

MINUTES
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 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, DOYLE WELCH, DWIGHT TOMBIN, CRYSTAL HINES

GUESTS: PATSY MCCALL, STANCIL TOOTLE, MIKE, STEVE POWELL, JOHNNY REYNOLDS, SUZANNE ANGELL, JENNIFER PITTMAN, CHARLENE WALKER, LATORIA GREEN, ANA BATY, DR. BOYD ENGLISH, SUNSHINE ENGLISH, MARQUITA DOWNEE, O'DELL WASHINGTON, ALICIA HURT, VERNON YATES

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 Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Adams, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2025, council meeting as presented.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Reynolds opened the floor for anyone to speak on an item, with there being no one he went on to the next agenda item.

SPECIAL GUEST

Mayor Reynolds welcomed Dr. Boyd English, Superintendent of Decatur County Schools, who provided updates from the school system.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – PARKING LOT TRANSFER

City Manager Roy Oliver presented the first intergovernmental agreement regarding a parking lot transfer with Decatur County. The southern lot, located behind the West Street block and owned by the county, has presented challenges with limited dumpster capacity. The city owned

the northern lot, and both parties agreed to swap ownership. Under the agreement, the county will convey the south lot to the city, and the city will convey the north lot to the county. The city will resurface both lots, covering all costs for the south lot and providing labor for the north lot, with the county reimbursing material costs. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bench and seconded by Councilwoman Washington to approve the agreement, and it passed unanimously.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – ELECTION SERVICES

The Mayor and City Council then considered a second intergovernmental agreement with Decatur County for the county to administer all city municipal elections, including runoffs and special elections, through December 31, 2030. This measure was noted as a cost-saving approach by consolidating elections onto one ballot. A motion was made by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Adams and approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – FLOST

City Manager Roy Oliver then presented information on the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST), authorized by House Bill 581 in 2024. He provided background on the legislation, statewide approval, and its purpose of creating property tax relief through rollback rates funded by sales tax collections. If approved by Bainbridge and Decatur County voters in November 2025, the new one percent sales tax would begin collections in January 2026, with property tax rollbacks taking effect in 2027. Oliver explained the allocation of revenues and the timeline for implementation, noting that Decatur County would receive 53.39%, Bainbridge 45.6%, and Climax 1.01%.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT - FLOST

Mayor and City Council approved the FLOST intergovernmental agreement unanimously establishing these terms with Decatur County and the City of Climax with a motion from Councilwoman Palmer and a second from Councilwoman Bench.

CONSIDERATION OF MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Council approved a renewed water tank maintenance agreement with American Tank Maintenance, LLC. The original agreement was established in 2015, and the new term begins November 2, 2025. The arrangement will also reduce customer water fees by \$1.03 per bill, generating an annual savings of \$12.36 per customer. Councilwoman Bench made a motion with Councilwoman Washington seconding and the contract passing unanimously.

CHIP GRANT AGREEMENT

Council then considered the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grant agreement. The city has been awarded \$500,000 through the Department of Community Affairs to fund homeowner rehabilitation projects over three years. Representatives from the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission attended to explain program requirements and answer questions. Council approved the agreement unanimously with a motion made by Councilwoman Bench and a second by Councilwoman Washington.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL PARK USE EVENT APPLICATION

A special park use application was then presented by Ms. Patsy McCall on behalf of the BHS Alumni Association for the BHS Mega Reunion, to be held October 25, 2025, at the Earle May Boat Basin. With all requirements met, the application was approved unanimously with Councilwoman Washington making a motion a receiving a second from Councilman Adams.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE

An alcohol beverage license application from Publix Super Markets, Inc. dba Publix #2109 for Malt Beverage Retail and Wine Package Retail s at its new 1515 Tallahassee Highway location was also approved unanimously with a motion made by Councilwoman Washington and a second by Councilman Adams.

STREET CLOSURE REQUESTS

Four street closure requests were granted for upcoming events: River South Music & Arts Festival (Sept. 20, 2025), Bainbridge High School Homecoming Parade (Oct. 23, 2025), Walk to End Alzheimer's (Oct. 25, 2025), and Bainbridge Jazz & Blues Festival (Feb. 7, 2026). All were approved in a 6-0 vote with a motion by Councilwoman Palmer and second by Councilwoman Washington.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT

With the approval of the City Council, Mayor Reynolds recommended reappointing Mr. Daryl Hall to the Bainbridge Decatur County Recreation Authority board. Councilwoman Bench made a motion to approve the appointment 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