

MINUTES

City Council Meeting Monday, May 18, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Roll Call

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

Staff Members: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Gil Ballard, Police Chief; Mike Dick, Fire Chief; Cliff Ducey, Parks and Recreation Director; Mack Roberts, Fire Marshal; Marth Vallada, Water/Sewer Operations Interim Director; Tonya Roper, Clerk of Council; and Andrew Guzman, IT Tech.

Informal Public Comment: Given no comments, Mayor Campbell closed this section for informal public comment.

City Council Minutes: Councilmember Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4th Pre-Agenda Session and City Council meeting minutes and the May 11th Workshop meeting minutes with any necessary corrections that need to be made. Councilmember Bruner seconded the motion. The motion passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution – Emergency Management Service Agreement: The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by Mayor and Council to contract with CrowderGulf, LLC to be designated as primary contractor with both DRC Emergency Services, LLC and Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. being designated as secondary contractors for debris removal, reduction, and disposal services.

The City Manager stated the city feels it is in its best interest to have three potential contactors during a storm to be able to handle debris removal, reduction, and disposal services.

Councilmember Lassiter made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion is seconded by Councilmember Ruiz; the motion passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Resolution – NFPA Firewise Program: The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution of the Mayor and Council authorizing the Garden City Fire Department to implement the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA program; providing an effective date; and for other lawful purposes.

The City Manager stated the Firewise USA Program helps communities minimize the risk of wildfires and encourages property owners to adopt wildfire mitigation practices.

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

Resolution – Georgia House Bill 1186 (CVB Authority): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by Mayor and Council implementing the provisions of Georgia House Bill 1186; recognizing the repeal of the act creating the Garden City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority; accepting the devolution of all assets and obligations of said authority; authorizing the execution of instruments of conveyance; appointing authorized signatories; and for other lawful purposes.

The City Manager stated House Bill 1186 was signed by the Governor on May 11, 2026. It repeals the local act creating the Garden City Area and Convention and Visitors Bureau and all assets and obligations of the authority shall devolve to Garden City.

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

Resolution – Motorola Solutions Inc. Proposal Agreement (Police Dept.): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution of the Mayor and Council authorizing the purchase and installation of a Motorola Solutions in-building Distributed Antenna System(DAS) for city hall; authorizing the execution of a purchase order or contract in the amount of \$126,281.00; providing for a two-installment payment plan; authorizing budget amendments to the FY2026 and FY2027 SPLOST funds; and for other purposes.

The City Manager stated when city hall was built in 2009, the building was not equipped with a building-wide DAS system, and the Police Department installed a system which is no longer working and cannot be repaired. It is important that the city has uninterrupted communications between the public safety and the first responders.

Councilmember Morris made a motion to approve the resolution for the Motorola Solutions proposal agreement. Councilmember Lassiter seconded the motion. A vote is taken, and the motion passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Resolution – Media Campaign Proposal Agreement (New Recreation Complex): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council accepting a marketing and advertising proposal for the city's new recreational complex from WTOC; authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement; providing for an effective date; and for other lawful purposes.

The City Manager stated this resolution is to accept the marketing proposal to promote the new recreation complex.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion. The motion passes by majority with Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris,

Councilmember Ruiz and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion. Councilmember Bruner and Councilmember Figiel voted in opposition.

Resolution – Legislative Lobbying Services: The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution of the Mayor and Council authorizing the Director of Governmental Affairs and Strategic Initiatives to prepare and advertise a request for proposals (RFP) for legislative lobbying services; to establish the scope of monitoring and advocacy at the Georgia State Capitol; to repeal all resolutions in conflict herewith; and for other lawful purposes.

The City Manager stated the resolution authorizes Staff to move forward with preparing the RFP to request proposals for lobbying services for the upcoming 2027 Legislative session.

Councilmember Morris made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Lassiter seconded the motion. A vote is taken and passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Resolution – Manhole Rehabilitation Project Award (Redmond Avenue): The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution of the Mayor and Council authorizing the award of a contract to Savannah River Utilities for the repair of a sewer manhole on Redmond Avenue in the amount of \$50,520.00 and for other related purposes.

The City Manger stated this resolution is to award the contract for the Redmond Avenue manhole rehabilitation project to the low bidder, Savannah River Utilities.

Councilmember Bruner made a motion to approve the resolution; the motion is seconded by Councilmember Figiel and passes with all voting in favor of the motion.

Adjournment: Mayor Campbell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Morris made a motion to adjourn at approximately 6:10pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bruner and passed without opposition.

Transcribed & submitted by: The Clerk of Council

Accepted & approved with amended correction by: The City Council on 6-01-26