

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, August 3, 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, Downtown Development Director Bonnie East, Planning and Zoning Admin Stacy Harris and CPL Representative Dana Spayde.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember French.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** City Manager Evans introduced the City's two newest employees. Caroline Collins is the Customer Service Representative/GA Grown Coordinator and Bonnie East is the Downtown Development Director. Councilmember Illg praised the Public Works Department for the new additions to the City's Dog Park, and he also stated there is a lot of paving occurring on City streets and he asked the residents to be careful and patient during these improvements. Councilmember Sawyer announced the Family Connection event, A Family Fair, will be held Friday, August 14, 2026, beginning at 6:00 pm at Main Street Park. Mayor Walden announced school is starting tomorrow and asked everyone to be aware of the children and additional traffic; he hopes it will be a great school year for everyone. He also announced Food Truck Friday is this Friday beginning at 5:00 pm and Chat with the Mayor will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at City Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. Finally, Mayor Walden stated he is speaking with GDOT engineers about a possible temporary solution for traffic issues on Hwy 9 South at Perimeter Road; currently the roundabout planned has been pushed back to 2030 due to waiting on federal money to fund the project. He did state, however, that the roundabout at Hwy 9 N and Perimeter Road and the roundabout on Hwy 53 at Allen Street are still on track.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. 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 M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting and Work Session held July 20, 2026
 - Executive Session held July 20, 2026
 - b. Approve Contract Related to Private Filtration System

PUBLIC HEARING

8. **VAR-C2600407:** Jarod Gonzales with Eastwood Homes has requested to vary from the standards of Section 1304, which establishes the Single-Family Residential District (R-3). Specifically, they seek to reduce the front yard setback from 30 feet to 24 feet for the construction of one single-family residence located at 466 Cedar Crest Lane (Lot 11, parcel 092B 030 011). City Council Public Hearing Date: Monday, August 3, 2026

Motion to open the public hearing made by W. Illg; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor. Mayor Walden conducted the public hearing. CPL Representative Dana Spayde read the variance request.

The following person spoke in favor of the request:

- Jarod Gonzales, 448 Gold Crossing, Canton, Georgia – He stated they are attempting to provide a bigger backyard and prevent the back porch from being so close to the drop off on these lots by moving the home forward.

Brief discussion was held regarding the property being built without the setback and the issue of residents parking on streets with a shorter driveway because of a reduced front setback.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

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Motion to close the public hearing made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

9. **VAR-C2600408:** Jarod Gonzales with Eastwood Homes has requested to vary from the standards of Section 1304, which establishes the Single-Family Residential District (R-3). Specifically, they seek to reduce the front yard setback from 30 feet to 24 feet for the construction of one single-family residence located at 460 Cedar Crest Lane (Lot 12, parcel 092B 030 012). City Council Public Hearing Date: Monday, August 3, 2026.

Motion to open the public hearing made by S. Sawyer; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor. Mayor Walden conducted the public hearing. CPL Representative Dana Spayde read the variance request.

The following person spoke in favor of the request:

- Jarod Gonzales, 448 Gold Crossing, Canton, Georgia – He stated the top of the slope in the back is right on the edge of the back porch making it their biggest concern.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Motion to close the public hearing made by M. French; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

10. **VAR-C2600409:** Jarod Gonzales with Eastwood Homes has requested to vary from the standards of Section 1304, which establishes the Single-Family Residential District (R-3). Specifically, they seek to reduce the front yard setback from 30 feet to 24 feet for the construction of one single-family residence located at 454 Cedar Crest Lane (Lot 13, parcel 092B 030 013). City Council Public Hearing Date: Monday, August 3, 2026.

Motion to open the public hearing made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor. Mayor Walden conducted the public hearing. CPL Representative Dana Spayde read the variance request.

The following person spoke in favor of the request:

- Jarod Gonzales, 448 Gold Crossing, Canton, Georgia – He stated this property is slightly different with the slope going up and it would be encroaching on the hill by four feet.

Brief discussion on the slope of the property and suggested solutions.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Motion to close the public hearing made by S. Sawyer; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

BUSINESS

11. **ZA-C2500169 AND VAR-C2500170; TABLED FROM 04/20/2026:** Mayor Walden announced the applicant has withdrawn their application for these requests.
12. **2027 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE RATE AND SERVICE CHARGE:** Motion to approve the 2027 solid waste collection service rate from Red Oak Sanitation for \$15.90 per can, per month and the service charge for \$4.00 per can, per month made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
13. **AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY – SECTION 11; TABLED FROM 07/20/2026:** Motion to table the item to the August 17, 2026 meeting made by S. Sawyer; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
14. **REQUEST TO AWARD BID #26-02 – ROADWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT:** Motion to award Bid #26-02 and contract to Blount Construction Co. Inc. in the amount of \$174,042.80 to be funded by TSPLOST and LMIG made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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AYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Sawyer reported the Family Connections board has envisioned a community resource center for this area for quite some time and she, along with members of the board, visited Restoration Rome which is their vision for a resource center. She thanked Joey Leverette and Don Johnson who coordinated the use of the County's senior services van, Layla McBrayer for driving and Mary Margaret Maurer who owns Restoration Rome and made her vision a reality.

Mayor John Walden reported he attended the 2026 Georgia Racing Hall of Fame induction ceremony and appreciated the opportunity to be there. He congratulated Kevin Barrett, George Bryce, Rick Minter, Freddie Neely and Gerald Voyles as the official inductees for 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:30 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 M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

At 6:27 p.m. a motion to resume the regular session was made by M. French; second by S. Sawyer. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Phillips; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved on this 17th day of August, 2026

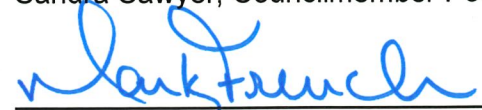
By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE


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 August 3, 2026.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 530 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 3rd day, August 2026; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:

John Walden
John Walden, Mayor

Caleb Phillips
Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1

William Ilg
William Ilg, Councilmember Post #2

Sandra Sawyer
Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post #3

Mark French
Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

3 day of August, 2026

Beverly A. Banister

Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb

