

THE CITY OF DALTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2026

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

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 Goodlett, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda. The vote was unanimous in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There were no public comments.

STAFF REPORTS

Special Events & Community Engagement Coordinator Candance Eaton stated that April 20th marks the start of Georgia Cities Week. Eaton stated this year, the City will combine Georgia Cities Week activities with the Downtown Beach Bash on Friday, April 24 which will feature Rubik's Groove, an '80s/'90s cover band known for performing in character. Eaton urged all city departments to participate and showcase their services additionally she stated that YETI has donated a cooler to be raffled among employees who attend, as a way to encourage staff engagement.

Eaton further reported that on Monday April 20th local students will be recognized for their entries in the coloring contest and the "If I Were Mayor for a Day" writing contest, with winners attending the Council meeting.

CVB Director Margaret Thigpen presented the economic impact for February stating February generated just over \$1.1 million in economic impact, with Dalton Parks contributing about \$475K and the Convention Center about \$473K. Thigpen stated that January's numbers were lower due to storm-related closures. Further reporting that Hotel-motel revenue remains slightly down, influenced by broader travel and gas-price trends.

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Goodlett, second Councilmember Farrow, the minutes were approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

SECOND READING - ORDINANCE 26-05 BOND ORDINANCE FOR UTILITIES
REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2026

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Second 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 discussed several core points regarding the proposed bond-funded power generation project:

- Project necessity: The project is needed regardless of any data center activity. The community will require additional power supply either way.
- Cost certainty vs. market exposure: The community will spend significant dollars on power supply whether it owns a generating asset or continues to purchase wholesale power. Owning the asset provides long-term stability, while relying on contracts forces the utility back into the market every 10 years at uncertain prices.
- Projected savings:
 - Over the first 10 years (the bond period), the utility has high confidence in over \$1 million in annual cash-flow savings compared to current wholesale market rates.
 - Over the following 20 years, once the plant is paid off, savings could reach millions per month, potentially totaling nearly \$200 million in today's market conditions.

Board Position

Ed Anthony, Chair of the Water, Light & Sinking Fund Commission, confirmed the board has been thoroughly briefed for months and has unanimously approved the project. The board believes the project is financially sound and in the best interest of Dalton Utilities and its electric customers. He emphasized that the community must pay for power one way or another either through long-term contracts or by owning generation and that ownership is more favorable both in the medium and long term.

Note: Context on Local Power Production

Council asked about the decline in locally produced power. Utility leadership explained that as Georgia Power retired coal-based generating units in which Dalton Utilities held fractional ownership, the city's share of self-produced power decreased. This project would restore a portion of that lost self-generation capacity, increasing the percentage of power the community owns outright.

City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe informed the Mayor and Council that two minor revisions were made to the ordinance since its publication on Friday:

- A clarification in Section 3D (page 5) to specify that accrued interest may also be paid during partial early redemption.
- The amortization schedule has been added as an exhibit.

Bledsoe stated the next procedural steps if the ordinance is approved, the bond will be validated by the Superior Court of Whitfield County which involves filing a validation action, public advertisement, and final approval by the Superior Court judge before the bonds can be issued to the market. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Locke, the Ordinance Providing for The Issuance of City of Dalton Combined Utilities Revenue Bond, Series 2026 In the Principal Amount Of \$130,000,000.00 was approved. . The vote was unanimous in favor. *Bond Attorney Jim Woodward attended this segment via zoom.

REVIEW OF (5) NEW 2026 NEW ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Assistant City Clerk Gesse Cabrera presented the following New Alcohol Beverage License Applications:

On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Farrow, the following application was approved:

Business Owner: Jay Ganesh 741, LLC
d/b/a: Mapco #848
Applicant: Raj Patel
Business Address: 741 Riverbend Rd.
License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)
Disposition: New
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve
The vote was unanimous in favor.

On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the following application was approved:

Business Owner: 1128 Dalton Food Mart, LLC
d/b/a: Dalton Food Mart
Applicant: Ashfaque Khan
Business Address: 1128 S. Thornton Ave.
License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)
Disposition: New
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve
The vote was unanimous in favor.

On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the following application was approved:

Business Owner: Al Mateen, LLC
d/b/a: Dalton Food Mart
Applicant: Imtiaz Hossain Rony
Business Address: 1002 Underwood St.
License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store)
Disposition: New
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve
The vote was unanimous in favor.

Review of (5) New 2026 New Alcohol Beverage License Applications
Continued

On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Farrow, the following application was approved:

Business Owner: Tacos el Cunao de Dalton, LLC
d/b/a: Tacos el Cunao de Dalton, LLC
Applicant: Hugo Benitez
Business Address: 1704 Abutment Rd.
License Type: Pouring Beer (Restaurant)
Disposition: New
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve
The vote was unanimous in favor.

On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Farrow, the following application was approved:

Business Owner: Renee Solis Torres
d/b/a: El Reventon Night Club
Applicant: Renee Solis Torres
Business Address: 600 MLK Jr. Blvd
License Type: Pouring Distilled Spirits (Bar)
Disposition: License Addition
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve
The vote was unanimous in favor.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CARTER HOPE CENTER

Assistant City Administrator Todd Pangle presented a renewal of last year's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Carter Hope. Pangle stated the new MOU will formally sunset the previous agreement and extend the partnership for the coming year. Further stating the renewal totals \$74,000, funded entirely through the opioid settlement, which is a highly restricted revenue source. Staff noted that this was an appropriate and effective use of the funds last year and is expected to remain so. On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Farrow, the MOU was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

RESOLUTION 26-09 - RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF WAY DEED

Public Works Director Chad Townsend presented Resolution 26-09 to accept a Right of Way Deed. Townsend stated the Resolution is to accept right-of-way from the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority for streets within the Hamilton Village development off South Hamilton Street. Townsend further stated the executed deed conveys right-of-way for Sorrel Drive, Flintwood Way, Jasmine Court, Sweetgum Street, Tulip Drive, Lantana Drive, and Camellia Street, as shown on the final subdivision plat prepared by Craig M. Cook & Associates dated March 11, 2026. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the Resolution was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

RESOLUTION 26-10 A RESOLUTION FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE OPENING OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES

Assistant City Administrator presented Resolution 26-10 for a Moratorium on the Opening of Certain Businesses. Pangle stated the Resolution is to extend the existing moratorium related to certain regulated activities. Further stating, the extension aligns with the recently adopted vape ordinance and will continue the pause on the remaining items covered under the moratorium for an additional three months. Pangle stated the extension will allow the city attorney and city staff more time to continue developing and refining the related ordinances.

Council member Farrow stated he would support the current three-month moratorium extension but expressed concern about continuing to extend moratoriums indefinitely emphasizing the need to either complete the related ordinances or avoid ongoing extensions.

On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the Resolution was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

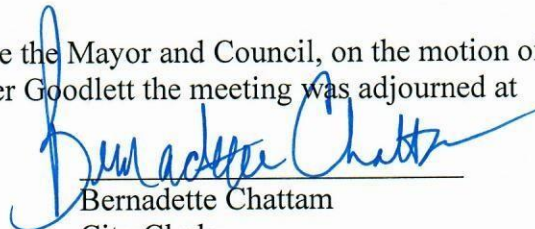
City offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026, in observance of the Good Friday holiday.

The Mayor and Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026, has been cancelled. The next Mayor and Council Meeting will be held April 20, 2026.

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.


Annalee Sams, Mayor


Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

Recorded
Approved: 4-20-26
Post: 4-21-26