THE CITY OF DALTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2026

The Mayor and Council held a meeting this evening at 6:05 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Mayor Annalee Sams, Councilmembers Dennis Mock, newly elected Julie Locke, Tyree Goodlett and Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Sams called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilmembers led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
On the motion of Councilmember Farrow, second Councilmember Mock, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda and moved item 15 and 16 under Supplemental Business to the top of the agenda.

15 – Resolution 26-07 – Certification of Special Election Results
16 – Oath of Office – Julie Locke, Council Member Ward 2

The vote was unanimous in favor.

RESOLUTION 26-07 CERTIFICATION OF SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS
The Mayor and Council reviewed the Special Election Results held March 10 to elect Councilman Ward 2. The results are as follows:

Rojelio "Roy" Alvarran	1096
Julie Locke	1808
Zeucis "Z" Martinez	527

On the motion of Councilmember Farrow, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Mayor and Council certified the Results. The vote was unanimous in favor. A copy of the official Election Summary Report is a part of these minutes.

OATH OF OFFICE - JULIE LOCKE, COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 2
Superior Court Judge Cindy Morris administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Julie Locke for Council member Ward 2. A copy of the Oath of Office is a part of these minutes.

RECUSAL - LOCKE
Mayor Sams stated that Council member Locke elected to recuse herself on voting this evening because she has not had time to become familiar with the items that will be discussed however may vote where she finds appropriate.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY
There were no Public Comments.

STAFF REPORTS
There were no Staff Reports.

MINUTES
The Mayor and Council reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Farrow, second Councilmember Goodlett, the minutes were approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 26-02 - VAPE AND TOBACCO STORES
The Mayor and Council held a Second Reading for Ordinance 26-02 To Amend Chapter 26 of the 2001 Revised Code regarding "Vape and Tobacco Stores". City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe explained that the City originally discussed a licensing system for vape stores, but after receiving public comments, the proposal was revised to become a full ban on vape and tobacco stores within city limits. Bledsoe reviewed the Ordinance including the definitions, how much revenue and floor space dedicated to the regulated product and that existing stores may continue operating under a grandfather clause if they keep a valid occupational tax certificate and follow all code requirements. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett the Ordinance was adopted. The vote was unanimous in favor. A copy of this Ordinance is a part of these minutes.

RESOLUTION 26-06 TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
City Administrator Andrew Parker presented Resolution 26-06 and explained the City was notified of a new national opioid settlement involving six remaining defendants. Parker stated the proposed resolution states that it's in the city's best interest to participate so it can receive settlement funds to help address opioid-related harms in the community. Parker further stated it also authorizes the City Administrator or CFO to sign any documents needed to opt in. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow the Resolution was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

RESOLUTION 26-08 AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PROPERTY EASEMENT - MOUNTAIN RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
City Administrator Andrew Parker presented Resolution 26-08 and explained a surveyor recently found a historic cemetery near the South Bypass and Howell Drive and after researching ownership, it was confirmed that the cemetery belongs to Mountain Ridge Baptist Church. Parker stated to ensure proper access, the City worked with surveyors, attorneys, and Dalton Utilities to establish a 20-foot permanent easement across city-owned property. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Goodlett the Resolution was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

LANDLORD'S CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT AT RAISIN WAY (PARCEL 12-128-01-000) WITH CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS AND THE TOWERS, LLC

City Administrator Andrew Parker presented Landlord's Consent to Assignment and Assumption of Easement Agreement at Raisin Way. Parker stated in 2025, the Council approved holding a public auction for an easement on Raisin Way to allow access for constructing a new cell tower on adjacent private property. Parker stated the City granted the easement to Verizon (through CELLCO Partnership) further stating that although the tower hasn't been built yet, Verizon has since sold its tower operations to The Towers LLC. Continuing, Parker stated the company is now asking the City to consent to transferring the easement and all associated rights and obligations to The Towers LLC. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Mock the Request was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REAL ESTATE BETWEEN BLACKTHORN HOUSE, LLC, THE CITY OF DALTON AND CHARLES WHITENER

City Administrator Andrew Parker presented an Agreement for the development of Real Estate between Blackthorn House, LLC, the City of Dalton And Charles Whitener. Parker stated that Blackthorn House owns a 50-acre tract next to Haig mill Lake Park and the North Bypass and because the bypass is limited access, GDOT must approve any new road connections. Further Parker stated to improve public access and provide access to Blackthorn's property, an agreement is proposed in which Blackthorn would design and build a new public roadway creating a fourth leg at the Thornton Avenue/North Bypass intersection. Parker stated as part of the agreement, Blackthorn would also handle several requirements: relocating Dalton Utilities' access point, moving a security gate, relocating a portion of the Mill Line trail, and building a new trailhead — all at their expense; in return, the City would assist Blackthorn in applying for the required GDOT access break. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Goodlett the Agreement was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

*Parker noted that approving the agreement does not guarantee GDOT will approve the access break, and the contract protects the City from any damages if GDOT denies it.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS & THE CITY OF DALTON FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF UNDERWOOD STREET BRIDGE

Public Works Director Chad Townsend presented a MOU with the Army Corps of Engineers for the replacement of Underwood Street Bridge. Townsend stated removing the old bridge is needed to reduce flooding on Underwood Street and address safety issues from its deteriorated condition. Further he stated construction of the new bridge is expected to take 8–10 months, with no temporary bridge provided. Townsend stated that Public outreach has not begun yet because easements need to be secured and state permits, but residents will be notified well in advance. On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Mock the MOU was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

APPROVAL OF BOOST GRANT FROM GRPA FOR $35,000.

Recreation Director Steve Roberts presented a Boost grant from GRPA. Roberts stated Dalton Parks & Recreation received a $35,000 GRPA BOOST grant to support after-school programs and summer camps and noted it is a reimbursement grant with no matching funds required. Roberts further stated the money will help enhance existing programs, which continue to grow. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Locke the MOU was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

KIMLEY-HORN AMENDMENT #1 TO IPO #3 AT AIRPORT

Airport Director Andrew Wiersma presented Kimley-Horn Amendment #1 to IPO #3 at Airport. Wiersma stated this item is an amendment to an existing airport project agreement with Kimley-Horn for the Dalton Airport hangar development project, which is now complete. Further Wiersma stated that because the project was extended twice, Kimley-Horn incurred additional construction administration and inspection costs. Wiersma stated the Amendment No. 1 covers these extra costs totaling $68,950.28 and the remaining balance in the GDOT grant for this project (about $198,000) is sufficient to fully cover the amendment amount. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Goodlett the Amendment was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

KIMLEY-HORN IPO #8 FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES ON APPROACH LIGHT SYSTEM REHAB AT AIRPORT

Airport Director Andrew Wiersma presented Kimley-Horn IPO #8 for Design and Construction Phase Services on Approach Light System Rehab at Airport. Wiersma stated this is a request for approval of an agreement with Kimley-Horn for design, bid-phase, and construction-phase services for the approach light system rehabilitation project. Wiersma stated GDOT previously issued a $1.2 million grant for this work and recently gave notice to proceed with design and this IPO authorizes Kimley-Horn's services totaling $224,284.41, which will be funded through the existing grant. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett the Agreement was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - BION SECURITY 2026

IT Director Jorge Paez presented a Professional Services Agreement with BION Security 2026. Paez stated the IT Department is requesting approval to renew its professional services agreement with BION Security LLC for another year. Paez stated BION has supported the City's IT operations since 2021 and the contract allows the city to purchase blocks of professional services as needed, with a cost not to exceed $80,000 for the year. Noting funding will come from the FY 2026 IT Operating budget. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Mock the Agreement was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

FY25 BUDGET AMENDMENT #6

CFO Cindy Jackson presented FY25 Budget Amendment #6 stating this amendment is simply a true-up of previously accounted activity. Jackson stated the only notable change is about $45,000 in additional hotel-motel tax revenue; all other adjustments are routine money-in/money-out entries with no net increase in revenue or expenditures. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the Amendment was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-05 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF DALTON COMBINED UTILITIES REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2026 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $130,000,000.00

Dalton Utilities CEO John Thomas presented a First Reading of Ordinance 26-05 Bond Ordinance Providing for The Issuance of City of Dalton Combined Utilities Revenue Bond, Series 2026 in the Principal Amount Of $130,000,000.00. Thomas stated that in January the Council authorized Dalton Utilities to pursue debt for constructing a new 57-megawatt power plant on existing utility property. Thomas stated this item is the first reading of the ordinance that would authorize issuing the revenue bonds needed for the project. Thomas further explained that these are utility revenue bonds, meaning only utility revenues—not taxpayer funds—are pledged to repay the debt. Further stating that if utility revenues were ever insufficient, the adjustment would fall solely on the utility, not the city's general fund. Also noting that the utility has its own separate credit rating and borrowing capacity, so this debt would not impact the City of Dalton's general government credit standing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor and Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026 has been cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, March 30, 2026.

There will be a small reception in the atrium immediately following the meeting tonight to welcome Julie Locke, newly elected council member for Ward 2.
Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:43 p.m.

Bernadette Chattam
Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

Annalee Sams, Mayor

Recorded
Approved: 3-30-26
Post: 3-31-26