



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Workshop
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
February 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	Present
Councilmember Darryl Payton	Present
Councilmember Scott Reeves	Absent (due to the birth of a grandchild)
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: Interim Deputy City Administrator, Sylvia Smith, Attorney Earl Turner (on behalf of Emilia Walker); City Clerk; Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Fire Chief, David Williams; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; Building Official, Ayiende Toby; Administrative Assistant, Ashleigh Ann Wells; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the Agenda, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

The City Clerk sounded the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

6A. Administration

City Clerk, Christy Taylor

Approval of the January 20, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Public Comments:

1. Eddy Smith – An email regarding The Helper Bee, LLC, is forthcoming to Council. Is there an update on when the museum will open considering the federal requirement that the mural be open to the public?

Ms. Rashida Cloud with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) made a presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Former Councilmember Rufus Stewart, who was in attendance at the meeting. After the presentation, Mr. Stewart and Mayor Varner offered remarks about his commitment and dedication to the City of McDonough.

Mayor Varner offered the nomination of Audrey Moore as her appointee to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA). Councilmember Payton stated that he will make his nomination for BOZA at the February 16, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Police Chief Ken Noble presented a request to ratify the August 18, 2025, approval to purchase (5) 2025 Ford Interceptor SUVs with police package from Legacy Ford to purchase said vehicles from Brannan Motors for the Uniform Patrol Division, at a cost of \$46,200 per vehicle, totaling \$231,000.00. He noted Legacy did not have the inventory to fulfill the agreement, and that the purchase from Brannan would result in a savings of approximately \$26,000, for the City. He identified the approved funding source as SPLOST V Project 12. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Payton made a motion to approve the request to ratify the agreement for the purchase of five 2025 Ford Interceptors SUV's, from Legacy to Brannon Motors, as presented; and Councilmember Blue seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts presented a request for approval to purchase one 2026 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 double cab with an eight-foot service body from Bellamy Strickland, at a cost of \$59,574.00, for the Stormwater Department; and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents. He stated that the vehicle would be the replacement for a 2004 model truck with 233,000 miles and identified the funding source for the purchase as 506-5.4970.54.2200. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, and Councilmember Payton seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Community & Economic Development Department Director, Sylvia Smith, and Building Official, Ayiende Toby presented the Annual Report for the Community & Economic Development Department.

Director Smith stated for the record that Barbara Coleman, Director of the Health and Human Services Department, was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, she requested that the Connecting Henry Annual Report be postponed to the February 16, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion to defer the presentation to the February 16, 2026, City Council Meeting as requested, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the appointment of Keith Dickerson as City Administrator. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to appoint Mr. Dickerson to the position of City Administrator, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Varner 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 for the purposes stated, and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Varner called for a motion go to back into Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to reconvene, and Councilmember Blue seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 25-02-05, Adopting an Expense Reimbursement Policy Consistent with State Law and For Other Lawful Purposes; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves was not present at the meeting.

After closing comments, Mayor Varner adjourned the meeting at 7:52 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 22, 2025; and a copy the meeting schedule was posted at City Hall and on the City's website, as required by law.