

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION**  
**G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Monday, August 18, 2025**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor John Walden called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Councilmember William Illg, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Sandy Sawyer, Councilmember Mark French, City Attorney Kevin Tallant, City Manager Jacob Evans, City Clerk Beverly Banister, Public Works Director Trampas Hansard, Utilities Director Jacob Barr, Finance Director Robin Gazaway, Director of Downtown Development Amanda Edmondson and Zoning Administrative Assistant Stacy Harris.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember Illg.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Walden announced qualifying for Councilmember Post #2 and Post #4 started today and ends on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. He also announced the City is hosting a concert in Main Street Park this Saturday, August 23, 2025 beginning at 7:00 pm featuring "Mainstreet" – a Bob Seger Tribute band. Food trucks will be setting up at 5:00 p.m.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend the agenda by moving Item #11 after the Executive Session and adding Item #15 Request to Open a Savings Account made by S. Sawyer; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.  
  
Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by C. Phillips; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the consent agenda for the following item (a) made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
  - a. Approve Minutes
    - Regular Meeting held August 4, 2025
8. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council recognized Stacy Harris as the July Employee of the Month. City Manager Evans also reported Finance Director Gazaway received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY 2024 and he thanked Downtown Director Edmondson for her contribution to the upcoming concert event.

**BUSINESS**

9. **ORDINANCE NO. 04-2025:** An Ordinance Affecting The Compensation Of The Governing Authority; To Address Compensation For Meetings Beyond The Regular Meetings Of The Governing Authority; And For Other Purposes. First Reading: August 4, 2025; Second Reading And Consideration To Adopt: August 18, 2025  
  
Attorney Tallant provided the details and second reading of Ordinance No. 04-2025.  
  
Motion to approve Ordinance No. 04-2025 as presented made by C. Phillips; second by W. Illg. Mayor Walden reported he is very thankful for the Council and commended them on their care and concern for the community. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (Exhibit "A")
10. **HUNTING ON CITY PROPERTY – TABLED FROM AUGUST 4, 2025:** Motion to suspend hunting on City property for further consideration and to table the item to the September 8, 2025 City Council meeting made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Councilmember Illg clarified the suspension of hunting will carry until a decision is made at the September 8, 2025 meeting. Vote carried unanimously
11. Item moved until after Executive Session
12. **CONSIDERATION OF STAGE CONSTRUCTION ON GRANDDADDY MIMMS OUTDOOR PATIO:** Public Works Director Hansard presented a request for Granddaddy Mimms to build an approximate 17' X 14' stage in their outdoor patio. Councilmember Illg asked if the construction of the stage, assuming it would be in the corner, could be circular to face the audience; Mr. Townsend with Granddaddy Mimms said it could.

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Motion to approve the construction of the stage made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

**STAFF REPORTS**

- 13. JACOB EVANS, CITY MANAGER:** He reported there were four (4) leak adjustments for the month totaling \$489.61.
- 14. ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Financial reports were provided to represent fund balances and activity through July 31, 2025. Councilmember French expressed his gratitude to Ms. Gazaway for her hard work in being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He recognizes and appreciates the high standard she has set in receiving this award year after year.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

- 15. REQUEST TO OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT:** Finance Director Gazaway reported to Council the City will be receiving a large sum of money for infrastructure from one of the developers in the City and would prefer to keep the funds separate from the General Fund and to be transferred over as needed.

Motion to approve as requested made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:17 p.m. a motion to close regular session and go into executive session for pending/potential litigation, real estate acquisition and/or personnel was made by W. Illg; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

At 6:56 p.m. a motion to close executive session was made by W. Illg; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to resume regular session was made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

**ITEM # 11 CONSIDERATION OF NAMING STACY HARRIS AS PLANNING DIRECTOR:** No action was taken by the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:58 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Sawyer; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

***Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025***

By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Walden, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1

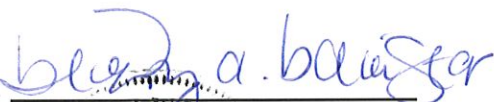
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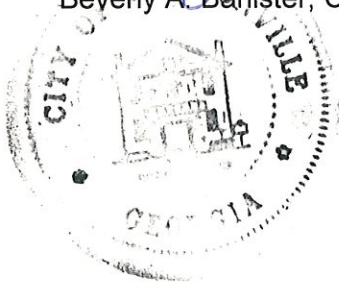
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\_\_\_\_\_  
William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beyerly A. Banister, City Clerk



STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DAWSON

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL


Mayor John Walden, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember William Illg, Councilmember Sandra Sawyer and Councilmember Mark French; being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1. The City of Dawsonville Council met in a duly advertised meeting on August 18, 2025.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5<sup>17</sup> p.m.
4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law: (check all that apply)
  - ☒ Consultation with the City Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City or any officer or employee or in which the City or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);
  - ☐ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and \_\_\_\_\_;
  - ☒ Discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1);
  - ☒ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a City officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ as provided in: \_\_\_\_\_.

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:

  
John Walden, Mayor

  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1

  
William Illg, Councilmember Post #2

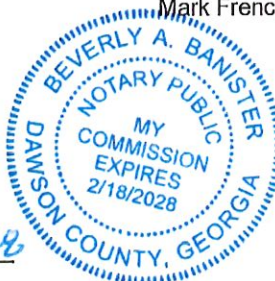
  
Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post #3

  
Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
18 day of August, 2025.

  
Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2028





Subject: Mayor and Council Compensation  
Date of First Reading: August 4, 2025  
Date of Second Reading: August 18, 2025  
Date of Adoption: August 18, 2025  
Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Publication Dates: July 30, 2025, August 6, 2025 and August 13, 2025

**ORDINANCE NO. 04-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SECTION 2-21 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE SO AS TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY; TO CLARIFY COMPENSATION FOR MEETINGS BEYOND THE FIRST MONTHLY REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.13(c) of the Charter of the City of Dawsonville provides that compensation for the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority may be set by City Ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. 36-35-4 prescribes certain additional procedures which must be complied with in order to affect the compensation of the members of the Governing Authority;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dawsonville has met the notice and advertising requirements of O.C.G.A. 36-35-4, and is scheduled to consider this matter first on August 4, 2025, and then consider this ordinance for adoption on August 18, 2025;

**WHEREAS**, the City provides for compensation for certain meetings attended by members of the Governing Authority in their official capacity, which meetings must be pre-approved according to the City's Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to pre-approve certain meetings as well as provide guidelines for what types of meetings are pre-approved;

**NOW THEREFORE**, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

There is hereby enacted a new Section 2-21 of the Code of the City of Dawsonville, which shall, from and after the adoption of this Ordinance, read as follows:

**Section 2-21. Compensation in general and for additional meetings.**

- (a) The compensation of the mayor shall be \$1,400.00 per month and the compensation of each council member shall be \$800.00 per month until such time as the compensation of

the mayor and/or council are amended by ordinance. In addition to this monthly compensation, the mayor and council members shall also be paid \$200.00 for each city council meeting other than the first regular city council meeting of the month, and for any other meeting that has been pre-approved for compensation by the council.

(b) The following meetings are pre-approved for payment for members of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority:

- 1) Meetings of City of Dawsonville Commissions, Authorities, or committees which meetings are attended by members of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority either as a liaison to that Commission, Authority, or committee, or because the member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority is a member of the said Commission, Authority or committee.
- 2) Training and educational meetings which will benefit the service of a member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority, which trainings are conducted by any or a combination of any of the following entities: Georgia Municipal Association; the Carl Vinson Institute of Government; the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission; the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, or any division of State Government.
- 3) Board meetings and committee meetings of organizations upon which members of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority sit which positions are specifically designated as positions for a member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority.
- 4) Official events of organizations, which organizations have as a member of their board a position specified as being for a member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority, if the official seeking compensation for the official event is a Member of the Board of Directors of the organization sponsoring the event.
- 5) Official events of the City of Dawsonville, its Commissions, Agencies, or committees.

- (c) Members of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority shall submit their request for compensation for a meeting upon forms provided by the City Manager or his designee. The form shall be endorsed by one other member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority prior to submission, which endorsement is for the purpose of confirming that the meeting falls within the description of meetings contained in subparagraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b), above. The submission may contain more than one meeting on a single form, and should be submitted not more than thirty (30) days after the earliest meeting covered by the form.
- (d) Meetings other than those covered by subparagraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b), above for which a Member of the Governing Authority believes they should receive compensation shall be submitted for consideration to the Governing Authority prior to the event. The person seeking compensation shall not vote on whether the meeting should be one for which compensation is paid.
- (e) Under no circumstances shall any member of the City of Dawsonville Governing Authority apply for or receive any compensation for an event at which the person seeking compensation was engaged in campaign activities related to his or her office or any office which said person may be seeking.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after January 1, 2026.

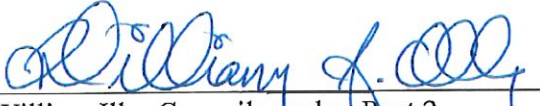
**SO ADOPTED** by the City Council of Dawsonville, Georgia, this 18 day of August, 2025.

**CITY OF DAWSONVILLE**

By:

  
John Walden, Mayor

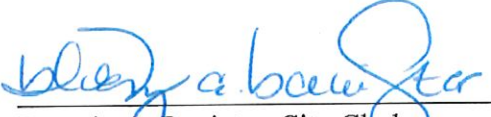
  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1

  
William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

  
Sandy Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3

  
Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk

