

City of White Georgia  
City Council Meeting  
April 6th, 2026

Present at the council meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Stephanie Nicholson, DJ Bennett, Karissa Noland, and Jean Swank, City Clerk Robin Cochran, and City Attorney Debra Golymbieski.

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson gave the invocation.

Mayor Powell stated he would like to add an item to the agenda: a resolution giving him permission to sign the Local Emergency Action County Plan. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to add the item to the agenda and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup> and was seconded by Councilmember Noland. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Powell moved on to the approval of the minutes from special meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Bennett made a motion to approve minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Councilmember Swank. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor moved on to the Public Comments portion of the meeting:

- \* Citizen, Eddie Billue spoke on how we had the opportunity of drilling on land donated by Jerry Jude and stated the \$271,000 ARPA funds could have been used. He asked questions: What did the city decide to do with those funds? What projects? He stated that the funds must be used for water/sewer projects and infrastructure. Billue stated they could not be claimed as lost revenue as the city continued to collect water bills. He asked if the funds were moved to the general fund were paid back. Billue stated that it was not a designated use of the funds and that all funds had to be obligated by Dec 31, 2024.

- \* Dwight Dier (invited by Sgt. Webb) addressed the council on how he works with film companies, and he finds locations for an Atlanta based film company to shoot commercials, music videos and independent films. He stated they are looking to film a show called "Redneck Therapy" which will have skits like drag racing the trash truck. Dier stated the city would be compensated through permit fees.

Mayor Powell moved on to department reports:

\*Robin Cochran, City Clerk, just reminded everyone about the upcoming festival on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-5.

\*Brad Loyd, Police Chief, gave the department stats for March:

Traffic Stops – 87, Accidents – 0, Agency Assists – 3, Calls for Service – 107, Citizen Contacts – 245, Business Escorts – 172, Business Checks – 311, Citations – 43 and Warning – 76. He also gave an update on the new police truck that should be ready by the end of May.

\*Shawn Chastain, Public Works Director, reported

\*\*There were seven service line leaks in March all repaired in house and one water tap installed.

\*\*Chastain also stated we had 2 six inch water line leaks.

\*\* He stated the city had to kill the water several times to find/replace a 12" water valve off E Rocky and they found 3 valves that were not working. These valves are \$1200-\$1500 each.

\*\*Chastain stated we needed to have a routine maintenance schedule to make sure they were all working properly.

\*\*Mayor Powell asked how deep the valve that needed to be replaced was.

Chastain stated it was about 5' and stated that we needed to purchase for safety concerns a ditch box for repairs with a depth greater than 4'. He stated a price of \$6000 for the box. Repairs on Hwy 411 really call for this equipment.

Special Report given by our engineering staff member, Jay Renew, concerning PFOS and our path to a resolution. He made the statement that he strongly recommends that the city go with Bartow County water even if on a short term basis due to the consistently high PFOS levels. He stated that the wholesale price would be about \$2.97/1000 gallons. Renew stated that the city would save money on chemicals, power and maintenance on our equipment. Renew continued by stating a study needs to be done to figure out the pricing. He reported it could take up to 2 years to find a new water source (drilling for wells) and it might not even be good water which is not a guarantee. Mayor Powell asked him a question about treatment options. Renew stated granulated carbon Sila but with that comes the hiring of a full time water treatment operator to the tune of \$80-90k per year plus benefits. Renew reported that the granulated carbon Sila is not biodegradable and would need to be professionally disposed of which adds another cost. Renew stated federal funding is not available as well as grant money. Powell asked about the reverse osmosis process and Renew stated it is really expensive. He restated again Bartow is the best option and the costs will include a connection on Richards Rd where the county lines run through to the tune of about \$350,000 with a 9 month turnaround time. Powell asked about a geologist being on board to which Renew replied John does. Powell suggested the connection to Bartow as a temporary fix with the city still trying to find their own water resources PFOS free. Mayor wants the city to be independent. Councilmember Bennett asked if it was reversible to which Renew answered yes.

Renew reminded the council that we already have a connection to Bartow/Cartersville on Stamp Creek. He stated that connection would be expensive to use. The Richards Rd connection is more affordable route. Councilmember Swank stated that Bartow Co has been trying to find new wells also. Councilmember Bennett asked about the PFOS level in Bartow. Renew stated it is not detectable. Bennett asked what Bartow was doing at the rock quarry. Powell stated nothing, they are just testing. Swank stated that if they are drilling and testing that would give us some indication on how the water is there. Powell stated that the water at the quarry is under the influence of surface water and will need to be treated. Renew stated that the 2 wells we have are not under the influence of surface water which must be treated.

Mayor Powell moved on to unfinished business IGA with Bartow County. Councilmember Swank made a motion to table this item till next month and it was seconded by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved all to new business:

1. First item up was the purchase of a new Accounting Software system, Aclarian, recommended by the mayor. He stated it would cost the city \$96,544 and can make payments of \$1824 as we go. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion approved, and it was seconded by Councilmember Noland. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

2. Approval of designing a new website with Lara J Designs at \$10,850. Powell stated HB447 passed to provide permitting stats by filling out information online. He stated that modifications can be made by us. Councilmember Swank stated that it was a good idea to have designated personnel to make those changes. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to table it till May, and it was seconded by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

3. Next item under new business was the approval to surplus the trash truck and trash cans. Councilmember Noland made motion to table until July and it was seconded by Councilmember Swank. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

4. Request for approval to have the city clock repaired was the next item on the agenda. Powell stated he didn't know if repairing the clock was the best option. Councilmember Swank stated we should table it. Shawn Chastain stated the cost to repair the clock: parts \$850, labor \$600 and lift \$500. Councilmember Swank asked about the cost of a new something. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to table with no set date, and it was seconded by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

5. Continuing with new business was the approval of installing an Exhaust Fan in the Evidence Room. Powell stated two bids were submitted: \$1750 (Southern Machine) and Agan Enterprises \$2100. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the installation of the

exhaust fan by Southern Machine, and it was seconded by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

6. Next item was the approval of CCTV for City Hall and Public Works Building. Powell stated cameras at the PW building would be solar powered. He stated city hall cameras can be added to the current Rottweiler System. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the installation of the CCTV cameras for city hall and public works building, and it was seconded by Councilmember Swank. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

7. The added item to the agenda, a resolution to give the mayor permission to sign for the city to participate in the Bartow County Emergency Response Plan. Nichelson asked if the plan was the same and Powell stated yes. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the resolution for the emergency plan of Bartow County, and it was seconded by Councilmember Swank. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the disposition of property at 75 Richards Rd, and it was seconded by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Session started at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor stated we discussed the disposition of 75 Richards Rd and no votes were taken during Executive Session and asked for a motion. Councilmember Bennett made the motion to end the executive session, and it was seconded by Councilmember Noland. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. The session ended at 8:43 p.m. and the regular meeting continued.

Mayor Powell recognized City Engineer, John Sweitzer and thanked him for coming. Powell asked him to speak. Sweitzer stated that the water is going to be this way for a very long time so the city should get connected to the Bartow County Water System. He stated that levels are still high and we should not be drinking since we have an alternative. Sweitzer recommended the plan that Renew spoke of earlier in the meeting. He stated we would get a wholesale rate and raise the rates up to what we are paying for water. He thinks the city should keep the wells. Sweitzer stated he didn't know how the city would get water any other way. He stated the geologists will be starting to see where we could drill for water. He continued by saying if we get another well and a treatment that's affordable for the other wells but for right now, we need to get on the county water. Powell asked if he had any information on the test wells drilling at the quarry. Sweitzer stated he didn't know if they were tested for PFOS. He stated they are interested in treating or selling the water to White. The water at the quarry is upper surface ground water which will have to be treated. He stated that's not the water we want. Councilmember Nichelson asked how long will it take to get the new rates if we go with Bartow Water. Sweitzer stated by next meeting. Nichelson asked about the shut down process for the wells. Sweitzer stated we can leave them like they are for a couple of years as long as we obey EPD rules. Powell asked what was the issue at well 5. Sweitzer stated that the well was in bad shape and only produces 40 gallons/minute. Powell asked that if we go deeper can we get

something useful. Sweitzer stated we can go deeper but he's not sure what we will find. Councilmember Bennett asked if he thought we would ever get back to being self-sufficient. Sweitzer stated it is unlikely that we are going to find the water you are going to need but I think you should. He stated that the switch to Bartow Co water could be permanent. Powell asked if we should spend Splost funds on the connection and leave the grant money to the exploration of a new viable water source. Sweitzer suggested that using Splost funds would be the quickest solution to the connection to cover the \$350,000. Powell stated that using the grant funds there will be restrictions and reporting. Sweitzer stated that if we use the grant money for option 2, the grant people can say well that's all you get. Powell stated if we use Splost we can exhaust the grant funds looking for alternative water sources. Bennett asked what do we need to do next. Sweitzer stated next meeting they would come back with the costs for purchasing water from Bartow County.

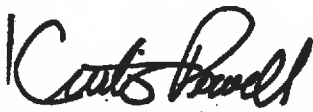
Mayor Powell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bennett made a motion to adjourn, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran  
City Clerk

Attest:



Curtis Powell, Mayor