

City of Hamilton
210 Walton Street
Hamilton, Georgia 31811
(706) 628-5321
Mayor Patrick Whearley

July 13, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Open session by Mayor Whearley

Pledge led by Mayor Whearley

Invocation by Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Howard

All members were present.

Councilor Allen made the motion to approve the minutes for June 8, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Howard seconded. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Police Report-Chief Weiss reported that the America's 250th Movie Night on the Square was a great success and was well attended by the community. He also informed the Council that the Hamilton Police Department has increased patrols in neighborhoods where dirt bikes and four-wheelers have been operating on public streets. As a result, officers have issued five warnings and one citation. Chief Weiss noted that these vehicles are not permitted for operation within the city unless authorized by the appropriate city ordinances. Additionally, HPD recently received another donation of bicycle helmets to support community safety efforts. Chief Weiss concluded his report by welcoming Councilor Farley back to the Council, stating that it was good to have him back.

Fire Report- Absent due to training.

Street Maintenance Report- Absent

Water Sewer Report- Absent

City Report-City Manager Rhett Wade reported that the City was awarded an \$800,000 grant for Phase One of the Safe Trails project. He expressed hope that a portion of the funding can be applied to projects already underway. Mr. Wade stated that the America's 250th celebration was a great success and that the second "Second Saturday" event featured 21 vendors and continues to grow. He also reported that the City has taken over the Harris County Public Library's Truck or Treat event and is moving forward with planning.

The State has contacted the City regarding the RedSpeed renewal, and he believes the program will remain compliant for the foreseeable future. Mr. Wade informed the Council that LHOST is no longer being considered, while FLOST remains open for negotiation. He concluded by announcing that the 2025 audit has been completed with favorable results and that a financial meeting will be held next month.

Old Business:

- Mayor Pro Tem, Alvin Howard has been reassigned as a department head of public safety. Councilor Farley's assignment will take place at a later time. Mayor Whearley announced that qualifying will take place August 4-6, 2026.
- Mayor Whearley read a letter from a cyclist couple from Florida that attended BRAG last month.
- Proclamation of Hamilton as a Purple Heart City/ Community. Event will be held August 8, 2026 at 1PM.
- Hearing/Appeal for Focus Ministries Inc.
 - Appealing the decision of planning and zoning.
 - Building permit for thrift store on current location recently annexed by Hamilton -Councilor Wall made the motion to uphold the findings of Planning and Zoning. Mayor Pro Tem Howard seconded. Mayor Whearley, Mayor Pro Tem, Howard, and Councilor Wall voted in favor. Councilor Allen and Councilor Farley opposed. 3-2. Approved. Appeal Denied.

New Business:

None

FYI/Updates/Housekeeping:

Second Saturday with Purple Heart Ceremony

Adjournment:

Councilor Wall made the motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Howard seconded. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Adjourned