

MINUTES

City Council Meeting Monday, November 03, 2025 – 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Gwyn Hall, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz and Councilmember Kim Tice.

Staff Members: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, City Manager; Gil Ballard, Police Chief; Ben Brengman, IT Director/Special Projects Coordinator; Veronica Enoch, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Lynnette Hymes, Public Works Executive Assistant; Tonya Roper, Clerk of Council; and Andrew Guzman, IT Tech.

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

Public Hearings:

FY2026 Budget: Presentation of the FY2026 Budget for public comment.

The City Manager presented an overview of the FY2026 proposed budget. The City Manager stated the projected general fund revenue for FY2026 is 18.1M, which is an increase of 10%; the increase is due to the tax loss projected coming in higher and the Council increase of the millage rate to 4 mills. The general fund budget expenditures from the balanced budget is 18.1M with operating capital expenditures totaling 15.4M with the fire protection fund to transfer out being 2.7M; this increase is mainly attributed to capital improvement projects.

The Enterprise Fund overview fire protection projected a total revenue of 4.5M which is a 9.9 percent increase, this is attributed to the personnel costs. The Stormwater Fund budget projected a revenue total of 1.1M which is a 1.9 percent increase which is a proposed expenditure of the total purchased and contracted expenses increase that's due to contractor labor associated with maintaining the major thoroughfares and drainage projects.

The Sanitation Fund is \$647,003 which is a 1.1 percent increase, there is no increase in the sanitation rate – these rates will remain at the 2025 rate. The Water/Sewer Enterprise fund projected revenues are 7.5M, which is a 0.4 percent increase; the expenditures were balanced to the expected revenue with capital improvement projects of 2.8M and three positions were added to the water repair department. For the water and billing rate there is a proposed increase to

\$57.68 from \$55.77 for residential, this increase will place the City in line with other jurisdictions, but the City is still lower in comparison with the majority of surrounding municipalities.

The Capital Projects funds for the SPLOST fund have a projected revenue of 6.9M. For expenditure, there is the new Gym complex with an expenditure for equipment and furniture at 3.1M, street paving and road improvement projects proposed at \$400K which is attributed to Telfair Road and Telfair Place drainage improvements and road pavement project. There is a proposed replacement for Fire Station #1 at \$400K for the design. The replacement of a generator at City Hall for the Town Center Development, the debt service of the Fire Department, Police Department, City Hall, the Recreation Bond and Fire Department pumper truck.

The Construction fund is for the Gymnasium is projected at 13.9M and the ARPA fund which is the American Rescue Plan Act is for the purchase of the remaining fire equipment for the new fire engine. The Confiscated Assets fund is projected at \$14K with small equipment at \$12K and canine supplies at \$2K. The total revenue of the Hotel/Motel Tax fund is project to come in at \$480,100 to be distributed with 50% to the general fund, 33.33% to Visit Savannah and 16.67% to other agencies such as Savannah Trade Center.

Given no comments in favor or in opposition, Mayor Campbell closed the section for the public hearing comments.

City Council Minutes: Councilmember Tice made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20th Pre-Agenda session and City Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passes with Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion. Councilmember Daniel abstained from voting for the October 20th Pre-Agenda session and City Council meeting minutes due to absence. Councilmember Lassiter abstained from voting for the October 20th Pre-Agenda Session and City Council meeting minutes.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution – MCCI, LLC Laserfiche Records Management Agreement: The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the execution of a master services agreement by and between Garden City, Georgia, and MCCI, LLC for Laserfiche records management software and services.

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

Adjournment: Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to adjourn at approximately 6:08pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

Transcribed & submitted by: The Clerk of Council

Accepted & approved by: The City Council on 11-17-25