

City of White Georgia  
City Council Meeting  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 7:00pm and began with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson gave the invocation.

Mayor Powell moved on to the approval of the agenda for the meeting and recommended adding the fee schedule resolution to the agenda separately as an amendment after conferring with the city's attorney Debra Golymbieski and asked for a motion. Councilmember Swank made a motion to add the fee scheduled resolution to the agenda. Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the fee schedule resolution. Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the January 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting minutes and opened the floor for council comments; none were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve January's minutes. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments. None were heard and Powell moved to announcements and reports. Powell introduced Jay Renew, from Sweitzer Engineering who was filling in for John Sweitzer to give an update on PFAS and PFOA.

- Renew addressed the council and he began with Well #1 and Well #2
- Renew stated that wells one and two were tested for PFAS 7 times; June 2023, August 2024, September 2024, October 2024 and three times in 2025; February 2025, June 2025 and November 2025
- Well 5 was tested 3 times
- Renew stated the last two samples were the EPD required regulatory samples.
- PFOA regulated compounds; stating it had a USPCA of 4 nanograms per liter
- PFOA range was from 20-39 nanograms per liter with an average of 27.
- PFAS ranged from 6.5 to 12 nanograms per liter with an average of 8.5 USCPA limit is 4 nanograms per liter.
- Hazard index ranges from .8 to 1.3, the average was 1.0, right on EPA limit
- Well 2 showed similar results; ranged from 20 to 33 nanograms per liter with the average being 26.

- PFAS; ranged from undetectable to 7.8 nanograms per liter, the average being 5.8 nanograms per liter, higher than the USPCA limit.
- Hazard index ranges from .7 to 1.02 with an average of .08
- Renew goes on to say that Well #5 has not been tested as much as the others – 3 times; June of 2023, June of 2025 and November of 2025.
- PFOA ranges from non-detectable to 3.46 nanograms per liter with the average being 1.9.
- PFOS was nondetectable with no hazard index and stated those were the complete test results
- Renew stated that a connection with the county might be a solution with a rate increase and stated that it could be either a temporary solution or a permanent solution.
- Renew stated that would be the quickest way and that Bartow County had no PFAS in their water.
- Councilmember Nichelson asked if there were filter options for wells.
- Renew stated there were, however, it's very expensive.
- Councilmember Bennett asked what the deadline for compliance was.
- Renew stated rural communities have until the year 2031.

There was discussion amongst the council and Renew on how the hazard index was calculated.

- Powell stated that after talking with Sweitzer the week prior they were exploring the idea of redrilling Well #5 as the PFOA levels were lower.
- Councilmember Nichelson asked if he knew the cost of connecting to the county
- Renew stated it would be about \$330,000.00 for everything but stated he did not have a cost estimate to redrill Well #5.
- Councilmember Bennett asked if there were numbers for an operating budget for a filtration system.
- Renew stated he did not currently have that information but would be happy to get it.
- Councilmember Swank asked if the redrilling or connecting to the county water would be able to come out of the grant to which Powell stated it could and would.
- Powell asked what the time frame would look like from design to completion.
- Renew stated 9-12 months.

Mayor Powell asked if anyone else had questions for Renew and there was some discussion amongst the council, Renew, and the Mayor about the amount of water the city had access to and the quickest options available, along with concern for rate increase for the citizens.

Robin Cochran, City Clerk addressed the council;

- Cochran began by reminding everyone of the Festival in April and stated she met her food truck quota already, as well;
- The festival already had 24 arts and crafts vendors and stated they were looking for about 20 more.

- Cochran stated the entertainment lineup was set and had already been promised \$4,000 in Kid's Zone Sponsorship money by L&L Industries, John Sweitzer's office, Mauldin, and TOYO.
- Cochran continued by reminding everyone of the food pantry inside City Hall and stated they were taking donations and having weekly visitors.

Chief of Police, Brad Loyd addressed the council to give the stats from January 2026.

- Loyd stated that his department had 47 traffic stops
- 2 arrests,
- 6 citations,
- 1 accident,
- 1 agency assist,
- 62 calls for service,
- 287 citizen contacts,
- 126 business escorts, and
- 304 business checks.
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Public Works Superintendent, Shawn Chastain addressed the council

- Chastain reported that his department fixed 5 leaks in January
- They had one water main break
- They cleaned all the ditches in the Whispering Pine Subdivision to help with the flooding issues citizens mentioned.

Mayor Powell moved to the Public Hearing portion of the meeting

- The second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance Amendment – Packaged Sales & On Premises Consumption and opened the floor for public comments.
- None were heard and Powell closed the public portion of the meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell read aloud the resolution and stated it should be effective upon its adoption and asked for a motion.

Councilmember Swank made a motion to adopt the amended alcohol ordinance.

Councilmember Noland seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to discuss the Fee Schedule pertaining to the alcohol and beverage ordinance and read aloud the resolution and opened the floor for comments. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the fee schedule for the alcohol ordinance.

Councilmember Swank seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to New Business;

- Powell began with budget amendments.
- Cochran told the council the General Fund budget needed to be amended by \$18,677.
- The Governing Body was under budget by \$9,245

- The Municipal Court was under budget by \$8,547
- The Police Department was under budget by \$40,747
- Cochran also stated the Water/Sewer fund would need an increase due to general maintenance and repairs, engineering fees, incoming developments, water issues, etc. in the amount of \$211,303

Powell opened the floor for comments and questions; none were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Councilmember Nichelson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Cochran gave information on the three maturing CDs

- The first CD was \$81,985.09 at 4.3136% for 8 months,
- The second CD was \$24,825.28 at 4.3136% for 8 months, and
- The third CD was \$24,387.02 at 4.3136% for 8 months
- Cochran stated they all matured on 1/21/2026 and as previously discussed at the prior work session the better plan was 6-month rate of 3.76% and that was her recommendation.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for comments and discussion. None heard and he asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to put all three CDs in the 6-month with a rate of 3.76%. Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

- Cochran went on to say that despite the mayor's many efforts, there has been no information on Georgia 1 Fund, and the city still had the \$44,834.20 check and she recommended the city put it in with the other 3 CDs for 6 months at a rate of 3.76% until such time the city got the required and requested information on the Georgia 1 Fund.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to deposit the check into a 6-month CD at 3.76% with the stipulation that when Georgia 1 Fund becomes available and when they can withdraw it, it's added to the Georgia 1 Fund. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Police Chief Brad Loyd addressed the council again:

- Loyd stated he wanted to purchase 2 additional patrol vehicles using 2026 SPLOST funds
- The patrol vehicles still needed to be fitted with the lights and the other necessities
- Powell stated she reached out to Ford Credit who Hardy uses and they could do 3 annual payments at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each or 4 annual payments at \$26,822.02 each.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the purchase of two Chevy Silverado's for \$95,600 from Hardy Ford using 2026 SPLOST. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

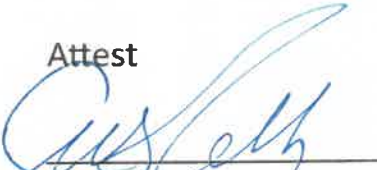
Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve Monster Customs for the custom outfitting for the patrol vehicles. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to mayor and council comments. None were heard and Powell asked if the council was ready to adjourn. Councilmember Swank made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cochran  
City Clerk

Attest



Curtis Powell, Mayor