



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 6:00 PM
5410 Pine Street
Flowery Branch, GA 30542**



Call Work Session to Order:

Mayor Asbridge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Asbridge and Council Members Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, 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, Human Resources Director Krystle Hightower, Department of Fun Director Renee Carden, and City Attorney Ted Baggett.

Absent: Council Member William McDaniel

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:	Joseph Mezzanotte
Ayes:	Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays:	None
Result:	passed

Awards & Recognitions:

Mayor Asbridge and Flowery Branch City Council Members presented Sergeant Christopher Compton with an Achievement Medal. In recognition of Sergeant Compton's outstanding achievement and dedication to professional excellence. In 2023, Sergeant Compton expressed his desire to attend SWAT School and immediately began preparing himself both mentally and physically for the rigorous training ahead. Through his persistence and discipline, he continued intensive preparation until October 2024, when he attended and successfully completed SWAT School, graduating at the top of his class, one of only three to complete the course. In April 2025, he successfully completed the Hall County's Sheriff's Office SWAT Team tryouts. He was one of only two candidates selected, becoming the first Flowery Branch Police Officer ever

appointed to the Hall County SWAT Team. Sergeant Compton's achievement reflects great credit upon himself, the Flowery Branch Police Department, and the law enforcement profession.



Mayor Asbridge and Flowery Branch City Council Members presented Sergeant Rick Whaley with a Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of exceptional compassion and distinguished service. On numerous occasions throughout 2024 and 2025, the Flowery Branch Police Department responded to a residence regarding numerous criminal complaints and referrals from the Department of Family and Children Services regarding three deprived minors living in deplorable conditions. In August 2025, the Department of Family and Children Services made the decision to remove the children from their unsafe environment. At that critical moment, Sergeant Whaley selflessly volunteered to provide temporary care, welcoming the children into his family's home while suitable accommodation was being arranged. From August 1, 2025, through September 25, 2025, Sergeant Whaley and his family opened their hearts and home, providing stability, compassion, and safety to these children during their most vulnerable time. This extraordinary act of kindness and service reflects the highest ideals of the law enforcement profession and the spirit of community that defines the Flowery Branch Police Department. Sergeant Whaley is hereby commended for his selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of others.



Public Hearing:

There were no public hearings.

Unfinished Business - Work Session:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business - Work Session:

a. Consider New Alcohol License for FB BBQ LLC DBA: Whistle Q

City Manager Parrish presented consideration of a new beer and wine license for FB BBQ LLC, Doing Business as Whistle Q. The application has been processed and reviewed, and all is in order for approval of Council.

b. Consider Resolution 25-013 Expansion of the Downtown Dining District

Director McCrary presented Resolution 25-013 for the expansion of the Downtown Dining District.

Council held a discussion with Director McCrary.

c. Consider the First Reading of Ordinance 772 to Amend Alcoholic Beverage Code

City Manager Parrish presented Ordinance 772 to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Code. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the alcoholic beverage code to implement various recommendations of the City Manager designed to give establishments that sell alcoholic beverages greater flexibility. The various sections of the ordinance are designed to do the following:

Section 1 — Clarifies procedures intended to allow applicants building a new facility to apply for their certificate of occupancy and alcoholic beverage license simultaneously.

Section 2 — Acknowledges that micro-distilleries, microbreweries, farm winery tasting rooms, and brewpubs may sell the products they are authorized to manufacture for both on-premises sales and in packages for off-premises consumption.

Section 3 — Exempts farm winery tasting rooms and hotels from the minimum food sales requirement.

Section 4 — Clarifies which types of establishments may sell alcoholic beverages for consumption in the downtown dining district.

Section 5 — Allows brewpubs to sell the beer they make onsite to customers in containers for off-premises consumption.

Section 6 — Allows farm winery tasting rooms to sell non-Georgia farm wines and beer on site for consumption on the premises.

Section 7 — Provides for severability in the ordinance.

Section 8 — Provides for an effective date of the ordinance.

Section 9 — Repeals any conflicting ordinances.

Council held a discussion with City Manager Parrish and City Attorney Baggett.

d. Discussion Only - Work Session Presentation for Proposed Single-Family Development at 4665 & 4651 Hog Mountain Road

Jack French and Charles Moore of Highpoint Development, 1776 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia presented a proposed single-family development at 4665 & 4651 Hog Mountain Road.

Council held a discussion with the Mr. French and Mr. Moore.

e. **Consideration of Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2026**

Director Hightower and Mr. James Ford from Edgewood Partner's Insurance Center (EPIC) presented Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2026. Currently, the city's employees have insurance available through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. This plan ends on December 31, 2025. Starting January 1, 2026, the recommendation is to change carriers to Cigna Healthcare for medical, dental, and vision. We are still under a rate guarantee for our Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability until January 1, 2027. The Flex Spending Account (FSA) remains unchanged, and the administrative fees are paid for by the employees that are enrolled in this benefit. The original proposal from Anthem Medical was an 18% increase in the annual costs. After EPIC went back to negotiate, their final renewal was 13% with a one-month premium credit. They would not offer a rate cap for 2027. EPIC completed a market analysis and received additional quotes from the following carriers:

- Aetna: Declined to quote
- Cigna: 5% increase
- GMA: Unable to quote currently as we are with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and that is their insurance provider.
- United Healthcare: 40% rate increase (Northeast GA Health System is out of network with United Healthcare. It is the largest health provider in our area and would be detrimental to our employees.)

Additional negotiations led to Cigna offering a 4% rate increase, with a 2% premium credit resulting in a net cash increase of 2%. Cigna is also offering a cap on the second-year rate increase of 12%. This does not mean the 2027 increase will be 12%, only that it cannot be more than that. The coverage closely matches our current coverage. It is the staff's recommendation to change insurance providers from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to Cigna Healthcare. This would be a 2% increase to bring the premium to \$1,182,198. Staff are recommending the increase be covered by the City, as it is in the FY2026 budget and will be discussed at the council retreat during the budget process for FY2027 to determine if any additional costs will be passed on to the employees.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Report

City Clerk Cooper advised the Meals on Wheels donations will end November 21, 2025.

Department of Fun Report

Director Carden noted upcoming events.

Planning Department Report

Director McCrary advised the Comprehensive Plan committee had their first meeting last week and he invited residents to the introductory meeting on December 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Council Report

Council Member Mezzanotte stated how proud he is of the police department and of having two officers celebrated tonight.

Adjournment Work Session:

Mayor Asbridge adjourned the work session at 6:56 p.m.

Voting Session Agenda

Call Voting Session to Order:

Mayor Asbridge called the voting session to order at 6:56 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Consider Wine & Beer License for Aarvi Samay LLC DBA: Texaco Flowery Branch

Consider September 2025 Per Diem for Council Member Oliver McClellan

Consider October 2025 Per Diem for Council Member Oliver McClellan

Consider October 2025 Per Diem for Council Member Joseph Mezzanotte

There was a motion made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Chris Mundy
Second: Oliver McClellan
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business - Voting Session

a. **Consider the Second Reading of Ordinance 765 Text Amendment Pump Stations**

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 765.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 765, Text Amendment Pump Stations.

Motion: Joe Anglin
Second: Oliver McClellan
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

b. **Consider the Second Reading of Ordinance 767 - Text Amendment to Article 21 - Parking & Article 22 - Loading**

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 767.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 767.

Motion: Oliver McClellan
Second: Chris Mundy
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

New Business - Voting Session:

a. **Consider New Alcohol License for FB BBQ LLC DBA: Whistle Q**

There was a motion made to approve New Alcohol License for Whistle Q.

Motion: Oliver McClellan
Second: Joseph Mezzanotte
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

b. **Consider Resolution 25-013 Expansion of the Downtown Dining District**

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Resolution 25-013.

There was a motion made to approve Resolution 25-013 Expansion of the Downtown Dining District.

Motion: Chris Mundy
Second: Joseph Mezzanotte
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

c. **Consider the First Reading of Ordinance 772 to Amend Alcoholic Beverage Code**

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 772.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 772.

Motion: Oliver McClellan
Second: Joe Anglin
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

d. **Consideration of Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2026**

There was a motion made to approve staff's recommendations for Employee Insurance for Calendar Year 2026.

Motion: Joe Anglin
Second: Chris Mundy
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

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 7:02 p.m.

Motion: Chris Mundy
Second: Joe Anglin
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

There was a motion made to exit the executive session at 8:01 p.m.

Motion: Joe Anglin
Second: Chris Mundy
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

Adjournment:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Motion: Chris Mundy
Second: Oliver McClellan
Ayes: Joe Anglin, Oliver McClellan, Joseph Mezzanotte, Chris Mundy
Nays: None
Result: passed

Edward R. Asbridge
Mayor

Date

Shelia Cooper
City Clerk