

THE CITY OF DALTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2026

The Mayor and Council held a Work Session this evening at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Present were Mayor Annalee Sams, Council members Dennis Mock, Julie Locke and Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe. Council member Tyree Goodlett was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sams called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF DRAFT ALCOHOL BEVERAGE/EVENT CENTER ORDINANCE 26-12

City Attorney, Jonathan Bledsoe, provided an overview of Ordinance 26-12 which updates the alcohol code and creates a new event facility licensing system. Bledsoe stated it clarifies restaurant standards, aligns local rules with state mixed-drink transport law, and updates eligibility rules for alcohol license holders. Continuing, Bledsoe stated the new ordinance defines and regulates event facilities (100+ people) and micro-event facilities (under 100), sets location limits, requires safety and parking plans, and establishes operational rules for noise, hours, security, and on-site management. Licensing, enforcement, and penalties mirror the alcohol code. Existing facilities must comply by September 15.

REVIEW OF DRAFT COAM ORDINANCE 26-14

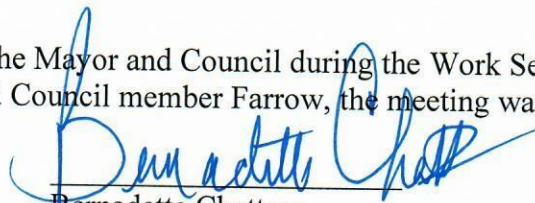
City Attorney, Jonathan Bledsoe, provided an overview of Ordinance 26-14 which will align the City's COAM (Coin Operated Amusement Machines) regulations with current state law. Bledsoe stated the ordinance adds a local licensing system, updates definitions, adopts state-authorized distance requirements, and reflects the state change reducing Class B machines from nine to six if the City chooses. Further Bledsoe reported it outlines application requirements, quarterly revenue reporting, operational rules (visibility, on-site attendant, anti-loitering), and enforcement handled through the Public Safety Commission. Existing operators must comply by September 15.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Mayor and Council during the Work Session, on the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow, the meeting was Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Annalee Sams, Mayor



Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

Approved: 6-15-26
Post: 6-16-26

THE CITY OF DALTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 1, 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 Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe. Council member Tyree Goodlett 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 Mock, second Councilmember Locke, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Annabelle Medina introduced SYCLAC, describing it as a seminary that educates and empowers community members to participate actively in elections and local initiatives. She stated that their group is presenting several issues observed throughout the City of Dalton and Whitfield County. She also noted that they prepared documents for each case, including a QR code linking to supporting proof and videos.

Mercedes Visval reported dangerous speeding on Cascade Drive, noting a recent incident where a minor was struck by a vehicle. She requested speed bumps as a traffic-calming measure to protect residents. Mayor Sams advised that Public Safety, through Assistant City Administrator Todd Pangle, will follow up with her directly.

Anna Lemos, speaking as a member of SYCLAC and on behalf of Dalton residents, reported longstanding concerns about stagnant and possibly contaminated water at Joan Lewis Park near 4th Avenue. She described strong odors, insect infestation, and flooding during rainy periods that can reach nearby homes and neighbors say its persisted for nearly a decade. Lemos requested a formal inspection, analysis of potential health risks, and drainage system upgrades to protect residents and park visitors. Mayor Sams noted that both Parks and Recreation and Public Works will review the site, with follow-up to occur after their assessment.

Mr. Rivas, a taxi driver and SYCLAC member, reported a traffic safety hazard at the intersection of 5th Avenue, Walnut Avenue, and Riverbend Road. He noted that while Riverbend received turn-lane improvements and signage two years ago, 5th Avenue did not, leaving drivers struggling to make safe left and right turns onto Walnut Avenue. He cited 37 accidents at the intersection and requested adding a dedicated left-turn area and corresponding signalization for 5th Avenue, along with signage prohibiting right turns on red where visibility is limited. Mayor Sams explained the location falls under GDOT jurisdiction, and Public Works Director Chad Townsend will coordinate with GDOT and follow up with him.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Continued

Leila Madrid, speaking for SYCLAC participants, urged action to address the lack of 24/7 pediatric and adolescent medical care in Dalton. She described the hardship families face when children become ill overnight and requested the City's support in forming a working group to pursue round-the-clock health services. She emphasized that children's health and safety are essential to family well-being and asked for collaboration to improve emergency care access.

Mayor Sams thanked the SYCLAC group for their organized and thoughtful presentations. In response to the final speaker's concerns about pediatric healthcare access, Sams clarified that while the City Council will not issue an official response or follow-up, she is willing to speak with the group after the meeting and direct them to appropriate contacts. Sams further emphasized that Hamilton Medical Center is fully equipped and licensed to provide life-saving stabilization for newborns through adolescents, however acknowledging the group's desire for expanded pediatric services.

STAFF REPORTS

The Mayor and Council received April and May Economic Impact Reports from CVB Director Margaret Thigpen regarding

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2026. On the motion of Councilmember Mock, second Councilmember Farrow, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF (1) NEW 2026 ALCOHOL BEVERAGE APPLICATION

Deputy City Clerk Gesse Cabrera presented the following New 2026 Alcohol Beverage Application:

Business Owner: Pablos Inc.
d/b/a: Los Pablos Mexican Restaurant
Applicant: Jeannette Rodriguez
Business Address: 116 W. King St.
License Type: Pouring Beer, Distilled Spirits (Restaurant)
Disposition: New
PSC Recommendation: ☒ Approve

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

RESOLUTION 26-16 AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

CFO Cindy Jackson presented Resolution 26-16 to adopt the City's 2026–2027 CDBG Annual Action Plan, allocating the \$305,285 federal award after the required 30-day public review. Jackson stated that funding includes \$20,000 for the Latino Family Well-Being Program, \$20,000 for the Family Crisis Center advocate position, \$125,000 for 10–12 HVAC replacements at the Beachland property, and \$79,228 for the City's Home Repair Program, with \$61,057 reserved for administration. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Locke, the Resolution was adopted unanimously.

CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH CONSOLIDATED PLAN – CITY OF REFUGE ES GRANT

CFO Cindy Jackson presented the Certification of Consistency with Consolidated Plan – City of Refuge ES Grant. Jackson stated the City of Refuge is seeking approval to apply for a \$50,000 Emergency Solutions Grant, which they will match with \$100,000 to serve approximately 150 individuals during the grant period. Jackson continued stating that as part of the application process, the City must confirm that the project aligns with the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and because the proposal addresses housing and emergency shelter, it is fully compliant with the plan's eligibility requirements. On the motion of Council member Farrow, second Council member Mock, the Plan was approved unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CONSOR NORTH AMERICA FOR MILL LINE EXTENSION TRAIL ALIGNMENT

City Administrator Andrew Parker explained that newly identified wetlands and floodplain issues require shifting the Mill Line Extension to a new alignment along the unused water treatment plant property. Parker requested approval to amend the CONSOR contract to redesign the route at a cost of \$82,000, funded by 2024 SPLOST. The revised plans are expected by December 2, with final work completed by June next year. On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow, the Amendment was approved unanimously.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-07 TO AMEND CHAPTER 30 OF THE 2001 REVISED CODE OF THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA CAPTIONED "CEMETERIES"

Public Works Director Chad Townsend presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-07 to amend Chapter 30 of the 2001 revised code of the City of Dalton, Georgia captioned "Cemeteries". Townsend proposed revising the cemetery ordinance to clarify what items are allowed on grave sites and improve maintenance at West Hill Cemetery. Townsend further stated the update also places greater emphasis on the Cemetery Policies and Procedures Manual, which will be more accessible to the public. Note: The city attorney has reviewed the revision, and it received a positive recommendation from Public Works.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-08 TO HEAR THE REQUEST OF M.C.W., INC. TO DE-ANNEX 0.3 ACRES LOCATED AT 2209 CHATTANOOGA, DALTON, GEORGIA AT TAX PARCEL 12-158-01-032 OUT OF THE CITY OF DALTON INTO WHITFIELD COUNTY AS GENERAL COMMERCIAL (C-2). PARCEL (12-158-01-032).

Whitfield County Zoning Administrator Jean Garland presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-08, a request from MCW Inc. to de-annex a 0.3-acre parcel at 2209 Chattanooga Avenue. Garland stated the tract is fully surrounded by unincorporated Whitfield County, and the owner who holds all adjacent parcels wishes to bring the entire area under a single jurisdiction before developing an RV park. The Planning Commission, staff, and the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners have all issued favorable recommendations.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-09 REZONING REQUEST OF JOHN S. SUTTLES PARCEL (12-217-07-006)

Whitfield County Zoning Administrator Jean Garland presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-09, a request from John S. Suttles to rezone a 0.25-acre parcel on Dozier Street from R3 to R5 to allow construction of a duplex. Garland stated both Staff and the Planning Commission issued unanimous favorable recommendations, noting the site's location is between heavy manufacturing and high-density residential, making it an appropriate transitional use.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-10 – REZONING REQUEST FOR DEBO'S DINER INVESTMENTS, LLC. PARCELS (12-260-16-000 AND 12-260-03-000)

Whitfield County Zoning Administrator Jean Garland presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-10, a request from Debo's Diner Investments LLC. to update the existing C-2 conditional zoning on 3.42 acres at 525 and 527 South Tibbs Road so the property conforms to the Dalton Gateway Corridor Overlay District. Garland stated the change would also revise a 2008 access condition that required closing the existing Steak 'n Shake driveway and aligning a new entrance with the former Kmart (now Food City) drive. Garland further explained that development patterns have changed significantly, and the original condition is no longer practical. Continuing stating the updated condition would allow the existing Steak 'n Shake drive to remain as right-turn-only, add a new entrance farther north, and authorize the Public Works Director to determine final access locations. Note: The Planning Commission issued a unanimous favorable recommendation. The developer has not yet disclosed the planned commercial use.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-11 T- REZONING REQUEST FOR LOVE FUNERAL HOME PARCEL (12-160-10-000)

Whitfield County Zoning Administrator Jean Garland presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-11, a request from Love Funeral Home to rezone 3.21 acres at 1402 North Thornton Avenue from C-1 to C-2. Garland stated the property was previously allowed to operate as a funeral home under the old ordinance, but the current C-1 district does not permit funeral homes or crematoriums. Further stating the rezoning would bring the site into compliance with the Unified Zoning Ordinance and allow installation of a crematorium. Note: Staff and the Planning Commission have unanimously recommended approval.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-12 TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 OF THE 2001 REVISED CODE OF THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA CAPTIONED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES"

City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe presented the first reading of Ordinance 26-12, Bledsoe stated the proposed ordinance includes several cleanup revisions to the alcohol code and establishes a formal licensing framework for both event facilities and micro-event facilities. NOTE: revisions were discussed in detail in the Work Session.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-13 TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE 2001 REVISED CODE OF THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA CAPTIONED "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION"

Fire Chief Matt Daniels presented proposed updates to Chapter 54 – Fire Prevention and Protection to add clarity and align local fire-sprinkler requirements with state standards and NFPA Life Safety Code. Daniels stated the revisions better define specific occupancies, strengthen consistency with state and fire marshal regulations, and ensure uniform application of fire-protection requirements for businesses, developers, staff, and the public. Additionally, Daniels stated the city has enforced this code framework since 2008, with updates following state-adopted NFPA standards and the changes also modernize definitions within Chapter 54 and align them with terminology used in the forthcoming event facilities ordinance. NOTE: The update has been reviewed by the city attorney, and the Public Safety Commission has been asked to review the language.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 26-14 TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE 2001 REVISED CODE OF THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA CAPTIONED "AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS"

City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe presented the first reading of an ordinance updating the City's COAM (coin-operated amusement machines) licensing requirements. Bledsoe stated the proposal establishes a clearer licensing framework, adds limits on the number of machines, and updates local language to match current state statutory provisions. NOTE: Ordinance was discussed in detail in the Work Session.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF JACKSON SHEPPARD TO THE LIMESTONE VALLEY RC&D BOARD FOR A 1-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

Mayor Sams appointed Jackson Shepard to the Limestone Valley RC&D Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2026. Sams stated that Limestone Valley recently voted to accept the City of Dalton as a member following the City's earlier resolution requesting inclusion. Further Sams stated with the City is now eligible to participate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Sams encouraged the community to attend Friday night's concert series kickoff at Burr Park.

Executive Session - Real Estate

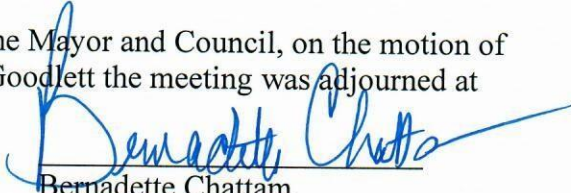
On the motion of Alderman Mock, second Alderman Farrow, the Mayor and Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:08 to discuss real estate matters. The vote was unanimous in favor.

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 8:23 p.m.



Annalee Sams, Mayor



Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk

Recorded

Approved: 6-15-26

Post: 6-16-26

THE CITY OF DALTON
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2026

The Mayor and Council held a Special Called meeting this morning at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Present were Mayor Annalee Sams, Council members Dennis Mock, Julie Locke, Tyree Goodlett and Steve Farrow, City Administrator Andrew Parker and Assistant City Administrator Todd Pangle. City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sams called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Council member Mock, second by Council member Goodlett, the agenda was approved. The vote was unanimous in favor.

REVIEW OF FY2026-2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) REQUESTS

The Mayor and Council held a work session to review departmental requests for the 2026–2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mayor Sams clarified the purpose of the meeting was to present five-year capital needs, with emphasis on FY2026 priorities.

Assistant City Administrator Todd Pangle thanked Council and staff and explained that the meeting fulfills DCA's requirement to document five-year capital needs. Pangle noted that he and City Administrator Andrew Parker reviewed all submissions and confirmed they reflect legitimate operational and capital needs, including a few new construction requests. Pangle further stated both he and City Administrator Andrew Parker will work with departments to prioritize projects and identify funding options, such as future SPLOST revenues and existing capital funds.

CFO Cindy Jackson reported that the FY2026 CIP budget totals \$1.6 million, mostly carried forward from prior years. Jackson stated there were \$626,000 in expenditures and encumbrances and about \$1.1 million remains available for FY2026 requests. Further Jackson stated that an additional \$55,000 from asset sales will be moved into CIP, giving roughly \$156,000 in new funding for this cycle. Jackson stated a five-year review (2021–2025) showed the City invested \$15 million in CIP projects, with 92% funded by the General Fund, and the remainder from asset sales and interest earnings.

REVIEW

The Mayor and Council reviewed departmental requests for the FY2026–2030 Capital Improvement Program from the following departments:

- ADMINISTRATION
- PARKS & RECREATION
- FIRE DEPARTMENT
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- POLICE DEPARTMENT
- PUBLIC WORKS

A copy of all the requests is a part of these minutes

Mayor & Council
Special Called – Work Session
June 9, 2026
Page 2

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Council member Mock, second Council member Farrow, the session concluded with the Mayor and Council thanking departments for their thorough presentations and noting that follow-up discussions on prioritization and funding sources will be required. The vote was unanimous in favor.


Bernadette Chattam
City Clerk


Annalee Sams, Mayor

Recorded
Approved: 6-15-26
Post: 6-16-26