

MINUTES

City Council Meeting Monday, May 4, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Hall gave the invocation, and Mayor Campbell led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

City Council Members: Mayor Bruce Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem Gwyn Hall, President of Council Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Bruner, Councilmember Figiel, and Councilmember Debbie Ruiz.
Absent: Councilmember Richard Lassiter

Staff Members: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Gil Ballard, Police Chief; Cliff Ducey, Parks and Recreation Director; Tonya Roper, Clerk of Council; and Kyle Thomas, IT Tech.

Informal Public Comment: Don Bethune, 2621 Woodlawn Avenue stated there are a number of items I would like to talk about. The first item is a code issue. The code issue is located on the Northeast corner of Hwy 80 and Dean Forest Road; it's a red pickup truck that has been sitting for two years. The front wheels of the truck are off the ground – I think this would be considered as derelict. As of today, the truck has been tagged but why did two years go by with no one from staff noticing or someone pointing it out. One side of Highway 80 has Racetrack; a very nice facility while the other side has this truck and a building that looks bad. I am glad to see that the truck has been tagged.

Mr. Bethune stated kudos to Ben Bregman for the updated website – the more I use it, the more I learn about it. Mr. Bethune said I commend Mayor and Council for approval of the updated website. I also commend Mayor and Council for their voting approval of the city municipal complex sign to be placed out front as I am often asked by many “what is the big building in Garden City” because there is nothing that identifies City Hall.

Mr. Bethune continued by saying, I am very pleased with the street sweeper; streets are swept multiple times, training took longer than what I wanted but the training worked because the operator is efficient and does a very good job.

Mr. Bethune said the final item to mention is that today, May 4th, is International Firefighter Recognition Day. It's a date set aside globally to shine a light on community Fire departments. On this day, you are supposed to recognize the leadership of the Fire department and talk about their bravery, their commitment, and the job these men and women do to keep us safe. Several months ago, at a trade conference I ran into a Garden City Firefighter with wonderful comments about the city's Fire Chief. The Firefighter stated Chief Mike Dick is a great leader, cares for the Firefighters, and is well trained.

Mr. Bethune said ISO is an organization that rates Fire departments from one to ten with one being the very best the department can be and ten considered as being nonexistent. Under Chief Dick's leadership, the ISO rating is two and this rating affects the costs of your insurance policy. There are approximately 45,000 fire departments in the United States with less than 3% having an ISO rating of two. This equates to 1,800 fire departments throughout the United States with an ISO rating of two.

We have a great Fire department with a great leader and great employees. When driving down Hwy 80, our Firefighters are out washing and maintaining the fire trucks that Council has given them. Maintaining the trucks and equipment keeps the Firefighters safe and allows them to do their job. They are constantly training – a raised ladder truck allows for proficiency in the event of emergencies when ladder trucks are needed.

Mr. Bethune stated Chief Mike Dick worked for me at Savannah Fire and my first impression was that this guy is going to do something and has the ability to do so. It is commendable that most of the work of the training facility on Highway 80 was performed by our Firefighters and our Fire Chief. We all should applaud the Fire Department.

The Fire Chief said I am speechless and this was unexpected. Chief Dick said thank you for the recognition – this is an awesome city, and we have an awesome fire department.

Given no additional comments, Mayor Campbell closed this section for informal public comment.

City Council Minutes: Councilmember Morris made a motion to approve. Councilmember Bruner seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 20th Pre-Agenda Session with a correction of vote (Councilmember Figiel in opposition) for the Stewart Signs Procurement Agreement (City Hall Municipal Complex Sign) on the City Council meeting minutes. The motion passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution – FY2025 Second Budget Amendment: The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to further amend the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the General Operating Fund, Sanitation Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, and Capital Projects Fund to adjust for the differences between the amended adopted budget and audited expenditures for certain various line items in the city's budgets.

The City Manager stated this item is a second amendment due to the auditors requiring the city to approve four invoices received in 2026 for services provided in 2025 in order to move the invoices back to fiscal year 2025.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion; the motion passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Resolution – FY2026 GDOT Local Road Assistance Supplemental Project (Telfair Road): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) application

for FY2026 – LRA Supplemental with cover letter and other GDOT required forms for the partial funding of the rehabilitation of Telfair Road; and for other purposes.

The City Manager stated the city is eligible to receive \$150,279 from the State allocation of the Local Road Assistance administration grant monies with no cash match being required. The item is to approve the Mayor to execute the application documents.

Councilmember Bruner made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion; the vote passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Resolution – Hazard Mitigation Plan (Chatham County): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by Mayor and Council authorizing the adoption of the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The City Manager stated the item is to adopt the Chatham County multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan for the 2026 updates as required. The resolution is adopted in order for our jurisdiction to receive state and federal funding if a declared disaster occurs in Chatham County.

Councilmember Hall made a motion to approved the resolution. Councilmember Bruner seconded the motion; the vote passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Morris made a motion to enter executive session at approximately 6:15pm for discussion of personnel matters. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion. A vote is taken and passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Campbell called for a motion to resume the open meeting at approximately 6:36pm. Councilmember Morris made a motion to resume the open session meeting. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion; a vote is taken and passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Campbell stated no findings came out of the executive session.

Adjournment: Mayor Campbell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Morris made a motion to adjourn at approximately 6:38pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall and passed without opposition.

Transcribed & submitted by: The Clerk of Council

Accepted & approved with amended correction by: The City Council on 5-18-26

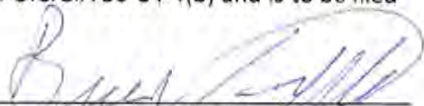
GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW

The undersigned Mayor, under oath, certifies that at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of Garden City Georgia, held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Mayor and Council closed their meeting as permitted by the Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed session or executive session of the meeting is as checked below:

Check ✓	Subject Matter	As provided in O.C.G.A. Section
	Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the settlement of a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege. <i>The subject discussed was _____ (identify the case or claim discussed, but not the substance of the attorney-client discussion)</i>	50-14-2 (1) 50-14-3 (b)(1)(A)
	Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property.	50-14-3(b)(1)(B)
	Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate.	50-14-3(b)(1)(C)
	Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote.	50-14-3(b)(1)(D)
	Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote.	50-14-3(b)(1)(E)
✓	Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee.	50-14-3(b)(2)
	Meeting to interview one or more applicants for the position of executive head of an agency.	50-14-3(b)(2)
	Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege, a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved, and the matter discussed was _____ <i>(identify the matter but not the substance of the discussion)</i>	50-14-2(1)
	Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.	50-14-3(a)(1)
	Meeting to consider records or portions of records exempt from public inspection or disclosure because there are no reasonable means to consider the record without disclosing the exempt portions.	Article 4, Chapter 18 of Title 50

This Affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A 50-14-4(b) and is to be filed with the official minutes of the aforementioned meeting.

This the 4th day of May 2026.

By: 
Mayor, City of Garden City, Georgia

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above indicated date:


Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission expires: 07/21/28



(Although the same is not mandatory, the following participants concur with the accuracy of this Affidavit.)

