

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, LISA TAYLOR, GABE MENENDEZ, RYAN WIMBERLEY, DOYLE WELCH, DWIGHT TOMLIN, CRYSTAL HINES, TIM MCCAIN, AL KELLEY

**GUESTS:** JOHNNY REYNOLDS, THOMAS JADSON, JOHN HENRY, CURTIS HENRY, JOSHAWNNA HENRY, LEE TORRES, JANICE TOOTLE, XURFD, DONNA BARBER, DAVID BARBER, STEVE BENCH, JOHNNY PAYNE, DESIREE PAYNE, ROSLYN DAVIS, DANA MARTIN, KRISTINA MARTIN, KATHERINE POWELL, SABRINA CALHOUN, DORIS HART, LISA DASILVA, KIMBERLY SMITH, LEEANN ELKINS, ROBERTA DRYDEN, MIASIRN SMITH, CHARLENE WALKER, LATORIA GREEN, MARQUITA JOHNSON, VALERIE BURKE

**ABSENT:**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Bainbridge Public Safety Chaplin, Dwight Tomlin gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion offered by Councilman Whaley and seconded by Councilman Adams, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the Special Called Sessions on September 4, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M..

**SUMMARY**

City Manager Roy Oliver reported that this meeting served as the third and final public hearing for the 2025 millage rate and the second and final hearing for the proposed FY26 budget. He stated that all required advertisements and hearings had been completed and that related documents were made available on the City's website, at City Hall, and in the library. Mr. Oliver noted no public inquiries had been received regarding the budget or millage rate. He summarized that the proposed millage rate would increase from 3.511 to 4.721 mills, generating an additional \$707,045 in operating revenue. The total operating budget reflects an increase of

\$770,869 over the prior year, funding a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for employees, new public safety and hazardous materials equipment, and additional contingency reserves. Mr. Oliver emphasized the importance of strengthening the City's reserves to maintain sound financial stability and ensure access to emergency funds when needed.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – MILLAGE RATE**

Councilman Whaley made a motion to enter into a public hearing on the proposed millage rate, seconded by Councilwoman Washington, and the motion carried unanimously (6-0). The Council entered into a public hearing and heard comments from Sabrina Calhoun, Kimberly Smith, Tori Green, Charlene Walker, and Marquita Johnson. Following public comment, Councilman Whaley made a motion to close the public hearing, with a second from Councilwoman Palmer, and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MILLAGE**

Councilman Whaley made a motion to approve the proposed millage rate, which received a second from Councilwoman Palmer. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1, with Councilwoman Washington opposed.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – FY2026 BUDGET**

Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to enter into a public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Bench, and the motion carried unanimously (6-0). The Council then heard comments from Charlene Walker. Following public comment, Councilman Whaley made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilwoman Palmer. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1, with Councilwoman Washington opposed.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF FY2026 BUDGET**

Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to approve the FY2026 budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Whaley, and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **SECOND READING OF THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL BOND ORDINANCE – COMBINED UTILITIES**

City Manager, Roy Oliver presented the Second Reading of Third Supplemental Bond Ordinance and consideration of adoption; the first reading was held during a special called session on September 4, 2025. This is the amended and restated third supplemental bond ordinance providing for the offer, sale, issuance, and delivery of the city's combined utilities revenue bond, secondary lien, series 2025, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 to provide funds to acquire, construct, improve, and equip certain revenue-producing city utility facilities, including public sewer facilities and public telecommunication facilities; providing for certain details of the bond; providing for amendments to one or more prior ordinances relating to the city's combined utility system; providing for validation of the bond; authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more agreements; providing for the use of Splost revenues to pay debt service on the bond; and providing for other related matters.

Councilman Whaley made a motion for the second reading of the Third Supplemental Bond Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Adams, and approved 6-0.

### **CDBG PROJECT APPROVAL AND BID AWARD**

City Engineer, Gabe Menendez presented bids for the City of Bainbridge's Lift Station Resiliency Improvements project were opened on May 29, 2025, with one bid submitted by Hancock & Sons Construction Company, Inc. Their base bid was \$6.8 million, which was value engineered down to the construction budget of \$3,004,000. Carter & Sloope, the consulting engineers, reviewed Hancock & Sons' qualifications and past work with the City and found them capable and well-suited for the project. The CDBG project bid award to Doyle Hancock & Sons was approved 6-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and a second by Councilman Close.

### **CONTRACT FOR SERVICES – DECATUR COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER**

City Manager, Roy Oliver presented a contract for services between the City of Bainbridge, Decatur County, and the Tax Commissioner was approved 6-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Bench and a second by Councilman Adams. The City of Bainbridge, Decatur County, and Tax Commissioner Mark Harrell have an agreement for the Tax Commissioner's office to handle the City's property tax billing and collection. This would include preparing the tax digest, sending bills, collecting payments, and forwarding funds to the City twice a month. The City would pay \$1.29 per parcel for this service. As in prior years this agreement allows any party to end it with 90 days' notice.

### **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION – PART 1, ARTICLE VI OF CITY CODE**

City Manager, Roy Oliver, presented the Mayor and City Council with an Introduction Ordinance to amend the city code from our Bond Attorney Michael Kozlarek. The purpose of the amendment to: Amend part1 (charter and related laws), article VI (finance) of the city code to approve, ratify, and confirm the city's authority to possess and operate a combined utilities system; and amending part 1 (charter and related laws), article VI (finance) of the city code to approve, ratify, and confirm the city's authority to issue revenue debt instruments; and providing for other related matters.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMENDATIONS**

Community and Economic Development Director, Steve O'Neil, presented the Planning Commission recommendations for rezoning the property at 431 Water Street from CBD to Conditional Use were approved 6-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Bench and a second by Councilwoman Washington.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – BAINBRIDGE-DECATUR COUNTY MARSHALS SERVICES**

Community and Economic Development Director, Steve O'Neil presented an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Bainbridge-Decatur County Marshal's Office to continue providing planning, permitting, inspections, and code enforcement. The contract would begin October 1, 2025, run for one year with automatic renewals, allow either side to end it with 60

days' notice, and include insurance, legal, and cooperation provisions. An intergovernmental agreement with Decatur County for planning and marshal services was approved 6-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and a second by Councilwoman Bench.

#### MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayoral reappointments were then considered, with Mrs. Melinda Glenn reappointed to the Historic Preservation Committee and Mr. Doug Young to the Downtown Development Authority. Both were approved 6-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Bench and a second by Councilman Adams.


#### BIDS

The final agenda item, a split bid for broadband equipment in the amounts of \$92,718.50 to Graybar Electric Co. of Orlando, FL and \$58,069.00 to KGPCo of Fairbault, MN, was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and a second by Councilman Whaley, passing 6-0. The meeting was then adjourned.

#### ADJOURN

With there being no further business, Mayor Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:11 P.M.

BY:

  
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EDWARD REYNOLDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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RANDEE EUBANKS, COUNCIL CLERK