

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, February 16, 2026
5:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor John Walden called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Councilmember William Illg, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Sandy Sawyer, Councilmember Mark French, City Attorney Spencer Price, City Manager Jacob Evans, City Clerk Beverly Banister, Public Works Director Trampas Hansard, Utility Director Russ Chambers, Finance Director Robin Gazaway, Director of Downtown Development Amanda Edmondson and Planning and Zoning Admin Stacy Harris.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember French.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Walden invited the public to his Chat with the Mayor event on February 24, 2026 beginning at 6:00 pm at City Hall. He also encouraged the public to contact him directly via email or phone if they ever had any questions.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend the agenda to add Item #7b Approve Long-Term Watershed Monitoring made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by M. French; 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 items (a - b) made by S. Sawyer; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting held February 2, 2026
 - b. Approve Long-Term Watershed Monitoring: ***Proposal from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in the amount of \$21,230.00***
8. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council recognized the Winter Storm Crew as the January 2026 Employee of the Month for their contribution during Winter Storm Fern and Winter Storm Gianna. The crew includes David Schuette, Caleb Reece, Hayden Harris, Stephen McNeal, John Tatum, Chase Bennett, Trampas Hansard and Russ Chambers. Robin Gazaway received a five-year service award.

BUSINESS

9. **ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CIVIL EMERGENCIES ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. FIRST READING: FEBRUARY 16, 2026; SECOND READING AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT: MARCH 2, 2026:** City Attorney Price read the first reading of the proposed ordinance.
10. **RESOLUTION NO. R2026-01: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE REGARDING USDOT BUILD GRANT APPLICATION FOR MULTIMODAL DOWNTOWN CONNECTIONS:** Motion to approve Resolution No. R2026-01 as presented made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (Exhibit A)

STAFF REPORTS

11. **JACOB EVANS, CITY MANAGER:** He reported there was one leak adjustment in the amount of \$3,208.27 for a leak at the school during Christmas break.
12. **ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Financial reports were provided to represent fund balances and activity through January 31, 2026.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Sawyer reported she attended the yearly planning meeting for Family Connection and informed the public of all their services. Mayor Walden reported the Dawson County TU girls

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basketball team was runner-up in their tournament and the 12U boys basketball team won the championship and wished them luck in the regionals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:11 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 C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

At 5:31 p.m. a motion to close executive session was made by C. Phillips; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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

RESERVED FOR POTENTIAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF NEEDED

Motion to approve creating a new position, Utilities Maintenance Worker and to hire a person to fill the position to assist with Water/Sewer operations made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:34 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Sawyer; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved this 2nd day of March, 2026

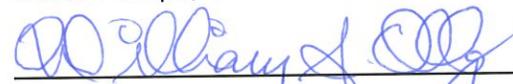
By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE



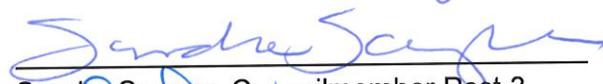
John Walden, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1



William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

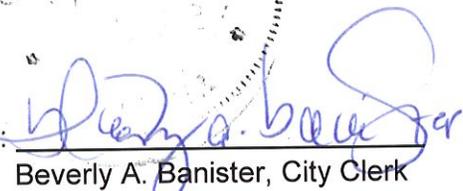


Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3



Mark French, Councilmember Post 4



Attested: 
Beverly 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 Ilg, 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 February 16, 2026.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5¹¹ 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: _____.

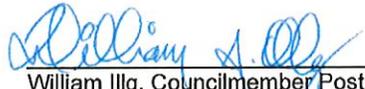
This 16th day, of February 2026; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:



John Walden, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1



William Ilg, Councilmember Post #2

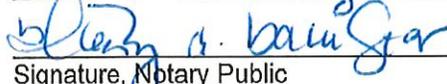


Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post #3



Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
16 day of February, 20 26



Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2027



RESOLUTION NO. R2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE REGARDING USDOT BUILD GRANT APPLICATION FOR MULTIMODAL DOWNTOWN CONNECTIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Dawsonville is duly constituted under the laws of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, in every case, it is the intention of the City of Dawsonville to develop opportunities for the public good and the general welfare of the citizens of the City of Dawsonville and the State of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Historic City grid road extensions and connection across Highway 53, including multimodal transportation and utility improvements will have a significant local and regional impact on economic and social vitality, traffic and pedestrian safety, advance the City of Dawsonville and the U.S. Department of Transportation's priorities of safety, climate and sustainability, and workforce development, job quality and wealth creation; and,

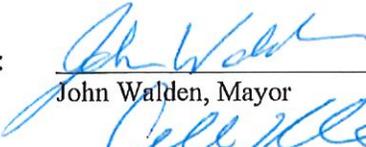
WHEREAS, the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the City of Dawsonville is essential to the well-being of the City, and,

WHEREAS, the financing of the project through the FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program is critical to adequately addressing the needs of the residents of the City of Dawsonville; and,

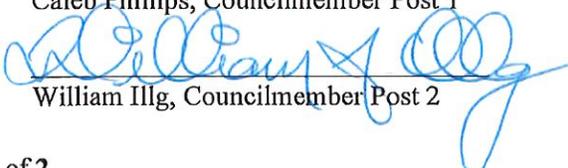
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Dawsonville will seek BUILD Grant Assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation as a necessary funding component for this project, and the Mayor thereof is authorized to execute materials required to seek that funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Dawsonville, Georgia this 16 day of February, 2026.

MAYOR AND DAWSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

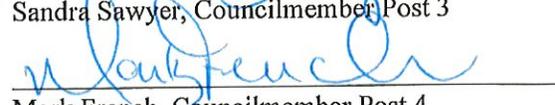
By: 
John Walden, Mayor


Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1


William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

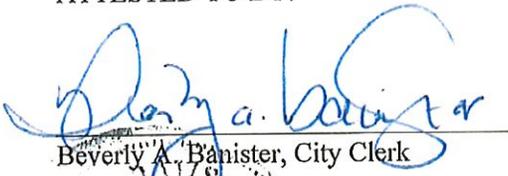


Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3



Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

ATTESTED TO BY:



Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk

