City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chambers
July 16, 2026
6:00 PM – Work Session / 7:00 PM – Council Meeting

WORK SESSION

Mayor Matthew Santini opened the Work Session at 6:00 PM. Council Members discussed each item on the agenda with the corresponding staff members.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of Potential Litigation and Personnel. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Mayor Santini closed the Work Session at 7:00 PM

OPENING MEETING

Mayor Santini called the Council Meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Invocation by Council Member Roth.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Fox.

The City Council met in a Regular Session with Matthew J. Santini, Mayor, presiding, and the following present: Kari Hodge, Council Member Ward One; Jayce Stepp, Council Member Ward Two; Cary Roth, Council Member Ward Three; Gary Fox, Council Member Ward Five; Calvin Cooley, Council Member Ward Four; Alyssa Cordell, Council Member Ward Six; Dan Porta, City Manager; Julia Drake, City Clerk; and Keith Lovell, City Attorney.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. **July 1, 2026**

Council Member Cordell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2026, City Council Meeting. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Council Member Stepp made a motion to add two (2) items to the agenda. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

OTHER

2. **Quit Claim Deed – 331 N. Gilmer St.**

Randy Mannino, Planning and Development Director, stated the property located at 331 N. Gilmer Street was improved as part of a "Community Development Block Grant/Deferred Payment Loan Program". The applicant has fulfilled the required 10-year owner occupied criteria obligation as outlined in the program terms. The homeowner has requested the release of the Quit Claim Deed. This is a

standard process, and since the applicant has met the program requirements, staff recommends approval to authorize the release.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed – 331 N. Gilmer St. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

ADDED ITEM

3. Quit Claim Deed – 150 Old Mill Rd, Unit 406

Mr. Mannino stated the property located at 150 Old Mill Rd; Unit 406, was purchased under the First-Time homebuyers Program (CHIP Grant). The applicant had fulfilled the required five-year ownership obligation as outlined in the terms of the program.

The homeowner had requested the Quit Claim Deed release. This is a standard process, and since the applicant had met all program requirements, staff recommended approval to authorize the release.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed – 150 Old Mill Rd., Unit 406. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

PUBLIC HEARING – 1st READING OF ZONING/ANNEXATION REQUESTS

4. SU26-09: 24 Pine Grove Rd.

Mr. Mannino stated the applicant applied for a Special Use permit for construction of an accessory apartment on a residential property. The building is proposed along the eastern portion of property located at 24 Pine Grove Road.

Staff does not oppose the application with the following conditions:

Conditions:

- If approved, the approval is per the project data provided on the special use application and concept plan.

Planning Commission recommended approval without conditions. Vote: 3-2

Mayor Santini opened the public hearing.

Marianne File, applicant, came forward to represent the application.

Mary Zingalis, 630 Wildberry Trace, Suwanee, came forward to speak in favor of the application.

Shirley Andrews, 36 Pine Grove Rd., came forward in opposition to the application.

Mr. Mannino came forward to answer questions from Council Members.

Gail Cochran, 38 Pine Grove Rd., came forward in opposition to the application.

Jefferson Taborda, 24 Pine Grove Rd., came forward in favor of the application.

Miguel Gomez, 22 Pine Grove Rd., came forward in favor of the application.

With no one else to come forward, the public hearing was closed.

This was the first reading and would be voted on following the second reading scheduled for the August 6, 2026, City Council Meeting.

BID AWARD/PURCHASES

5. Purchase of three (3) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 Vehicles

Kevin Cloninger, Police Chief, stated Cartersville Police Department requested approval to purchase three (3) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 vehicles. These vehicles will replace older fleet vehicles with high mileage and increasing maintenance issues.

The purchase price for the vehicles is $162,960.60. In addition, $25,000.00 per vehicle for equipment upfitting, including emergency lights, sirens, computers, radios, and other necessary equipment was requested. The total cost of the vehicles and equipment will not exceed $237,960.60.

These are budgeted items and will be purchased using General Fund capital funds.

The vehicles will be purchased from the following vendor:

Wilson County Motors:

- Three (3) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 vehicles – $54,320.20 each ($162,960.60 total)
- Equipment Upfitting: $75,000.00
- Total Cost: $237,960.60

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve Purchase of Three (3) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 Vehicles. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

6. Hooklift Truck and Containers

Wade Wilson, Public Works Director, stated the Solid Waste Division of Public Works has identified the need for equipment to assist with the removal of materials collected through its solid waste operations. After evaluating larger roll-off trucks, the division determined that a hooklift truck is a more effective and cost-efficient solution.

The recommended equipment consists of a Stellar hooklift mounted on a 2027 Ford F600 4x4, along with three (3) 15-yard lift containers. The estimated build time for the vehicle is approximately 90 to 120 days. The Solid Waste Division recommended approval to purchase the equipment from Sansom Equipment Company through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract in the amount of $159,505.20. This purchase is a budgeted item and will be funded using Solid Waste Capital funds.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Hooklift Truck and containers. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

7. PLW-200H Pilot Line Winder Wire Machine

Tim Storey, Electric Department Director, stated the Electric Department requested approval to purchase a new Pilot Line Wire Machine to replace the existing 1993 machine. Two (2) bids and (1) "No Bids" were received and deemed the offer from Sherman & Reilly, Inc. to be the best based upon price. Authorization was requested to purchase this unit from Sherman & Reilly, Inc. for a total of $174,738.22. This is a budgeted expense.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the PLW-200H Pilot Line Winder Wire Machine. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

8. 22,000 LB. Capacity Commercial Forklift Purchase

Mr. Storey stated the Electric Department requested approval to purchase a new 22,000 LB. Capacity Commercial Hyundai Forklift. All specifications meet the department's requirements as quoted via GSA Contract. Authorization was requested to purchase this item from Advanced Material Handling Systems, via GSA Contract# GS-07F-0293X in the amount of $149,654.31. This is a budgeted expense.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the 22,000 LB. Capacity Commercial Forklift Purchase. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

9. Decorative Light Poles and Heads

Mr. Storey stated the Electric Department was requesting approval to purchase (44) LED decorative heads and (48) 16' decorative light poles for Silo Pointe Subdivision. One (1) bid from Gresco Utility Supply, Inc. and (2) "No Bids" were received. Authorization was requested to purchase these light heads and poles from Gresco Utility Supply, Inc. in the amount of $47,700.00. This is a budgeted expense.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Decorative Light Poles and Heads. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

10. Northwest Georgia Regional Commission FY2027 Membership Dues

Dan Porta, City Manager, stated the City of Cartersville requests approval to pay the Fiscal Year 2027 annual membership assessment to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) in the amount of $25,843.00. The annual assessment is calculated at $1.00 per capita based on the City's 2025 population estimate and provides continued membership and participation in the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This is a budgeted annual expense, and staff recommended approval.

Council Member Cooley made a motion to approve the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission FY2027 Membership Dues. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

11. Sewer Jet Truck Replacement

Sidney Forsyth, Water Department Director, stated the small sewer jet truck is a frequently used 2012 model. This truck is used for small clog clearing as well as for smaller mains and service lines. The jet pump unit needs frequent service on the ceramic clutch and is at the end of its expected useful life.

A comparable, updated replacement jet truck was priced through Sourcewell for $336,015.46 from Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC of Atlanta, and is available for delivery immediately.

This is a budgeted purchase that was recommended for approval.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Sewer Jet Truck Replacement. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

12. Auto Flagger Assistance Device

Mr. Forsyth stated that to improve jobsite safety and flagger communication, the Water Department has identified and tested an Automatic Flagger Assistance Device.

Four quotes were obtained for these devices (Two are necessary for worksite coverage) with the low bid from Ferguson Waterworks for $27,847.90. Approval was recommended to purchase these devices.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Auto Flagger Assistance Device. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

ENGINEERING SERVICES

13. Hwy 411 Utility Relocation Engineering Services

Mr. Forsyth stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is planning to widen US Highway 411 between Peeples Valley Road and Old Canton Road.

Sweitzer Engineering has submitted a proposed task order for preliminary study and design of water and sewer line relocation, which conflict with this project for $69,950.00. This is a budgeted expense; approval was recommended.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Hwy 411 Utility Relocation Engineering Services. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

14. Douthit Ferry Road Utility Relocation Engineering Services

Mr. Forsyth stated in conjunction with the proposed Douthit Ferry Road widening project, Sweitzer Engineering has submitted a proposed task order for design including bid and negotiation phase services for $93,000.00. This is a budgeted expense that approval was recommended.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Douthit Ferry Road Utility Relocation Engineering Services. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

15. Cartersville – Bartow County Sewer Service Contract

Mr. Forsyth stated the City and County entered into a 40-year sewer service agreement in 1978. That agreement, along with its subsequent amendments and extensions, expired in 2018.

Since then, the Water Departments of both governments have worked collaboratively to develop a new agreement that supports the continued growth and long-term success of each system. The proposed 30-year agreement provides for the continued provision of sanitary sewer service while establishing a framework for ongoing cooperation and joint planning between the City and County. Approval was recommended.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Cartersville – Bartow County Sewer Service Contract. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

16. Tivity Health Silver Sneakers Agreement

Erik Pabst, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, stated approval was requested of a Partner Location Agreement with Tivity Health to allow the City's Senior Aquatic Center to participate in the SilverSneakers® Fitness Program. The agreement runs through June 30, 2031, with automatic annual renewals, and provides reimbursement of up to $24 per enrolled participant per month based on program utilization.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Tivity Health Silver Sneakers Agreement subject to approval by the City Manager and City Attorney. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

17. Noise Ordinance Amendment – Loud Noise Regulations

Keith Lovell, City Attorney, this ordinance amends Section 11-101 of the City Code by updating the City's noise regulations, including standards for measuring sound levels, maximum permitted sound levels for motor vehicles, and a decibel limit at the common property line between single-family residential properties.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Noise Ordinance Amendment – Loud Noise Regulations as amended. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Reference Ordinance 42-26

ADDED ITEM

18. Property Tax Digest Advertisement

Mrs. DeSanto stated a copy of the tax advertisements had been provided to Mayor and Council to review the current year and five-year history of the tax digest. If approved, it will be published on August 13, 2026. Generally, Mayor and Council vote on any increase. This year, there is a decrease. However, to keep with the same practice of the past years, approval was recommended.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Property Tax Digest. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

19. May 2026 Financial Report

Diana DeSanto, Finance Director, reviewed the financial statement from May 2026 and compared the statement to May 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Council Member Stepp made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 PM

/s/ _____
Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/ _____
Julia Drake
City Clerk

CITY OF Cartersville EST. 1850 GEORGIA