City of White Georgia
Council Meeting
August 3rd, 2026

Present at the council meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Stephanie Nichelson, 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 p.m. and began with the pledge of allegiance. Pastor Jude gave the invocation.

Mayor made a recommendation to add John Sweitzer the announcements and reports section. Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Bennett made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 3rd meeting. Councilmember Bennett made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to the approval of Minutes from both the July 6th and July 23rd meetings. Mayor asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor moved onto the announcements and reports and recognized John Sweitzer and Jay Renew :

* John Sweitzer, City Engineer, is working on the project to transfer the City of White's water system to Bartow County temporarily. He proposed an increase in the water rates to cover the costs of 10%. Jay Renew added that a few months ago the water rates were evaluated for both White and Bartow County Water. Assuming the city will get the savings from the USDA loan and at least half is applied to the water department, Renew recommended the 10% increase. Standard residential water customers use around 5500 gallons of water a month which costs them typically $28.99. After the increase citizens would pay $33.49 a month, in comparison to Bartow County rates which are $49.75 a month. Renew stated it is assumed that after White is connected to Bartow County there will no longer be a 500-gallon allowance and the rates will be based on usage. Mayor Powell stated that after a rate study by Mr. Sweitzer in 2018 the allowance has decreased by 500 yearly from 3000 to the now 500. Councilmember Swank asked if the commercial and industrial would have the same increase. Renew confirmed that the increase would be the same. Councilmember Bennett asked if the sewer rates were going up as well. Renew responded that the sewer would not have an increase. Sweitzer stated that given Cartersville has been raising the treatment rates every year and if they take over will also do the same thing. Bartow county has raised the water/sewer rates every year, he states

that even though White's water rates have gone up the sewer rates have not. Sweitzer stated that given the fact White has not raised the sewer rates to keep up with the cost of sewer treatments through the City of Cartersville which is $4.14 per 1000 gallons. Sweitzer encouraged the city to look into raising sewer rates.

Mayor Powell asked John Sweitzer where the city stood with the geologists on the GEFA Grant and EPA agreement. Sweitzer responded that the geologists are working with the Neels to find water on their land. The county is also working to find water on the property. Sweitzer adds that every engineering university in the world is looking for a way to destroy PFOS. New treatment systems can remove and destroy PFOS and filtering it out sounds simple but is expensive. There is still no way to dispose of PFOS other than destroying it using high pressure, high temperature chemicals all which again is expensive. Sweitzer and Renew have contacted a company working with the City of Rome to treat PFOS about White's problem. The company needs a 250 gallon sample to do testing and Sweitzer stated he hoped they would do it for free. Mayor asks if there is a schedule to provide them with the 250- gallon sample. Sweitzer responded that the city had to buy a container. Councilmember Bennett asked Sweitzer if the council needed to approve it, Sweitzer responded no, the grant covers the costs. Mayor Powell stated that Matt Stickney wanted to have a meeting about potentially drilling Well 5 deeper to see if the city could get some charge out of it. Sweitzer responded that he agreed to not plug the well until the city decides.

Mayor moved on to Announcements and Reports

* Officer Greg Webb gave the report for the Police Department that they were interviewing for the open position for Police Officer.

* City Clerk Robin Cochran gave the report for City Hall, she reminded everyone of the mammogram bus coming August 27th. She also reported that the trash truck sold for $55,000 and trash cans for $2,525. Cochran also reported that a refrigerator had been donated to the food pantry and thanked those who donated.

* Director of Public Works Shawn Chastain reported 2 water leaks and one active leak on Highway 411.

Mayor Powell moved on to Unfinished Business and recognized Pastor Jerry Jude:

* Pastor Jude came to speak on the variance request for his church. Jude believes churches should be exempt and believes that a variance would not be needed if it was another church. Jude stated that wrote a check for $325 and was told if the board denied the variance, it would not be refunded. He stated he is not a business and is not profiting from the church and therefore he should not have to pay for the sign's variance. Jude stated he believed the council needs to create a new process to exempt churches. Jude said the sign is 5 feet by 6 feet, is set to dim at night and to turn off at 10pm. He stated he wished the council to approve the variance without the charge. Mayor Powell informed Pastor Jude the city is working on changing the process in the future. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve waiving the fee and Mayor Powell redirected and informed her the motion would need to

include the variance. Councilmember Bennett informed Jude that if the city waived the fee for his church that every church would have the fee waived. Councilmember Bennett made a motion to approve the sign and refund the $325 and Councilmember Nichelson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to New Business:

* City Clerk Robin Cochran spoke about the maturing CD which is dated August 4th, and the city has 10 days to reinvest the $44,834.20 at a 3.76% rate for 6 months. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion and Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to the first reading of the Motorized Cart Ordinance:

* Powell stated that the ordinance would grant the operation of certain motorized carts with established registration and equipment requirements to operate on identified public streets. He stated that golf carts, motorized carts and low speed factory equipment that are compliant with the federal section would be allowed to drive on public streets. Powell stated the allowed streets would be granted by resolution and would be required to be put on maps. He included operating hours and a minimum age of 16 years old according to state law. Powell stated driver must have a valid Georgia Driver's License, registration, speed limits, safety equipment, and registration would be through the City Clerk Robin Cochran. Councilmember Nichelson added discussion of putting a crossing area from East Rocky Street to West Rocky Street. Councilmember Swank suggested words regarding insurance be added.

Mayor Powell moved on to Executive Session:

* Councilmember Swank made a motion to enter Executive Session regarding Personnel Issues; Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell states no votes were taken in the Executive Session. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to end Executive Session; Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to Mayor and Council Comments:

* Mayor wishes Councilmember Nichelson a happy early birthday. He also thanks Don Swank for working on the city's generator.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to adjourn, and Councilmember Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest:

Curtis Powell, Mayor