

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, March 2, 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 Kevin Tallant, City Manager Jacob Evans, City Clerk Beverly Banister, Public Works Director Trampas Hansard, Utilities 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 congratulated the 10U Girls Basketball team who finished second in regions. City Manager Evans also congratulated the Dawson County high school boys' basketball team who made it to the State playoffs and almost beat Calhoun.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as submitted 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-d) made by S. Sawyer; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting and Work Session held February 16, 2026
 - Executive Session held February 16, 2026
 - Special Called Meetings (Retreat) held February 20 - February 22, 2026
 - b. Approve Permit Fee Waiver Request from Georgia Racing Hall of Fame – ***Fee Waiver of \$50.00 for the March 14, 2026 Racing to the Rescue Car Show***
 - c. Approve 2026 Farmer's Market Use Agreement
 - d. Approve Proposal from Geosciences Engineering

BUSINESS

8. **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:** Attorney Tallant read the second reading of the proposed ordinance and provided an overview of the proposed amendment.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 01-2026 as presented made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor. (Exhibit A)
9. **CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT WITH JEFF MILLER PRODUCTIONS FOR 2026 CONCERT EVENTS:** City Manager Evans provided the details about the plans for the concerts. Discussion held with Council and Staff regarding consideration for planning more concerts and possible marketing and sponsorship opportunities.

Motion to approve the agreement with Jeff Miller Productions contingent upon City Attorney approval made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Sawyer stated she and Mayor Walden had the opportunity to attend the mock City Council meeting with the Dawson County Chamber Youth Leadership class and thanked everyone involved. Councilmember French thanked the staff for all the effort and hard work put in before and during the Mayor and Council retreat. Mayor Walden reported the City hosted the monthly GMRC meeting and gave a shout out to Station House who provided dinner for the event; they received a lot of compliments on the food.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:18 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 5:51 p.m. a motion to close executive session was made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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

RESERVED FOR POTENTIAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF NEEDED

Motion to amend the agenda to add Consideration of Pond Remediation Services made by S. Sawyer; second by M. French. 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.

CONSIDERATION OF POND REMEDIATION SERVICES: City Manager Evans reported it became aware to staff recently that there is a need to remediate the wastewater treatment pond and further stated the elevated temperatures in the coming months will only make the situation worse and is therefore requesting to address the issue through emergency procurement of services. He reported the cost savings will be over fifty percent and despite the cost of approximately \$650,000 to remediate the pond, the City will be saving as much or more due to the unique process and services of the company who will be performing the task. Councilmember French stated this process will save the City money when it comes time to close the pond as well; City Manager Evans agreed. Mayor Walden reported he contacted two other municipalities who have used this company previously and they come highly recommended stating their process is quicker than traditional remediation. He declared this an emergent situation, and it needs to be completed as soon as possible.

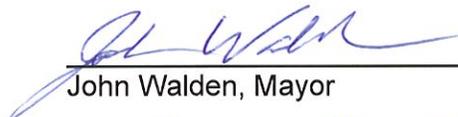
Motion to approve the proposal from B.A.M.² for the emergency procurement of services to remediate the wastewater treatment pond and all applicable expenses up to \$650,000 to be paid out of SPLOST VII made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:56 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. French; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved this 16th day of March, 2026

By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE



John Walden, Mayor



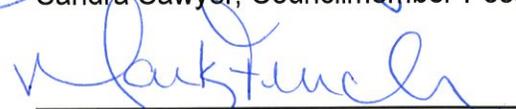
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1

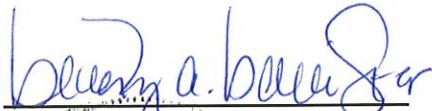


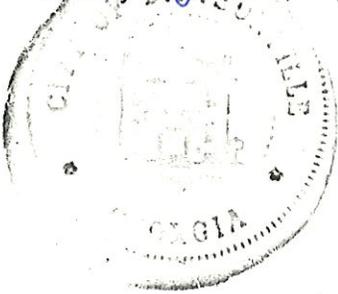
William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

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Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3


Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

Attested: 
Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk



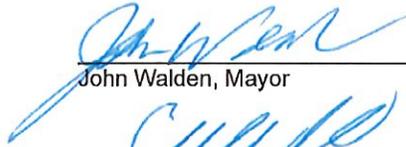
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DAWSON

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 March 2, 2026.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5¹⁸ 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 2nd day, of March 2026; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:



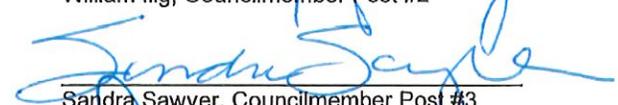
John Walden, Mayor



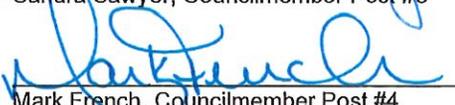
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1



William Ilg, Councilmember Post #2

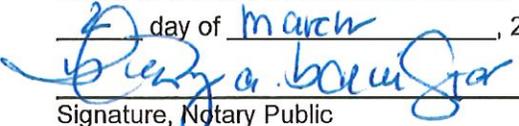


Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post #3



Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
2 day of March, 2026



Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2028



Subject: Discharge of Firearms
Date of First Reading: February 16, 2026
Date of Second Reading: March 2, 2026
Date of Adoption: March 2, 2026
Effective Date: March 3, 2026

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX, Section II, Paragraph II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia and Chapter 35 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia, the City Council of Dawsonville is empowered to adopt reasonable ordinances for local government upon matters not governed by general law and which are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the State of Georgia or the Charter of the City of Dawsonville;

WHEREAS, the City of Dawsonville previously enacted a process outlined in Section 9-1 through which certain emergency powers are placed in the hands of the chief executive of the City of Dawsonville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dawsonville desires to allow for the duration in which the chief executive of the City of Dawsonville is able to exercise emergency powers to be lengthened after the proclamation of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dawsonville desires to limit the time in which emergency powers can be exercised following a regular, special, or called meeting of the city council,

NOW THEREFORE, the governing body of the City of Dawsonville, Georgia, does hereby amend its Civil Emergencies Ordinance as follows:

SECTION I: Duration of Emergency Powers.

Chapter 9 Offenses, Section 9-1, subpart (c) of the Dawsonville Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by striking Section 9-1(c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 9-1(c), as follows:

§ Sec. 9-1. – Civil Emergencies.

- (c) *Duration of emergency powers.* No emergency power as set forth herein shall be effective for more than 72 hours following the declaration of any emergency by the mayor unless another duration is specified in the declaration itself. In no event shall an emergency power as set forth herein remain effective for more than 30 days. However, upon declaration of a second or further emergency, the emergency powers as set forth herein may be exercised during such further

emergency period or periods, but never for more than 30 days in one declared emergency period.

SECTION II: Duration to Only Extend Beyond Council Meeting in Limited Circumstances.

Chapter 9 Offenses, Section 9-1, subpart (d) of the Dawsonville Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by striking Section 9-1(d) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 9-1(d), as follows:

§ Sec. 9-1. – Civil Emergencies.

(d) *Duration to only extend beyond council meeting in limited circumstances.* No emergency period shall extend beyond the next regular, special, or called meeting of the city council unless the meeting is less than 72 hours from the declaration of any emergency. In this event, the duration of the emergency power or powers shall be effective for the term as stated in the declaration. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Council may, at any meeting, by affirmative vote of the Council end the emergency period, even if that meeting is less than 72 hours from the declaration of the emergency.

SECTION III: Incorporation and Repealer

Except as modified herein, the remainder of the Civil Emergencies Ordinance of the City of Dawsonville is affirmed and incorporated herein. All laws and parts of law in conflict with this enactment are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV: Ordinance Validity

If any section, provision or clause of any part of this ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, or if the provisions of any part of this ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared as the intent that this ordinance would have been adopted had such invalid portion not been included herein.

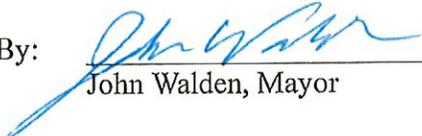
SECTION V: Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective the day following its passage by the City Council of Dawsonville.

SO ADOPTED AND ORDAINED by the City Council of Dawsonville, Georgia, this 2 day of March, 2026.

(signatures on following page)

**MAYOR AND DAWSONVILLE CITY
COUNCIL**

By: 
John Walden, Mayor

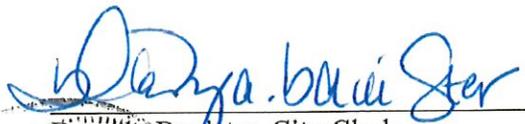

Caleb Phillips, Council Member Post 1


William Ilg, Council Member Post 2


Sandy Sawyer, Council Member Post 3


Mark French, Council Member Post 4

ATTESTED TO BY:


Beverly Barister, City Clerk

