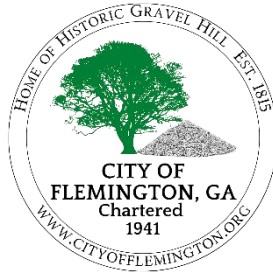


*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Paul Hawkins, MAYOR



City Hall
156 Old Sunbury Rd.
Flemington, GA 31313

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12th, 2024 at 4:30 PM.

FLEMINGTON CITY HALL ♦ 156 OLD SUNBURY RD.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PERSON

Present: Mayor Paul Hawkins
Mayor Pro Tem David Edwards
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell
Councilman Larry Logan
Councilwoman Gail Evans
Councilman Hasit Patel
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Absent: Craig Stafford, City Attorney

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, September 12th, 2024 at 4:29 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Mayor Hawkins welcomed all attendees.
3. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Evans and the Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.
4. *Councilman Logan made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 8th, 2024 regular meeting as written. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilman Edwards made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 1st, 2024 special called meeting. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. Lieutenant Gallob with the LCSO gave a report for the month of September and October.
6. Council reviewed the October 2024 Profit & Loss statement and the Balance Sheet. Also reviewed was FY25Q1 YTD totals.
7. Mayor Hawkins signed the America Recycles Day proclamation for Keep Liberty Beautiful.
8. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Mr. Todd Kennedy with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (“LCPC”) came before Council with two sign permit applications. The first was a request for the Liberty Village Townhomes monument sign, which is located at O.C. Martin Dr. The monument sign conformed to the sign ordinance requirements. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the sign permit. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The second was a sign permit request for a building exterior and door sign for 912|Living Realty® located at 1661 E. Oglethorpe Highway, Suite H. The building sign and door sign both conformed to the sign ordinance requirements. *Councilman Patel made a motion to approve the sign permits. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

9. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS – Status Update(s)

- i. Councilman Edwards delivered a presentation on the establishment of a Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”), focusing on the downtown district along Highway 84, extending from Wallace Martin Drive to John Martin Avenue. The proposed DDA would consist of seven unpaid members serving staggered terms. He shared that guidance has been sought from both the Coastal Regional Commission and the Hinesville DDA. Councilman Edwards emphasized that the initial step is to adopt an ordinance to formally create the DDA. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to adopt the DDA resolution pending approval from the city attorney. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
- ii. Councilwoman Harwell presented a proposal to the Council for the formal establishment of a millage rate during the meeting. She reported that she had engaged in discussions with the Liberty County Tax Commissioner, who has agreed to collect the city's property tax at a rate of either \$1.75 per property or 2% of the total tax collection, whichever proves more beneficial for the city.

Several significant concerns regarding the proposed rate were raised but remained unaddressed:

- The budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 has yet to be determined.
- Fire service rates for the upcoming fiscal year have not been calculated.
- In light of the failure of TSPLIST, general funds may need to be allocated for road maintenance.
- Funding for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) operations and associated land is uncertain.
- There may be a growing need for increased law enforcement resources.

Ms. Harwell indicated that the forthcoming steps involve preparing the legal notices and scheduling public hearings to facilitate the formal adoption of the rate prior to the conclusion of 2024. *Councilman Logan made a motion to set the millage rate at 3.514 mils. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

- iii. Mr. Marcus Sack, the city engineer, announced that the full depth reclamation project is set to commence shortly, accompanied by a comprehensive detour plan that will include appropriate signage.

No Update(s) Available

- Old Sunbury Rd. to State Rd.
- Law Enforcement Office Expansion (*on hold*)

10. ON THE HORIZON

a. November 2024

- 18th – Road Work Begins on Wallace Martin Dr.
- 28th & 29th – City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

b. December 2024

- 2nd – Tree Lighting at City Hall from 6-8 pm
- Holiday Leave Schedule TBD

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *N/A*

12. ADDED WITHOUT NOTICE:

- a. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the use of the city engineer to perform the due diligence for the land purchased by the DDA. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

13. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.*