

The City of Williamson

P.O. Box 9

Williamson, Georgia 30292

Steve Fry, Mayor

Stephen Levin, City Council Post 1

Bob Harrison, Jr City Council Post 2

John Smithson, City Council Post 3

Carol Berry, City Council Post 4

Chris Gordon, City Council Post 5

MINUTES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

6 August 2026 7:00 PM

Mayor & all council except C. Gordon in attendance

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, WELCOME.....**Mayor Steve Fry-7:07p
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** (O.C.G A. § 50-14-1 (e) (1))-Motion to amend agenda to add approval of minutes from meeting held 15 July and to approve as amended JS/SL 4-0.
- III. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))
 - A. Minutes from meeting held 2 July 2026-Motion to approve SL/CB 4-0.
 - B. Minutes from meeting held 15 July 2026-Motion to approve CB/SL 4-0.
- IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT**-General Fund \$1,051,121.19, SPLOST \$397,659.22, Water Fund \$257,933.58. 58% through the year with 77% of revenue in and 49% of expenditures out. Access to financial records discussed. Motion to approve financial report JS/CB 4-0.
- V. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**
 - A. City Clerk Report-PFDS submission deadline is 9/1, and elected officials will begin filing their own documents through PeachFile starting January 1, 2027. GCIC audit, which ensures compliance with state/federal rules governing CHRI access, is August 19. Municipal Court Clerk recertification class is August 7. Adams Homes is working with USPS to resolve mail delivery issues on Wisteria Lane. USPS stopped delivering mail as their regulations call for cluster boxes.
 - B. Council Member Reports: **CB**-Mystery Dinner Theatre is September 18 & 19 at Williamson Methodist Church. Trunk or Treat is October 31 and Church of Joy will have banners. Discussed plans to have food trucks, live music, and a movie. **BH**-Grass needs mowing on Purser Cir, Howard St, 2nd District, and Old Fayetteville between Howard and Pine. **JS**-Thanked everyone for work put into the Amphitheatre grand opening celebration. **SL**-Happy with grand opening event.
 - C. City Attorney Report-None.
 - D. Mayor's Report-Items on agenda.
 - E. County Matters-Job posting out for county manager. Commissioners are addressing multiple citizen complaints. BH noted banners/signs showing up in town. Mayor advised he's been removing the non-permitted signs. SL asked about businesses with lights being on past 10p. Discussion of overlay district and light regulations.
 - F. Library Report-Open for 22 days in July with 144 patrons, 4 new library cards issued, and \$12.99 income. Adult section has been inventoried and added to the system. 52 participants in the summer reading challenge and many partook in the drop-in crafts. Ongoing events include Ladies' Book Club, chair yoga, and Little Leafs.
 - G. Water Department Report (Quarterly)-N/A
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Williamson Botanical Garden and Memorial Park Project Updates-Cherry tree died due to irrigation failure and will be replaced at no cost to the city. Williamson lilies will be installed once pathway is completed. Reviewed engraved brick pricing and options. Plans to use crush and run with sections of brick for the pathway. M. Stafford will mark layout of the pathway. BH advised

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Pike Sons of Confederate Vets is interested in placing a memorial bench. Discussed installation of a culvert to address water across the trail. Original plant quote included 60 bales of pine straw, but job required 200 bales, which resulted in a cost increase of \$2,100. Motion to approve price difference JS/CB 3-1 with BH against.

- B. Old Fayetteville Road Paving Project Update-Engineer compiling data and will have specs ready to put out for bid by the September meeting. Motion to move item "I" tank maintenance after item "B" paving project JS/CB 4-0.
- C. Water Tank Maintenance Quotes Discussion (formerly item "I")-Ty Shelton of American Tank Maintenance gave presentation. Reviewed photos of the city's tank, discussed recommended repairs, and proposed maintenance plan pricing. Discussed quote from Advanced Diving. Motion to accept American Tank's maintenance plan JS/SL 4-0.
- D. Amphitheater Status Update and Flagpole Quote-Ribbon cutting ceremony went well. A punch-list walkthrough will be scheduled. Items of concern include, but are not limited to, roof leaks and door latches. JS advised he has someone who will donate and install mirrors, hand dryers, soap dispensers, and toilet paper holders for the new bathrooms. Reviewed quote for flag pole. Motion to purchase flag pole with internal halyard for \$3535.95 JS/SL 4-0.
- E. Progress on Status of Blighted Properties in the City-One has been corrected, one is in progress, and third property remains unchanged as the certified letter sent to the owner was returned undelivered. Attorney will contact owner of 1241 Highway 362, and if no response, initiate process to have them personally served. Attorney advised if the nuisance remains unresolved the city would have to pursue litigation in Superior Court.
- F. LEAF Digital Sign Update-Discussed pricing, size, and pixel options. Further research needed.
- G. Discussion of Social Media Policy-Motion for first reading CB/JS 4-0.
- H. Discussion of AI Policy-State guidelines presented for review. Find sample policies.
- I. Zoning Overlay District for Second District Road and Little Street Discussion-Planning Commission asked to research as most properties don't meet current zoning requirements. Debated case by case basis, which requires zoning variance process. Discussed pre-existing, non-conforming lots. Item tabled for later. Mayor reported buyers interested in a 5 acre R-15 property want horses, but livestock isn't allowed in this zoning classification. Options include special use permit, re-zoning to R-11, or a text amendment to R-15.
- ~~J. Water Tank Maintenance Quotes Discussion~~ Moved up (formerly item "I")
- K. Wetlands, Watershed, and Stormwater Discussion-Carter & Sloope working on a plan to see what is needed for creating a watershed system to maintain ditches and storm drains. Looking for grants and possibly adding a \$1 fee to water bills.
- L. LEAF Concrete Pad Maintenance/Repair Update-Mayor and JS will grade area for drainage.
- M. Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Plan Discussions-Council to review and notate potential changes as part of the five year update. Workshop will be scheduled for further discussion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. LEAF Cameras and NVR Upgrade-Reviewed quote of \$3389 for new NVR and audio cameras. Discussed current cameras' lack of audio and locations. Tabled till after executive session.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (O.C.G.A. § 50-14 et seq) Potential or Pending Litigation; Personnel-

Motion to exit open session and enter executive session CB/SL 4-0 10:07p. Motion to exit executive session and re-enter open session SL/CB 3-0 11:00p. Motion to allow B. Smithson, if willing, to work no more than 34 hours per week CB/SL 3-0. Keep library open. Clerk to coordinate hours. City to find an employment attorney.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT: None requested

X. ADJOURNMENT-Motion to adjourn SL/CB 3-0 11:01p

APPROVED

BY: CB/CG DATE: 9-3-26
4-0

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Paula Schlotter
Carol Berry