director William VonDenBosch presented a request for authorization to enter into a Utility-Aid agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for assistance in funding the water and sewer relocations in GDOT Project: P I No: 0015089; City of McDonough; Henry County SR 81 from E of SR 81 WE to E of CR 371/Bethany Road. The current total estimated construction relocation (in-kind) cost is approximately $3,290,960.00, and the maximum contribution from the City of McDonough is limited to $1,645,480.00. The following payment installment schedule is agreed between the City of McDonough and GDOT: Installment 1 - 50% ($822,740.00) - Due immediately after Project Let (January/February 2026) and Installment 2 - 50% ($822,740.00) - Due 12 months after Project Let (January 2027). He noted that TSPLOST is the identified funding source for the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Varner made a motion to approve the agreement with GDOT as presented, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

City Attorney, Emilia Walker presented a request for authorization for the City to participate in the National Opioid Settlement with Sandoz, and for Mayor to execute Participation Form and documents related to the same.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the participation in the Sandoz Settlement, and Mayor Pro Tem Varner seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Thomas was not present for the vote, and Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Attorney Walker also presented a request for authorization for the City to participate in the National Opioid Settlement with Purdue Pharma, L.P. and other related entities, and for Mayor to execute MOU and documents related to the same.

Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the City's participation in the Purdue Pharma Settlement, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Thomas was not present for the vote, and Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

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). Councilmember Burt made a motion to go into Executive Session, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to reconvene Regular Session. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to reconvene, and Mayor Pro Tem Varner seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Mayor Pro Tem Varner, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

No action items were reported from Executive Session.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the approval of the August 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Special-Called City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the August 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Special-Called City Council Meeting; therefore, she did not vote. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion for the approval of the August 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Special-Called City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Stewart, and Councilmember Thomas. Mayor Pro Tem Varner was not present for the August 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Special-Called City Council Meeting; therefore, she did not vote. Councilmember Reeves was absent from the meeting.

The City Clerk stated that qualifying of candidates was opened this morning at 8:30, and two candidates were successfully qualified for the November 4, 2025, Municipal Election.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 8:30 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.