



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Workshop
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
September 4, 2025
6:00 PM

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
Councilmember Jamal Burt	Present
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Present
Councilmember Rufus Stewart	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present
Councilmember Kamali Varner	(Vacated seat to qualify in upcoming election)

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Steve Morgan; Attorney Jaquita Parks, Esq. (on behalf of Emilia Walker) City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker; Fire Battalion Chief Tony Griffin; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Health and Human Services Director, Barbara Coleman; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; City Planner, Aaron Hypolite; Open Records Officer, Kathy Owens; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Reeves gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Burt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 8B, a Resolution In Support of Dementia Education, Memory Care, The Principles of Livelong Livability, and the City's Health Equity Plan. Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve the Agenda as stated, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

6A. Public Works **Steve Morgan/William VonDenBosch**
Ratify emergency repairs made to 162 Keys Ferry St. Human Services Building to include Phase 1 Asbestos Testing & Mitigation, at a cost of \$25,140.00; and Phase 2 Flood Mitigation & Repairs, at a cost of \$18,400.00. Funding Source: Building Repairs & Maintenance 100 5.1565.52.2240.

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

Request for approval to pay the annual maintenance renewal of the City's Website Civic Plus invoice in the amount of \$12,044.81. Funding Source: Line Item 100-5.1535.52.1301

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

Request for to pay the annual maintenance renewal Cellebrite invoice for \$10,270.00. Funding Source: Line Item 100-5.1535.52.1301

Discussion ensued. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Public Comments:

- Eddy Smith – When will the mural be open to the public? Mayor responded September 20.
- Glen Grimwood – Cited concerns over the proposed McDonough Civic Complex Development
- Scott Nyman – Cited concerns over the proposed McDonough Civic Complex Development and the Zoning Code Update that was approved on January 2, 2025.

The Governing Body presented a Proclamation Recognizing September as National Recovery Month, to Michelle Amara and Chris Morgan.

Health and Human Services Director, Barbara Coleman presented the request for the adoption of a Resolution 2025-09-04, In Support of Dementia Education, Memory Care, The Principles of Livelong Livability, and the City's Health Equity Plan. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-09-04, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor.

The Governing Body recognized the Wastewater Treatment Plant Employees for receiving the 2025 AWP (Georgia Association of Water Professionals) Wastewater Treatment Plant Platinum Award for the seventeenth consecutive year.

Yasmine Khorashahi with Henry County made a presentation of the proposed Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) and made a request that the City of McDonough join the other cities and adopt a Resolution 25-09-04, adopting the plan, noting that the County adopted TSAP at the Commissioner's Meeting on September 3, 2025. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-09-04, adopting the Henry County Transportation Action Plan, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor.

City Planner, Aaron Hypolite offered a presentation of a proposed Complete Streets Policy, which would prioritize individuals of all backgrounds to live and travel freely, safely, and comfortably throughout the City of McDonough, whereby every public right-of-way shall be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained such that residents of all ages and abilities have multi-modal transportation options to travel by foot, bicycle, public transportation, or automobile safely and conveniently to and from their destinations.

After the presentation, Mr. Hypolite presented the request for the adoption of Resolution 25-09-04.1, for the City of McDonough to adopt a Complete Streets Policy. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-09-04.1, as presented; and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Andy Butts, Assistant Director of Public Works offered a presentation requesting that the Council establish the Wastewater Plant and Water Treatment Plant Departments. He stated that each of the Plant Managers are required to obtain specific licensing related to their positions and do not require oversight from the Public Works Director. Additionally, the request was to change the titles of Plant Managers to Plant Directors and reclassify the positions to the 119-pay grade at midpoint in alignment with existing Department Directors. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Thomas questioned why this was not considered during the Compensation Study that was approved in November 2024; and shared her concern that the Human Resources Director and Public Works Director were not in attendance to provide a response. Discussion continued.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to establish the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant Departments with the recommended salary adjustments not to exceed the 119 pay-grade midpoint, and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

Human and Health Services Director, Barbara Coleman made a request for authorization for the Mayor to sign a Letter of Intent with Hands of Hope Clinic, in an effort to provide medical services for residents in need. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor.

City Planner, Aaron Hypolite announced that Community Development Case 250613 was officially withdrawn by the Applicant.

Deputy City Administrator, Andrew Baker and Ms. Hope Vincent made a presentation for McDonough Art Circles: Crosswalk Project. The presentation included examples of adding artwork to crosswalks throughout the City, as a beautification project in each district. The pilot project would take place in District 2, at the roundabout at Alexander Park West, and would include a total of 8 crosswalks, at a total cost of \$130,000.00, which would be paid through SPLOST V – Project 21. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves and Councilmember Burt expressed the desire to see alternative artwork presented prior to approval; and it was agreed that alternative options for the artwork would be presented prior to installation.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to authorize Big Apple Services, Inc. to install artwork on eight crosswalks at the District 2 pilot site at the roundabout on Jonesboro Road, at a total cost of \$130,000.00, to be funded by SPLOST V – Project 21; and Councilmember Stewart seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Vincent presented a request for Council approval to reestablish the pay grade for the City Clerk's position from 116 to 119, in alignment with other Department Heads. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve the reclassification, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Vincent requested authorization to enter negotiations with civic groups on the use of the property at 328 Macon Street. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Councilmember Payton nominated Councilmember Rufus Stewart to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the remainder of 2025, and Councilmember Thomas seconded the nomination. The vote to elect Rufus Stewart to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the remainder of 2025 was six in favor.

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 Thomas made a motion to go into Executive Session, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to reconvene Regular Session. Councilmember Thomas made a motion to reconvene, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was five in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Stewart left the meeting after Executive Session.

Councilmember Burt made a motion to fill the contractual position of Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council, not to exceed \$6,500 per month; and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was four in favor and one abstention. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves abstained. Councilmember Stewart left the meeting after Executive Session.

Mayor Vincent called for a motion to approve the August 18, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Thomas made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was four in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Vincent, Councilmember Burt, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves abstained. Councilmember Stewart left the meeting after Executive Session.

The City Clerk stated that qualifying is currently taking place through Friday, September 5, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., for a special election to fill the vacated seat in District 4.

Mayor Vincent adjourned the meeting at 9:38 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 30, 2024; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.