

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION**  
**G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Monday, March 16, 2026**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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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, Utility Director Russ Chambers, Finance Director Robin Gazaway, Director of Downtown Development Amanda Edmondson and Planning and Zoning Admin Stacy Harris.  

Mayor Walden asked if everyone could keep Officer Henson with the DCSO in their prayers; he was involved in an accident recently.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember Phillips.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Walden announced the Farmer's Market opening day is April 25, 2026 beginning at 8:00 am.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by W. Illg; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the consent agenda for the following items (a - c) made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
  - a. Approve Minutes
    - Regular Meeting held March 2, 2026
    - Executive Session held March 2, 2026
  - b. Approve Equipment Lease Agreement for Printer in Downstairs Admin Area
  - c. Approve Participation in National Opioid Settlement – Six Remnant Defendants
8. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council recognized John Tatum as the February 2026 Employee of the Month. Chase Bennett and Jacob Evans received a one-year service award.
9. **PROCLAMATION: GOVERNMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONALS WEEK, MARCH 16 – 20, 2026:** Mayor Walden read the proclamation and thanked the Finance Department for their hard work.

**BUSINESS**

10. **ATLANTA MOTORSPORTS PARK: SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST TO EXCEED SOUND LIMITS:** City Manager Evans presented the request and Scott Renner from Atlanta Motorsports Park answered questions from Council. Discussion included being certain all the sound meters are working and if staff could have real-time access to the meters during the events. Mr. Renner stated he could send the reports but believes they cannot be viewed live. He also stated they no longer need approval for two of the days originally requested; May 23, 2026 and July 5, 2026.  

Motion made by W. Illg to approve the request to allow an exception to sound limits described in stipulation #17 of ZSP C2300063 for a maximum of 70 dBA LEQ (16) with trackside readings below 105 dB at fifty feet for the following dates/times:

  - Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday, July 4, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
  - Friday, October 30, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - Sunday, November 1, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. is a quiet time)

And for the City to receive the reports. Second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
11. **CONSIDERATION OF SCADA SOFTWARE UPGRADE:** Motion to approve the quote from JK Duren Company to upgrade to the SCADA system in the amount of \$32,069.00 to be paid out of SPLOST VII made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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- 12. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM BM&K CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING FIRM:** Motion to approve the proposal from BM&K for engineering, construction engineering and inspection for Rainhill Subdivision, Stonewall Subdivision and Raymond Parks Street North resurfacing project in the amount of \$86,488.00 to be paid out of SPLOST VII made by W. Illg; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
- 13. CONSIDERATION OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT SIGN LOCATION:** Motion to approve the “faux” monument sign placement as requested made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

**STAFF REPORTS**

- 14. JACOB EVANS, CITY MANAGER:** He reported there were six leak adjustments in the amount of \$1,191.01. Councilmember Illg stated he is excited about the updates to the dog park.
- 15. ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Financial reports were provided to represent fund balances and activity through February 28, 2026.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Phillips expressed his concern regarding a comment made during the recent Ethics Board meeting by one of its members, who although found no violation of the ethics ordinance on the complaint, alluded to there being a violation of the Councilmembers’ Oath of Office. Councilmember Phillips asked the City Attorney to provide input. City Attorney Tallant provided feedback stating he believes the Ethics Board came to the correct decision to say the complaint did not violate the ethics ordinance. He further provided details as to why he does not believe there was a violation of the Councilmembers’ Oath of Office and explained the procedure in the Charter for an Oath of Office violation. The Council also discussed examples of violations and expressed concern that members of the public are using the ethics ordinance complaint process to contest Council decisions with which they disagree. The Mayor and Council agreed to explore improvements to the ethics ordinance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:38 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 S. Sawyer; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

At 6:03 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**

Councilmember Illg expressed his appreciation to City Manager Evans for his performance over the past year as City Manager.

Motion to provide the City Manager with a 7% merit increase effective immediately bringing his annual salary to \$96,300 made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Councilmember French complimented the City Manager on his work and appreciates him but stated he would not be able to support giving everyone a raise based on their hard work and therefore cannot support the increase for a single individual. Vote carried three in favor (Illg, Phillips, Sawyer) with one opposed (French).

**ADJOURNMENT**

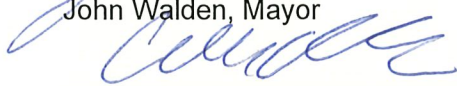
At 6:06 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Sawyer; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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Monday, March 16, 2026  
5:00 P.M.

*Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026*

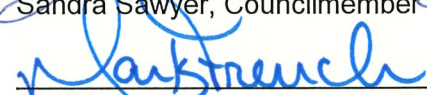
By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE

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

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

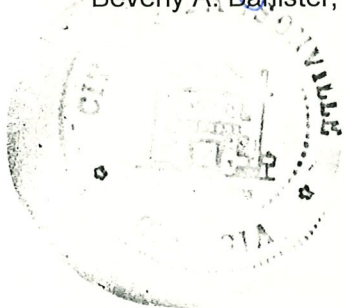
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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 March 16, 2026.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5:38 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of March ~~April~~ 2026; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:

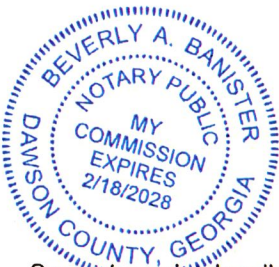
[Signature]  
John Walden, Mayor

[Signature]  
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1

[Signature]  
William Illg, Councilmember Post #2

[Signature]  
Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post #3

[Signature]  
Mark French, Councilmember Post #4



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

[Signature]  
Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2028