



**City of Flowery Branch
City Council Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 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, Charles Vanderbilt, and Pete Lena.

Also present were City Clerk Shelia Cooper, Human Resources Director Krystle Hightower, Public Works Director Bill Whidden, Fun Director Renee Carden, Planning & Community Development Director Chris McCrary, Planner Dani Nash, Budget & Purchasing Manager Nancy Rodriguez, Police Chief Chris Hulsey, and City Attorney Ted Baggett.

Absent: City Manager Tonya Parrish and Finance Director Matthew Hamby

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor McClellan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda:

There was a motion made to adopt the agenda.

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

Awards & Recognitions:

Chief Hulsey presented Distinguished Service Award to Investigator Newberry. He was honored for exceptional service and investigative work over the past 12 months. Chief Hulsey reported that Investigator Newberry has closed fifty-three cases, obtained over 60 search warrants, and arrested numerous offenders and his efforts have resulted in successful prosecutions, including serial sex offenders.

Chief Hulsey presented Distinguished Service Awards to Lieutenant Whaley and Sergeant Charlton, and Officer Lifirenko for their assistance to the Gainesville Police Department on an officer shot call on March 19, 2026. Each officer was praised for their skill, professionalism, and willingness to assist during an intense incident.



Public Hearing:

a. Consider Millage Rate for Tax Year 2026; Fiscal Year 2027

Budget Manager Nancy Rodriguez presented a consideration to the millage rate for tax year 2026 and fiscal year 2027. This is the third and final public hearings. The city's current millage rate of 3.247 is the lowest compared to surrounding jurisdictions. The proposal is to maintain this rate, which was rolled back last year. A breakdown showed that for every tax dollar, Hall County Schools receives 58 cents, Hall County receives 30 cents, and Flowery Branch receives 12 cents. Maintaining the 3.247 rate would generate about \$35,000—\$40,000 in additional revenue to support a -3% budget growth, whereas a full roll-back would result in a \$55,000 revenue reduction.

Council held a discussion with Budget Manager Rodriguez.

In favor: None

In opposition: None

Neither in favor nor opposition:

Charles Thompson, 6752 Scarlet Oak Way, Flowery Branch, Georgia.

Mayor McClellan closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Unfinished Business - Work Session: There was no unfinished business – work session.

New Business - Work Session:

a. Presentation of the Unified Development Code progress with Inspire Placemaking Collaborative.

Sarah Sinatra Gould of Inspire Placemaking Collaborative presented an update on the Unified Development Code project. The City has partnered with Inspire Placemaking Collaborative to develop a new Unified Development Code. The initial interview and assessment phase has been completed, and the project remains on schedule. Project goals and progress include streamlining and modernizing regulations, reorganizing the code to

consolidate related sections, evaluating the code for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted studies, and developing a user-friendly, graphically enhanced digital format. Emerging themes from stakeholder interviews included measured growth while preserving the City's character, a desire for high-quality development and architectural standards, and the need for strong, consistent definitions to guide development.

Council held a discussion.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Report

City Clerk Cooper reported advance voting will take place October 13 through October 30 and will include two Saturdays. Election day voting will take place at the voters regular polling location, but advance voting will take place at Flowery Branch City Hall.

Department of Fun Report

Director Carden noted upcoming events.

Council Report

Council Member Mundy expressed appreciation for the police officers who were awarded at the beginning of the meetings.

The remaining Council Members expressed the same remarks as Council Member Mundy.

Adjournment Work Session:

Mayor McClellan adjourned the work session at 6:41 p.m.

Voting Session Agenda

Call Voting Session to Order:

Mayor McClellan called the voting session to order at 6:41 p.m.

Public Comments:

Charles Thompson, 6752 Scarlet Oak Way, Flowery Branch, Georgia

Mr. Thompson thanked the council for ceasing non-quorum meetings and requested that presentation slides be included in or posted with agenda packets for citizen review.

Nick Scott, 6578 Above Tide Place, Flowery Branch, Georgia

Mr. Scott raised concerns about Flock cameras and surveillance prevalence in Flowery Branch, citing multiple camera locations, capabilities beyond license plate reading, retention, and data sharing; asked if the cameras have solved crimes in the past year.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider Council Member Mezzanotte Per Diem for July 2026
- b. Consider Council Member Vanderbilt Per Diem for July 2026
- c. Consider July 25, 2026, Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes
- d. Consider August 6, 2026, Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes
- e. Consider August 6, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Chris Mundy

Second: Joseph Mezzanotte

Council Member Vanderbilt requested to pull items a, c, and d for discussion.

Council held a discussion with City Attorney Baggett.

There was a revised motion to approve the consent agenda for items a, b, d, and e.

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

There was a motion to approve the consent agenda for item c.

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

Unfinished Business - Voting Session:

- a. Consider Second Reading of Ordinance 788 that Updates the Municipal Code to Reflect the Transition from Paper-Based Submittals and Processes to a Fully Digital Planning and Development System.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 788.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 788.

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

- b. Consider Second Reading of Ordinance 789 to Align the City Code with Recently Passed State-Mandated Requirements Governing Plan Review Procedures, Required Timelines, and Standardized Definitions.

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 789.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 789.

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

- c. Consider Second Reading of Ordinance 790 – To Establish the Millage Rate for Tax Year 2026; Fiscal Year 2027

City Clerk Cooper read the caption for Ordinance 790.

There was a motion made to approve Ordinance 790.

Motion: Joseph Mezzanotte

Second: Pete Lena

Council held a discussion.

Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, Pete Lena

Nays: Charles Vanderbilt

Result: passed

New Business - Voting Session: There was no new business - voting session.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Adjournment:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Motion: Pete Lena

Second: Chris Mundy

Ayes: Chris Mundy, Joseph Mezzanotte, Charles Vanderbilt, Pete Lena

Nays: None

Result: passed

Oliver McClellan
Mayor

Date

Shelia Cooper
City Clerk