

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR EDWARD REYNOLDS, PRESIDING

COUNCIL MEMBERS: KEENAN ADAMS, GLENNIE BENCH, KREGG CLOSE, ROSLYN PALMER, SYLVIA WASHINGTON, AND DON WHALEY

CITY STAFF: CITY MANAGER ROY OLIVER, RANDEE EUBANKS, STEVE O'NEIL, FRANK GREEN, LISA TAYLOR, GABE MENENDEZ, RYAN WIMBERLEY, REDELL WALTON, NORRIS AKINS, MARNIE JOHNS, DOYLE WELCH, DWIGHT TOMLIN

GUESTS: BOBBY MILES, JANNA DAUGHERTY, BETTY BIGGLES, METHUEW MILLS, BRUCE KIRBO JR, YVENA MERRITT, LYDELL HIND, VICTOR CARRANZA, HENRY L NEAL, MARVA T NEAL, CHARLENE WALKER, SONJA SMART, ALONZO COLSON, OSCAR GUILLEN, DENISE NICHOLS, JENNY HERRING, RUNITA BARTHEL, STEVE DAVIS, CANDICE HEARD, SHANNON ANGLE, DOROTHY ROS, JOHNNY REYNOLDS, PENNY REYNOLDS, STANCIL TOOTLE, JANICE TOOTLE. C. ELKINS, DUSTIN LAWRENCE, PAUL FRYER, SANDRA CALHOUN, LAURA SHITE, TERRY THOMAS, MIKE CONDER

ABSENT:

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Councilman Whaley gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion offered by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Adams, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone to speak on an item. Mr. Bruce Kirbo, Jr. addressed the Mayor and City Council with concerns about how some attorneys practicing in the City of Bainbridge do not have their current occupational business license and the mayor thanked him for bringing it to their attention. Public Comment – Flint River RV Park
Several residents and representatives of the Flint River RV Park expressed concerns regarding the 30-day stay limitation at the park. The council advised them to meet with Community & Economic Development Director Steve O'Neil to explore rezoning options. Resident Emma

Reece raised concerns about a denied rezoning request for her property and questioned inconsistencies in zoning approvals. Staff clarified that zoning decisions depend on the adjacent properties and the comprehensive zoning plan. Multiple residents voiced frustration with public safety measures during recent private events, citing roadblocks and limited parking that affected their businesses and community members. The council and staff emphasized the importance of working with Public Safety in advance of events to ensure adequate parking plans and compliance with regulations. A resident shared personal experiences with what she perceived as unfair treatment by public safety officers during community events in predominantly Black neighborhoods. The council thanked her for her comments and acknowledged the concerns.

FY24 ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Justin Elliott with Mauldin & Jenkins presented the FY24 Annual Audit. The city received an unmodified (clean) opinion, which is the highest level of assurance an external auditor can provide. Financial statements were found to be fairly presented in accordance with governmental accounting standards. No findings or deficiencies were reported in the compliance review. A Single Audit was conducted due to over \$4 million in federal expenditure. No issues or noncompliance were identified with the major federal program reviewed. The auditor commended Finance Director Lisa Taylor and her team for their outstanding work and noted continued improvement from previous years.

HYDRANT PROJECT UPDATE

Chief Welch presented an update on the hydrant maintenance and repainting project: Phase One included repainting and servicing 30 hydrants with minimal costs using existing supplies. An additional 72 hydrants were painted using donated materials, for a total of 102 hydrants completed. Some aging hydrants require replacement due to lack of available parts, with unexpected costs managed within the budget. The project remains on budget and will continue using existing resources and donations. Council and staff commended Public Safety for their work and budget-conscious approach.

RESOLUTION – *Clean Water State Revolving Fund, GEFA*

City Manager Roy Oliver addressed the Mayor and City Council. We have a resolution to approve a loan agreement from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, administered by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). This is a 20-year agreement for \$1.5 million dollars with an interest rate of 2.2 percent. The loan will be repaid utilizing T-SPLOST funds. This is for the Wheat III CDBG Stormwater project on Boulevard and Powell Streets, the CDBG Grant is for \$750,000. You recall that last month the mayor and council approved Doyle Hancock and Sons as the low bidder for that project at \$2,132,115.80. This is anticipated to be a 6-month project that will start in the next 45 days. A motion was made by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilwoman Bench with the resolution passing in a vote of 6-0.

INTRODUCTION TO DEMOLITION ORDINANCES

Community and Economic Development Director Steve O'Neil introduced demolition ordinance proceedings for properties located at 811 Miller Avenue, 1002 Florence Lane, 1504 Water Street, and 1614 Scott Street. The public hearing will be held for these demolition ordinances at the next City Council Meeting on July 15, 2025.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Community and Economic Development Director Steve O'Neil also presented the Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone 1034 West Street from Institutional to Neighborhood Business, which was approved 6-0 after a motion by Councilman Adams and a second from Councilwoman Bench.

BAINBRIDGE ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE

Marnie Johns, Director of Bainbridge Animal Services, provided a department update and introduced her team, emphasizing the critical role each staff member plays in the wellbeing of the animals. Adoption & Community Engagement: Emphasis on promoting adoptions through social media and engaging photos, as well as spotlighting animals of the week, encouraged public visits to the shelter and highlighted the team's efforts to create a welcoming, family friendly environment. The Humane Society funds key programs including TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), Barn Cat Program, Spay & Neuter Assistance Event support, veterinary care, and cat litter provision. Director Johns concluded the presentation by inviting Council members and the public to visit the shelter and thanked everyone for their support. The council expressed appreciation for the improvements made at the shelter and commended the team for their dedication and the overall enhancement in animal care and community engagement.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSES

The Mayor and City Council were in receipt of three (3) alcoholic beverage license applications. The applications were in order and all requirements for approval had been met.

Applicant Vinay Thakrar, owner of BNV GA 2025 dba Meat House, located at 100 East Louise Street, has applied for a malt beverage retail and wine package retail license.

Applicant Pulkit S. Patel, owner of Brahmani Krupa, LLC dba Olive Grove Fine Wine & Spirits, located at 1400 Tallahassee Hwy, Suite C, has applied for a package store license.

Applicant Jose Carranza Torres, owner of Jalisco Mexican Cantina, LLC, located at 713 East Calhoun Street, has applied for a distilled spirits consumption, malt beverage consumption retail, and wine package consumption retail license.

Councilman Adams made a motion to approve the Alcohol Beverage Licenses, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Washington and approved in a vote of 6-0.

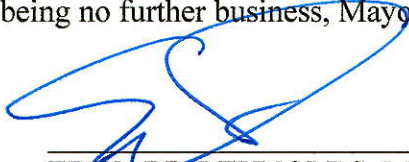
MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

With the approval of the City Council, Mayor Reynolds recommended reappointing Mr. Tommie Howell and appointing Mrs. Patty Hamilton to the Decatur County Public Library board. Councilwoman Bench made a motion to approve the appointments with it being seconded by Councilwoman Washington and passed in a vote of 6-0.

ADJORN

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

BY:



EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



RANDEE EUBANKS, COUNCIL CLERK

