



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2026, 6:00 PM
5410 Pine Street
Flowery Branch, GA 30542**



Call Work Session to Order:

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

Present: Mayor McClellan and Council Members Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt, and Pete Lena.

Also present were Public Works Director Bill Whidden, City Clerk Shelia Cooper, Finance Director Matthew Hamby, Deputy Chief John Powell, Human Resources Director Krystle Hightower, Planning & Community Development Director Chris McCrary, Fun Director Renee Carden, Public Utilities Director Peter Woerner, and City Attorney Ted Baggett.

Absent: City Manager Tonya Parrish

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor McClellan 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: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt,
Pete Lena
Nays: None
Result: passed

Awards & Recognitions:

There were no awards or presentations.

Public Hearing:

There were no public hearings.

Unfinished Business - Work Session:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business - Work Session:

- a. Consider Resolution 26-004, First and Second Quarter Amendments to the Budget for

FY2026 as Previously Adopted on June 19, 2025.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Resolution 26-004.

Director Hamby presented Resolution 26-004, first and second quarter amendments to the budget for FY2026, as previously adopted on June 19, 2025. There were no adjustments needed for the quarter ending December 30, 2025. There were adjustments made to the following: Tax Allocation District Fund, Water/Wastewater Capital Projects Fund, SPLOST VII Capital Projects Fun, Local Resources Capital Projects Fund, and Water and Wastewater Operating Fund. The adjustment maintains a balanced budget for all funds.

Council held a discussion with Director Hamby.

- b. Consider Second Amendment to Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal Contract with Waste Eliminator, LLC

Director Hamby presented a Second Amendment to the contract with Waste Eliminator, LLC for dewatered sludge and waste removal. This amendment to the contract will allow automatic annual renewals for an additional five fiscal years. The amendment also updates the pricing structure for the service. All haul rates and fuel surcharge percentages in the contract would automatically increase by three percent at the start of each new contract year, unless both parties agree in writing to a different adjustment.

Council held a discussion with Director Hamby.

- c. Presentation - Update on Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project by Archer Western

Addison Shealy, Assistant Project Manager, Archer Western, presented a construction progress update on the Flowery Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion. There have been zero safety incidents to date since the start of the project. There have been zero significant quality incidents to date since the start of the project and protecting the finished work remains the top priority. The project will move through four separate startup phases as new facilities come online, and existing structures are rehabilitated. Each phase will require close coordination between the City, the engineer, and the contractor to ensure smooth transitions. Quality and safety efforts will focus on system checks, control readiness, and operational reliability before each structure is activated. This approach ensures every facility is safe, stable, and fully functional before progressing to the next stage. The main construction phase is sixty percent complete. The project is currently tracking twenty-eight days ahead of schedule.

Department Reports:

Department of Fun Report

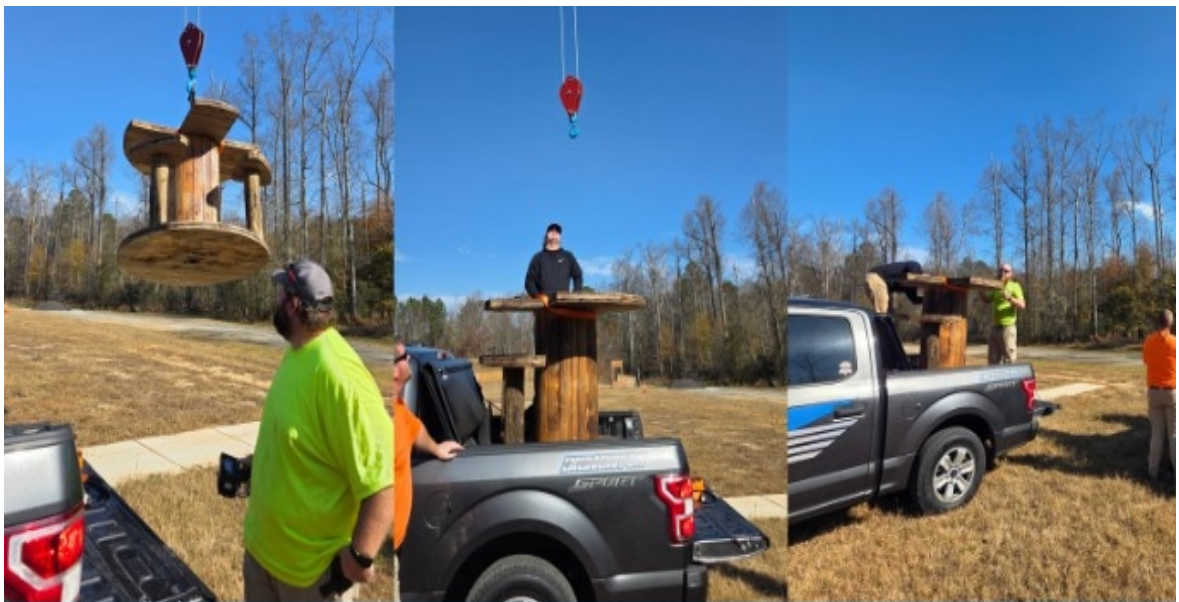
Director Carden noted upcoming events.

Planning Department Report

Director McCrary thanked all visitors that came to the Comp Plan Public Meeting.

Public Utilities Report

Director Woerner presented an update on the Public Utilities Department. The department recently completed the lead and copper sampling survey. Testing for lead and copper is important for educating the public about potential problems with their plumbing materials. Health problems from lead and copper can range from brain damage to stomach problems. The department is requesting greater public participation in this very serious issue. The department had goals heading into the year to complete projects using three simple methods. Improve communication between crews through Hiperweb. Enhance workplace safety. Strengthening the preventative maintenance program. There were booster pump modifications where smaller pumps were installed for lower flow and redundancy. The pumps run six hours less per day and that saves energy and maintenance costs in the long term. The pumps no longer run twenty-four hours per day, and they shut off automatically when the Gainesville Street tank reaches full capacity. The diester project reduced the amount of overtime it took to run the belt press. This reduced the amount of overtime it took to run the belt press, which meant less time on the belt press. The lift station wet well modifications replaced galvanized guide rails with stainless steel to ensure longevity. Installation of safety grates for a safer work environment for maintenance crew and contractors. Six of the thirteen pump stations previously did not have safety grates. The department completed five out of ten capital projects scheduled for this year. Four capital projects are currently in progress, and one project is in the planning phase. The department remains on track to meet the June 2026 capital projects completion deadline. One of the capital projects was the tool truck replacement project (utility truck with boom), which reduced overtime, contractor service calls, and maintenance costs. The purchase of the utility truck with boom was primarily intended to support maintenance of the sewer lift stations, but the truck is capable of serving many additional functions. Many in-house maintenance projects can now be completed, with the capability to continue doing so for years to come. The utility truck benefits other city departments too.



Plant effluent reuse pumps were rebuilt after twenty-one years of service. The valves were also replaced. This marks an important first step in rebuilding the Spray Field.

CLOGS COST EVERYONE

Just because something is small enough to go down the toilet doesn't mean it should be flushed.

Items that aren't meant to be flushed—even those labeled "flushable"—can cause serious problems.

Flushing the wrong things can:

- Clog household pipes and sewer systems
- Damage equipment
- Harm the environment



DO NOT FLUSH THESE ITEMS DOWN TOILET.



"Flushable"
Wipes



Feminine Hygiene
Products



Medications &
Supplements



Chemicals



Fats, Oils & Grease



Metals & Plastics



Trash

ONLY FLUSH TOILET PAPER IN THE TOILET!



Council Report

Council Member Mezzanotte appreciated the information from Archer Western and Director Woerner. Council Member Mezzanotte addressed concerns with the round about being built on McEver Road.

Council Member Vanderbilt thanked Director Carden for replacing the broken swing at Jones Park.

Adjournment Work Session:

Mayor McClellan adjourned the work session at 7:01 p.m.

Voting Session Agenda

Call Voting Session to Order:

Mayor McClellan called the voting session to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comments:

Lexi White, 2541 High Brow Street, Duluth, Georgia 30096.

Ms. White asked Council to consider a moratorium on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center.

Susanne Croft, 7452 Whistling Duck Way, Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542.

Ms. Croft asked Council to consider a moratorium on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center.

Mary Wilson, 5500 Union Church Road, Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542.

Ms. Wilson asked Council to consider a moratorium on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider February 7, 2026, Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Consider February 19, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Consider February 2026 Per Diem for Mayor McClellan

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

Motion: Chris Mundy
Second: Pete Lena
Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt,
Pete Lena
Nays: None
Result: passed

Unfinished Business - Voting Session:

There was no unfinished voting session.

New Business - Voting Session:

- a. Consider Resolution 26-004, First and Second Quarter Amendments to the Budget for FY2026 as Previously Adopted on June 19, 2025.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Resolution 26-004.

There was a motion made to approve Resolution 26-004.

Motion: Charles Vanderbilt
Second: William McDaniel
Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt,
Pete Lena
Nays: None
Result: passed

- b. Consider Second Amendment to Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal Contract with Waste Eliminator, LLC

There was a motion made to approve the second amendment to Dewatered Sludge and Waste Removal Contract with Waste Eliminator, LLC.

Motion: Pete Lena
Second: Joseph Mezzanotte
Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt,
Pete Lena
Nays: None
Result: passed

Executive Session:

There was no executive session held.

Adjournment:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Motion: William McDaniel
Second: Joseph Mezzanotte
Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, William McDaniel, Charles Vanderbilt,
Pete Lena
Nays: None
Result: adjourn

