



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2025, 6:00 PM
City of Flowery Branch City Hall
5410 Pine Street, Flowery Branch, GA 30542**



CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Asbridge called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Mayor Asbridge and Council Members Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, and Chris Mundy.

Also present were City Manager Tonya Parrish, City Clerk Shelia Cooper, Finance Director Matthew Hamby, Planning and Community Development Director Chris McCrary, Public Works Director Bill Whidden, Public Utilities Director Peter Woerner, Police Chief Chris Hulsey, and City Attorney Ted Baggett.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Asbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

There was a motion made to adopt the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Chris Mundy

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS: There were no awards or recognitions.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing to Consider the Approval of Ordinance 737 for Repealing Chapter 29 (Historical Preservation), Appendix A-1 (Historic District Sign Ordinance) and Appendix A (Historical Preservation Ordinance). Proposed Text Amendments within Article 24 (Signs).

Director McCrary presented a consideration approving Ordinance 737. During a recent retreat, the City of Flowery Branch addressed issues concerning the Historic District, particularly the difficulty in filling vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission. Under the Historic District Ordinance, the Commission is required to issue Certificates of Appropriateness for any proposed alterations or renovations before work may commence. Without a functioning Commission, the established procedures cannot be followed.

Within the Central Business District (CBD), any alterations or renovations to buildings must be presented for review before the Mayor and City Council. Since most of the Historic District lies within the CBD, all proposals for new or modified buildings will be subject to review and approval by these officials. Additionally, Appendix A-1 of the Code of Ordinances provides guidelines for signage within the Historic District. Staff proposes relocating these requirements—with minor adjustments—to the Zoning Ordinance, Article 24 – Signs, making them applicable to any parcel zoned as CBD.

Council held a discussion with Director McCrary.

There being no one in favor and no one in opposition, Mayor Asbridge closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Public Hearing to Consider the Approval of Ordinance 740 for Adding New Streets in Summit Lake Subdivision on the PTV Route Plan by Petition.

Director McCrary presented a consideration approving Ordinance 740 for adding new streets in Summit Lake Subdivision on the PTV route plan by petition. The residents of Summit Lake Subdivision have submitted a petition requesting the addition of new streets to the PTV Route Plan in accordance with the minimum criteria outlined in Chapter 47, Article IV, Section 47-82 of the new street petition process. The petition seeks to include the following streets: Cricket Melody Lane, Wild Olive Drive, Whistling Sparrow Lane, Screech Owl Drive, Hoot Owl Lane, Turnstone Trail, and Trumpet Flowery Avenue. In compliance with the zoning code, at least ten percent of the residents on each street have endorsed the petition. The documentation provided to Community Development confirms that the endorsements meet or exceed the ten percent requirement for each street. Based on this, the petition appears to satisfy the necessary criteria for adding the listed streets to the PTV Route Plan.

Council held a discussion with Director McCrary.

Mrs. Donna Nackers, 5887 Screech Owl Drive, Flowery Branch, made a general remark regarding street signs.

There being no one in favor and no one in opposition, Mayor Asbridge closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - WORK SESSION:

FY2026 Budget Presentation

Director Hamby presented FY2026 budget according to State Law O.C.G.A 36-81-5(C), on the date established by each governing authority, the proposed budget shall be submitted to the governing authority for the body's review prior to enactment of the budget ordinance or resolution. The FY2026 budget seeks to address many of the citywide opportunities, while maintaining a healthy workforce, keeping benefits cost manageable, keeping pace with growth, providing the service level expected of citizens and meeting the city's mission, vision and goals.

Director Hamby highlighted the proposed budget stating the health insurance and benefit costs are up thirty-four percent, there is a proposed three percent cost of living, and a proposed three percent merit increase that will be based on the employee's annual review, and there are seven new positions proposed. Property tax revenue is unknown at this time. Local Option Sales Tax is projected down in anticipation of the slowing economy. Other revenue line items are projected up due to historical trends and approved housing developments. Budgeted fund balance is projected up due to transfer to capital projects. Water and sewer fund revenue is projected up due to anticipated growth and approved rate increases. Employee benefits fund revenue is projected up due to proposed positions.

Council held a discussion with Director Hamby.

NEW BUSINESS -WORK SESSION:

Consideration of Award for the 2025 Road Resurfacing Improvements Project

City Manager Parrish presented a consideration of awarding a construction contract for a road paving project to a responsible, responsive bidder. The City obtained funding via the Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) grant funding program, which is administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation and provides funding to local governments for the purposes of constructing roadway improvements. The City identified roads to be paved/resurfaced based on physical pavement deterioration and criticality/traffic usage.

The City then engaged ESG Engineering to design a road paving/resurfacing improvements project for the selected local streets. After obtaining geotechnical surface and sub-surface data, ESG Engineering specified the resurfacing improvements and provided a contract to procure a qualified contractor for constructing the project. Bids were publicly advertised in accordance with State law, and bids were opened at City Hall on April 17th. A total of eight (8) responsive bids were received. C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc., was the low bidder with a total bid amount of \$694,026.69. ESG Engineering recommends awarding the project to the low bidder, C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc., at the low bid price of \$694,026.69

Council held a discussion with City Manager Parrish and with Mr. Andrew Swicegood of ESG Engineering.

Consideration of Award for the McEver Road & Gaines Ferry Road Roundabout Project

City Manager Parrish presented a consideration to award a construction contract for the McEver Road and Gaines Ferry Road roundabout project to a responsible, responsive bidder.

The City observed poor, ongoing traffic conditions at the intersection of McEver Road and Gaines Ferry Road and subsequently engaged ESG Engineering to design a round-a-bout construction project to improve the intersection. After performing a traffic study and obtaining survey data, ESG Engineering designed and specified the road construction improvements and associated utility relocation and provided a contract to procure a qualified contractor for constructing the project. Bids were publicly advertised in accordance with State law, and bids were opened at City Hall on April 17, 2025. A total of nine (9) responsive bids were received. Wilson Construction Management was the low bidder with a total bid amount of \$3,053,957. ESG Engineering recommends awarding the project to the low bidder, Wilson Construction Management, at the low bid price of \$3,053,957.

Council held a discussion with City Manager Parrish and with Mr. Andrew Swicegood, ESG Engineering.

Consider Awarding Contract for 25-008 Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal to Republic Services, LLC

Director Woerner presented a consideration of awarding a contract for dewatered sludge and waste removal to Republic Services, LLC. The purpose of this agenda item is to help lower operating costs at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Dewatered sludge and waste (Screens and Grit) are one of the biggest budget items to operate the plant. The City of Flowery Branch has access to two landfills, one of which is in Buford and the other in Ball Ground, Georgia. On average, the Wastewater Treatment Plant produces about four (4) 20-yard cans of sludge per week; that of which we divide between both landfills.

Our current vendor does not have the manpower to transport to Ball Ground. The lack of manpower has caused the City to be unable to have cans transported to the Ball Ground location and back in a timely manner. The bid was posted February 19, 2025, with a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on March 18, 2025. During this meeting the manager of Public Utilities allowed interested bidders to do a site evaluation so they could gain more information and inspect the site for any minor tasks that may need to be done prior to commencement. Bids were due April 8, 2025, and the City received three (3) bids. The three bids received were from the following vendors: Republic Services, LLC., Waste Eliminator, LLC., and WG Waste, LLC. Republic Services LLC. is the lowest bidder for a total of \$54,080.00.

Council held a discussion with Director Woerner.

Consider Adopting Resolution 25-004 - Safe Streets for All Action Plan - A Resolution of the City of Flowery Branch, GA to Approve and Adopt a Goal to Work Towards Zero Traffic-Related Deaths and Serious Injuries by 2050.

Director McCrary presented a consideration of Resolution 25-004. In a collaborative effort, Hall County, City of Gainesville, City of Oakwood, and City of Flowery Branch are working together with a shared commitment to end fatalities and serious injuries on Hall County roadways through the adoption of a Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan.

Between 2018 and 2022, Hall County saw 33,697 crashes on roadways outside of its interstates. Of these, 123 crashes resulted in 130 deaths, and 496 crashes led to 625 serious, life-changing injuries. Although only 206 crashes involved a bicyclist or pedestrian, a quarter of those crashes resulted in a fatality or serious injury. Making transportation in Hall County safer to end fatal and serious injury crashes is a many-headed problem that is spread across the entire county.

To begin the work of addressing this problem, Hall County and the Cities of Oakwood, Flowery Branch, and Gainesville came together to apply to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program from the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). SS4A implementation funding is now available. In order to qualify for additional funding, jurisdictions must:

1. Adopt the Safety Action Plan via resolution, stating a commitment to a goal of zero fatal and/or life altering crashes within the jurisdiction by 2050.
2. Apply for SS4A Implementation Funding before June 26, 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Department of Fun Report:

City Manager Parrish noted upcoming events in the City. The West Hall IB Art students have completed phase one of the wall mural at the Flowery Branch City Park.

Planning Department Report:

Director McCrary will be forming a steering committee for the update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Police Department Report:

Chief Hulsey had wanted to recognize Sergeant Tyler Morrison as the Hall County Optimist Club Officer of the Year, but Sgt. Morrison was on a call and was not able to come to the meeting.

Public Utilities Report:

Director Woerner advised that May 5th every year is Water Professionals Appreciation Day.

Attorney Report:

Attorney Baggett reported that all the property for the roundabout located at McEver Road and Gaines Ferry has been legally acquired.

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION:

Mayor Asbridge adjourned the work session at 6:59 p.m.

VOTING SESSION AGENDA

CALL VOTING SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Asbridge called the voting session to order at 6:59 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Consider May 1, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan

SECOND: Chris Mundy

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS - VOTING SESSION:

Consideration of Award for the 2025 Road Resurfacing Improvements Project

There was a motion made to award the 2025 Road Resurfacing Improvements Project contract to the low bidder, C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc., in the amount of \$694,026.69.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan

SECOND: Joseph Mezzanotte

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Consideration of Award for the McEver Road & Gaines Ferry Road Roundabout Project

There was a motion made to award the McEver Road & Gaines Ferry Road Roundabout Project contract to the low bidder, Wilson Construction Management, in an amount not to exceed \$3,053,957.

MOTION: Joe Anglin

SECOND: Chris Mundy

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Consider Awarding Contract for 25-008 Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal to Republic Services, LLC

There was a motion made to award Bid 25-008 Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal to Republic Services, LLC in the amount of \$54,080.00

MOTION: Joseph Mezzanotte

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Consider the First Reading of Ordinance 737 for Repealing Chapter 29 (Historical Preservation), Appendix A-1 (Historic District Sign Ordinance) and Appendix A (Historical Preservation Ordinance). Proposed Text Amendments within Article 24 (Signs).

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 737.

There was a motion made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 737.

MOTION: Chris Mundy

SECOND: Oliver McClellan

AYES: Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: Joe Anglin

Motion carried

Consider the First Reading of Ordinance 740 for Adding New Streets in Summit Lake Subdivision on the PTV Route Plan by Petition.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 740.

There was a motion made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 740.

MOTION: Oliver McClellan

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Consider Adopting Resolution 25-004 - Safe Streets for All Action Plan - A Resolution of the City of Flowery Branch, GA to Approve and Adopt a Goal to Work Towards Zero Traffic-Related Deaths and Serious Injuries by 2050.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Resolution 25-004.

There was a motion made to approve Resolution 25-004.

MOTION: William McDaniel

SECOND: Joseph Mezzanotte

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion made to enter an executive session for matters related to the acquisition/disposition of real estate, for matters related to certain personnel issues, and for matters related to pending or potential litigation at 7:04 p.m.

MOTION: Chris Mundy

SECOND: William McDaniel

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

There was a motion made to exit the executive session at 7:49 p.m.

MOTION: Joe Anglin

SECOND: Oliver McClellan

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

MOTION: Joe Anglin

SECOND: Oliver McClellan

AYES: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, William McDaniel, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Edward R. Asbridge, Mayor

Date

Shelia Cooper, City Clerk