



MINUTES
City of McDonough
City Council Meeting
McKibben Chambers City Hall
136 Keys Ferry Street
April 20, 2026
6:00 PM

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of McDonough City Council was held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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	Present
Councilmember Vanessa Thomas	Present

Others in attendance: City Administrator, Keith Dickerson; City Attorney, Emilia Walker; City Clerk, Christy Taylor; Police Chief, Ken Noble; Deputy City Administrator, Sylvia Smith; Communications Director, Andrew Cauthen; Finance Director, Dr. Ralph Igwedibie; Human Resources Director, LaTangela Hill; Technology Services Director, Brian Linton; Police Major Paul Honcharik; Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts; Assistant Finance Director, Deborah Upshaw; Budget Manager, Dana Strickland; Building Official, Ayiende Toby; Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Tena Velasquez; Executive Assistant to the City Administrator, Dyshema Crudup; and Help Desk Technician, Rob Monnelus.

Councilmember Johnson gave the Invocation; and Councilmember Payton 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 Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

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

6A. Technology Services

Brian Linton, Director

Request for approval of the SHI quote for licenses, Gateway Appliance and Software version updates through Cisco. The cost for phase one is \$60,637.19, plus vendor installation fees. Funding Source: SPLOST V 326-5.1535.54.2599

6B. Public Works – Water/Sewer

William VonDenBosch, Director

Request authorization to renew the annual contract with 120Water, to assist the City in meeting the required Lead/Copper Mandate, at a cost of \$12,869.00. Funding Source: Line Item: 505-5.4440.52.3860

6C. Public Works

Andy Butts, Assistant Director

Request for approval to pay the Otis Elevator annual maintenance in the amount of \$15,896.04. Funding Source: Line Item: 100-5.1565.52.2240

6D. Wastewater Plant

Jeremy Newton, Director

Request for approval to purchase one 2026 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 crew cab from Bellamy Strickland in McDonough, at a cost of \$ 47,669.00. Funding Source: 505-5.4335.54.2200

6E. Wastewater Plant

Jeremy Newton, Director

Request for approval to authorize Current Edge Solutions to provide all electrical services and materials to install SPLOST funded generator at Garden Walk pump station, at a cost of \$33,422.00. Funding Source: SPLOST VI (Garden Walk Generator Project 50) 327-5.4335.54.2150

6F. Public Works – Sewer Maintenance

William VonDenBosch, Director

Request for approval to purchase one 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4x4 with a 8’ Service Body Bellamy Strickland- McDonough, at a cost of \$56,974.00. Funding Source: 505-5.4331.54.2200

6G. Public Works

William VonDenBosch, Director

Request for approval to authorize Onsite Paving to install 5 asphalt speed tables on Lakemont Drive going to Southern Crescent College, at a cost of \$28,375.00. Funding Source: SPLOST V 326-5.4210.54.1402

6H. Public Works

William VonDenBosch, Director

Request for approval to purchase one 2026 GMC Sierra 1500 PRO work truck from Bellamy Strickland- McDonough at a cost of \$42,029.00. Funding Source: Line Item: 505-5.4440.54.2200

6I. Public Works

Andy Butts, Assistant Director

Request for the approval of the annual 3% sanitation rate increase effective June 1,2026.

6J. Administration

Christy Taylor, City Clerk

Approval of the April 02, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Thomas requested that items 6D; 6F; 6GF; 6H; and 6I be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda for discussion.

Mayor Varner called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and to move Items 6D; 6F; 6G; 6H; and 6I, to Items 10A; 10B; 10C; 10D; and 10E, for discussion as requested. Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended on the record, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was six in favor and one in opposition. The motion passed. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Reeves voted in opposition.

Public Comments:

1. Carlos Cardenas – Please amend the noise ordinance to change the time from 7 – 9:00 p.m., to 8:00 p.m.
2. Dr. Ella Thompson – Thank you to the First Responders who assisted with the fire.
Please support the Skate Park at Heritage Park.
3. Angela Anderson – We need speed bumps on Lakemont Drive.
Can the police assist with littering in the City?

The Governing Body issued the following Proclamations & Resolutions:

I Love McDonough Proclamation
Resolution appointing John Teague as Official City of McDonough Historian
Georgia Cities Week Resolution

David Garcia, Director of Government Relations and CEO Libby Sailor-Wright offered an update on the activities and opportunities for youth at the Shaquille O’Neal Boys and Girls Club, in McDonough. After the presentation, City Administrator Keith Dickerson offered that the agreement between the City of McDonough and the YMCA is up for renewal.

Mayor Pro Tem Pruett made a motion to renew the contract between the City of McDonough and the Shaquille O’Neal Boys & Girls Club, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Police Chief Ken Noble presented the commendation for 20 years of service to the City of McDonough Police Department to Major Paul Honcharik.

10A (6D) Mayor Varner reviewed the request for approval to purchase one 2026 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 crew cab for the Wastewater Plant from Bellamy Strickland in McDonough, at a cost of \$47,669.00. The Funding Source was identified as 505-5.4335.54.2200. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of one 2026 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 crew cab for the Wastewater Plant from Bellamy Strickland in McDonough, at a cost of \$47,669.00; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

10B (6E) City Administrator, Keith Dickerson presented the request for approval to purchase one 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4x4 with a 8’ Service Body for the Sewer Maintenance Department, from Bellamy Strickland-McDonough, at a cost of \$56,974.00. The Funding Source was identified 505-5.4331.54.2200 (Enterprise Funds). Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to approve the purchase of one 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4x4 with a 8’ Service Body for the Sewer Maintenance Department, from Bellamy Strickland-McDonough, at a cost of \$56,974.00; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

10C (6G) Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Butts presented a request for approval to authorize Onsite Paving to install 5 asphalt speed tables on Lakemont Drive going to Southern Crescent College, at a cost of \$28,375.00. He noted the Funding Source as SPLOST V 326-5.4210.54.1402. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to authorize Onsite Paving to install 5 asphalt speed tables on Lakemont Drive, going to Southern Crescent College, at a cost of \$28,375.00; and Councilmember Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

10D (6H) Mr. Dickerson reviewed the request for approval to purchase one 2026 GMC Sierra 1500 PRO work truck as a replacement for the Public Works Department, from Bellamy Strickland-McDonough at a cost of \$42,029.00. He said the Funding Source is Line Item: 505-5.4440.54.2200.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion to approve the purchase of one 2026 GMC Sierra 1500 PRO work truck, from Bellamy Strickland at a cost of \$42,029.00, as requested; and Councilmember Johnson seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

10E (6I) Mr. Dickerson discussed the agreement with Republic Sanitation, which includes an annual 3%, effective June 1, 2026. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the 3% increase to sanitation services, effective June 1, 2026; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Community & Economic Development Sylvia Smith, Director noted that the Applicant in case 260204 has requested a postponement to the May 18, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to postpone case number 260204 to the May 18, 2026, City Council Meeting for Public Hearing and vote; and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Alex Bhar petitioned the Governing Body to allow for an administrative variance for the Symphony Park Development, offering that the builder has homeowners who cannot move into their new homes because the conditions state that no Certificates of Occupancy will be issued until the amenities are finished. Discussion ensued. The City Attorney suggested that a percentage be assigned to the variance according to the percentage of completion of the amenities.

The parties left the chamber to discuss possible conditions for the requested variance.

Budget Manager, Dana Strickland presented the request for the Mayor and Council to approve the budget amendment #3 for the FY 2024/2025 to reflect the auditor-recommended FY2024/2025 pre-closing balances. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-04-20, amending the FY 2024/2025 Budget as recommended by the auditor; and Councilmember Blue seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Next Ms. Strickland reviewed the request for the Mayor and Council adopt Resolution 26-04-20 #2 and approve the budget amendment #3 for the FY 2025/2026 to allocate funds for ARPA expenditures and to reflect revised SPLOST VI revenues. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Burt made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-04-20 #2, approving budget amendment #3 for FY 2025/2026; and Councilmember Blue seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

City Attorney Emilia Walker stated that after discussion with the Applicant, a consensus to allow for the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy for Symphony Park has been reached, based on the percentage of completion of the amenities. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Reeves made a motion for the approval of an administrative variance to allow for the issuance of CO's not to exceed 25 percent, based on the percentage of completed amenities; and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was six in favor and one in opposition. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Thomas voted in opposition.

Attorney Walker requested that the discussion for the McDonough Youth Council, the Package Store Referendum, and the Moratorium related to Data Centers and ICE Detention Centers be deferred to the May 7, 2026, City Council Workshop.

Attorney Walker then reviewed the updates to the Solicitation Ordinance relative to door-to-door sales in the City. After the discussion, Councilmember Thomas made a motion to adopt Ordinance 26-04-20, updating Article 1, Solicitors, of Title 5, Chapter 5.36, of the City Code of Ordinances, banning solicitation where visibly prohibited by residences, businesses, and subdivisions, and for other lawful purposes as presented; and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor and one in opposition. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Reeves, and Councilmember Thomas. Councilmember Payton voted in opposition.

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 Johnson made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, and Councilmember Thomas seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Mayor Varner called for a motion go to back into Regular Session. Councilmember Reeves motioned and Mayor Pro Tem Burt seconded. The vote was seven in favor.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to authorize the Mayor and/or City to terminate the City's Connecting Henry Family Connection Partnership Agreement, and Councilmember Reeves seconded. The vote was six in favor and one abstention. Those voting in favor were Mayor Varner, Mayor Pro Tem Burt, Councilmember Blue, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Payton, and Councilmember Reeves. Councilmember Thomas abstained.

After closing comments, Mayor Varner adjourned the meeting at 9:57 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.