

THE CITY OF DALTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 4, 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, Julie Locke and 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 Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Andrea Gordy spoke in support of DejaVu Club regarding the license review, Gordy stated that recent Public Safety footage portrayed the business inaccurately as solely a nightlife club. She explained that throughout 2023 she hosted monthly business-networking events there, growing from five participants to a network of roughly 1,500 members, with 50–100 attendees per event. All gatherings were fully catered, and Alex donated the space at no cost.

She noted that the venue also hosts civic-engagement events such as Rock the Vote—attended by some councilmembers—and recently began offering free, catered movie nights. Andrea emphasized that these activities demonstrate the facility functions as a broader social club and community space, not just a nightclub, and she felt the public safety presentation did not reflect the full scope of its community use.

Alex Vitale stated that the City of Dalton has treated him, his businesses, and his family unfairly in the enforcement of alcohol-licensing rules. Further questioning the fairness and integrity of the licensing process.

A speaker from “Freedom United News” alleged long-standing corruption within the Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office and the Dalton Police Department, claiming officers issue unjustified citations and that the county jail is in severe disrepair, with mold, broken beds, non-functioning showers, and flooding. He said these concerns have been repeatedly ignored by county leadership. He also criticized police driving practices and stated that both the city and county quoted him excessively high fees—\$22,000 from the city and over \$3,000 from the county—for public records requests related to road maintenance. He argued that local roads are deteriorated and questioned how public funds are being used.

Maria Salisis, speaking as staff for Attorney Jim Meaney, stated that she personally assisted Alex Vitale with his license application and confirmed that the city clerk rejected the application because it lacked a liability insurance certificate. She said the application was only accepted after she obtained the required document, and she offered her statement as corroboration of Alex’s account regarding inconsistent application acceptance.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK 2026

Mayor Sams recognized CVB Director Margaret Thigpen thanking her for the CVB's work in bringing visitors to Dalton through tournaments and events. Mayor Sams noted that May 3-9, 2026, is National Travel and Tourism Week and highlighted an upcoming disc golf event on May 6 at 305 South Depot Street, encouraging the public to visit VisitDaltonGA.com for details. Sams also expressed appreciation for the CVB team's contributions.

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Work Session Minutes of April 15, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Locke, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Special Called Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Locke, second Councilmember Mock, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION HEARING DECISION REGARDING DEJAVU CLUB LLC.

City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe briefed the Mayor and Council on the Public Safety Commission's April 21 hearing regarding Deja Vu Club LLC. Bledsoe stated the PSC found that the business provided false information on its original and renewal alcohol-license applications by designating itself as a restaurant despite not meeting the legal requirements for that classification, including food service, kitchen standards, seating, and the 50% food-sales threshold.

Bledsoe continued stating that the hearing included 25 exhibits, four videos, and testimony from six witnesses, including a CPA who reviewed the business's records. Bledsoe reported the PSC concluded that Deja Vu willfully violated Code Section 6-142 and recommended revoking the alcohol license and assessing audit and court-reporter costs to the business.

Bledsoe also explained that under Section 6-234, the council's role is to review the existing record—not take new evidence—and determine whether sufficient evidence supports the PSC's recommendation. If sufficient evidence has been submitted, the code requires revocation of the alcohol license for 60 months he stated. In response to a Council inquiry, Bledsoe clarified that revocation would prohibit the business from selling alcohol but would not prevent it from operating solely as a food-service establishment. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Mayor and Council accepted the PSC's recommendation to revoke the alcohol beverage license of Dejavu Club LLC. unanimously.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION HEARING DECISION REGARDING
DEJAVU CLUB LLC. Continued

Council member Mock expressed that city staff, police, code enforcement, and the auditor provided extensive leeway and support throughout the Deja Vu review process, but the business failed to meet the standards required for a restaurant license. Mock noted that despite opportunities during the audit, the owner did not provide the expected backup documentation to substantiate food-sales requirements. Mock thanked staff and the city attorney for their work and remarked that it was unfortunate the city had to expend significant resources on the matter.

RESOLUTION 26-14 ADOPTING APPLICATION OF KINETIC ABS GA LLC TO
CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINES AND
FACILITIES

City Administrator Andrew Parker presented Resolution 26-14 Adopting Application of Kinetic ABS GA LLC to Construct and Maintain Certain Telecommunications Lines and Facilities. Parker reported that Unity Group is transferring certain Windstream assets, customer contracts, and right-of-way facilities to its affiliate, Kinetic, effective June 30, 2026. Parker stated under state law, Kinetic will assume responsibility for due-compensation payments to the City for facilities located in the public right-of-way and will become the service provider responsible for maintaining those assets. Parker explained Resolution 26-14 acknowledges the transfer, affirms Kinetic's obligation to comply with local regulations, and reiterates that the company must obtain Public Works permits for any right-of-way work. Note: Staff and the city attorney reviewed the required statutory filings and confirmed the application meets all requirements. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Mayor and Council approved the Resolution unanimously.

STORM DRAINAGE EASEMENT - FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DALTON
Public Works Director Chad Townsend presented a Storm Drainage Easement with First United Methodist Church of Dalton for approval to allow the City to connect to an existing drain line on church property and route water into the Temple Bethel stormwater project. Note: The city attorney reviewed the easement, and the Public Works Committee recommended approval. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Mayor and Council approved the request unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO TAX COMMISSIONER AGREEMENT

City Administrator Andrew Parker presented an Amendment to the Tax Commissioner Agreement. Parker explained that since 1996 the City has contracted with the Whitfield County Tax Commissioner to collect municipal and Dalton Public Schools ad valorem taxes. Parker stated the amendment updates the compensation rate to \$3,750 per month and replaces the original 1996 payment terms. Note: The city attorney reviewed the agreement. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Locke, the Mayor and Council approved the amendment unanimously.

REVIEW OF (4) NEW 2026 ALCOHOL BEVERAGE APPLICATIONS

The Mayor and Council reviewed the following (4) New Alcohol Beverage Applications:

Business Owner: CJPJ Pizza 2, LLC

d/b/a: Vocelli Pizza

Applicant: Justin Thompson

Business Address: 825 Chattanooga Ave. Suite 1 & 2

License Type: Pouring Beer, Wine, Retail Delivery (Restaurant)

Disposition: New

PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve

On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow, the application was approved unanimously.

Business Owner: Glenwood Rapids Inc.

d/b/a: Rapids

Applicant: Asif Ali

Business Address: 1016 N. Glenwood Ave

License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)

Disposition: New

Staff Comments: None. Have approvals from Fire Department, Code Enforcement and

PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve

On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Mock, the application was approved unanimously.

Business Owner: Glenwood324 Inc.

d/b/a: Corner Express 2

Applicant: Asif Ali

Business Address: 324 N. Glenwood Ave

License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)

Disposition: New

PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve

On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow, the application was approved unanimously.

Business Owner: Glenwood 2025 Inc.

d/b/a: Smiles Fuel

Applicant: Courtney Velasquez

Business Address: 400 N. Glenwood Ave

License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)

Disposition: New

PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve

On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Goodlett, the application was approved unanimously.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-06 – REZONING REQUEST FROM ENRIQUE
MENDEZ GOMEZ

The Mayor and Council held a first reading of Ordinance 26-06 To hear the request of Enrique Mendez Gomez to rezone from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Medium Density Single Family Residential (R-3) a tract of land totaling 0.60 acres located on Dogwood Drive, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-216-01-008).

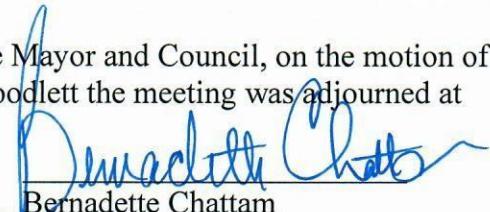
City Administrator Andrew Parker presented the request to rezone a lot from Heavy Manufacturing (M2) to Medium-Density Single-Family Residential (R3) to allow construction of a home. Parker stated that surrounding properties are already residential, and the petitioner noted that appropriate zoning is often required for mortgage financing. Note: Staff recommended approval based on compatibility with nearby uses, and the Planning Commission unanimously supported the request after confirming the site can be prepared for residential development.

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 6:35 p.m.



Annalee Sams, Mayor



Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

Recorded
Approved: 5-18-26
Post: 5-19-26