

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

The Mayor and Council held a meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Mayor Annalee Sams, Councilmembers Tyree Goodlett and Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe. Councilmember Dennis Mock was 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 Goodlett, second Councilmember Farrow, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda. The vote was unanimous in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Luis Gomez reported that he applied for a liquor license, but the application was denied due to a cap on the number of licenses allowed. Gomez stated that he has been working on this issue for approximately eight months and expressed concern about his investment being idle.

Mayor Sams invited Mr. Gomez to remain after the meeting to discuss the matter further.

Melissa Williams expressed concerns about excessive noise from a downtown social club Dejavu. Williams shared a personal anecdote about loud car stereos and past city restrictions on cruising to illustrate how noise issues have historically required enforcement. Further Williams stated that recently, the club hosted a 12-member band playing late at night (around 12:10–12:30 AM), with sound carrying over 300 feet, disturbing residents' sleep. Williams requested proactive police patrols to prevent such disturbances rather than relying on residents to repeatedly call and enforce ordinances themselves. Lastly Williams stated tenants and residents are exhausted and need better enforcement of existing noise ordinances. Mayor Sams encouraged Williams to follow up with the staff.

Umar Sheikh, a vape shop owner expressed concerns about a proposed ordinance that may cap the number of vape shops and raise licensing fees to \$5,000. Sheikh stated he has been in business for over five years, while emphasizing compliance with all regulations and praised Dalton for being business-friendly. Sheikh further noted that increased fees would add to existing financial burdens from state and federal taxes, making it harder for small businesses to operate. and requested the Council reconsider the proposed fee structure, citing that other cities with similar regulations have lower fees. Mayor Sams stated the vape ordinance had its first reading but was not on the current agenda, and they appreciated the timely comments as Staff continues to shape the ordinance. Further noting the agenda is published online prior to each meeting as required by law.

### PRESENTATION

Margaret Thigpen, Director of Tourism, presented a promotional video highlighting how visitors contribute significantly to Dalton through dining, shopping, and attending events, even if they often go unnoticed. The video emphasized in the previous year, visitors spent \$168.2 million in the community, generating tax revenue and supporting growth. Thigpen further shared a summary of 2025 figures, with details about both the CVB and the Convention Center, to illustrate their economic impact.

### MINUTES

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

### SECOND READING ORDINANCE 26-03 - THE REQUEST OF WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF DALTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO MAKE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFIED ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT

City Administrator Andrew Parker submitted the Second Reading of Ordinance 26-03 a request from Whitfield County Board of Commissioners and the City of Dalton Mayor and Council to make proposed amendments to the Unified Zoning Ordinance text to add the definition for “Biohazard Waste” “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste” and to update the Permitted Use Table to add a new line item for “Biohazard Waste”, “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste”, delete Section 4-6-13 and replace, amend the requirements for the UPUD zoning district, and for other purposes. (County & City).

Parker reviewed the proposed text amendments to the UZO, previously introduced on February 2 in which Ethan Calhoun provided an overview during that meeting which included New Definitions Added for Biohazard waste, Biological waste, Hazardous waste and Data center. Parker further stated facilities handling biological, biohazard, and hazardous waste would be permitted only in M1 and M2 districts and with a special use permit plus facilities must comply with all local, state, and federal regulations.

Parker continued stating that Data Centers will be permitted in M2 districts without a special use permit, consistent with Planning Commission approval from December/January.

Parker went on to discussed a new Section 5A-6 to establish a Greenspace Courtyard Subdivision option within the UPUD District. Parker stated this concept, inspired by initiatives like the South Hamilton infill project and other communities’ practices, aims to allow subdivision of lots around a shared common green space instead of requiring each lot to have 50 feet of public road frontage and individual driveways. Parker stated the amendment would enable shared parking and innovative design techniques to reduce costs while maintaining high-quality, affordable housing. Parker stated the Planning Commission gave a unanimous positive recommendation for this amendment and it will require approval from both Whitfield County and the City of Varnell.

On the motion of Councilmember Farrow, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Ordinance was adopted. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Sams, Councilmembers Goodlett, and Farrow voted aye.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 26-04 – REZONING REQUEST OF VIVIANA RAMIREZ

City Administrator Andrew Parker submitted the Second Reading of Ordinance 26-04 a request of Viviana Ramirez to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Medium Density Single Family Residential (R-3) a tract of land totaling 0.33 acres located at 409 S. Spencer Street, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-238-19-002). Parker stated the Planning Commission unanimously recommended rezoning the tract at 409 South Spencer from C2 (commercial) to R3 (medium-density single-family residential). Parker further stated the area already includes several residential properties, some zoned R5, making the proposed R3 rezoning consistent with surrounding development. Both staff and the Planning Commission supported the change, and the petitioner expressed agreement with the proposal. On the motion of Councilmember Farrow, second Councilmember Goodlett, the Ordinance was adopted. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Sams, Councilmembers Goodlett, and Farrow voted aye.

SERVICE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BETWEEN DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FLOCK GROUP, INC.

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented an amendment to a service agreement between Dalton police department and Flock Group, Inc. to add an additional (3) Flock cameras at a cost of \$1950.00. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Goodlett, the amendment was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Sams, Councilmembers Goodlett, and Farrow voted aye.

AIRPORT HANGAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR INTEGRATED BUILDS, LLC.

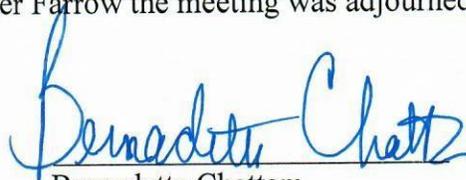
Airport Director Andrew Wiersma presented a Contract Extension for Integrated Builds, LLC. Wiersma stated the extension of the contract is for an additional 53 calendar days due to additional work added to the project scope and weather delays. Wiersma stated the project achieved substantial completion on February 6, 2026 and is currently nearing final completion of corrective action items for final acceptance. On the motion of Council member Goodlett, second Council member Farrow, the contract extension was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Sams, Councilmembers Goodlett, and Farrow voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on the motion of Councilmember Goodlett, second Councilmember Farrow the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.



Annalee Sams, Mayor



Bernadette Chattam  
City Clerk

Recorded 3-2-26  
Approved:                       
Post: 2-3-26