

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
City Council
Work Session/1st Public Hearing
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget
City Hall Council Chambers
Thursday, June 12, 2025
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 (via phone)
Councilman Mark Giddens, Ward 3
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris
Chief Financial Officer Consultant Karen Slaton-Dixon
City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Councilman Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4
City Attorney Lester Castellow

Call to Order: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Invocation/Pledge: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Public Hearing:
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

A. Work Session

Mayor Proctor announced the purpose of this Workshop/Public Hearing was to review the preliminary draft of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed budget and to hear public comments.

The Mayor and Council received all necessary documents and staff ensured the meeting requirements were met by law, advertised and available for public viewing. It was mentioned that questions from the city council may be answered by the Department Head Review/Presentation.

With a motion from Councilman Giddens, with a second from Councilman Powell, the Public Hearing was called to order. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Powell, Giddens and Jackson. The vote passed 4-0.

B. Public Hearing

Called to order at 6:08 p.m.

City Manager Chris Davis introduced Mrs. Karen Slaton-Dixon, Chief Financial Officer Consultant, Mrs. Karen Slaton-Dixon, to the Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Slaton-Dixon reminded the city council of the remaining dates for the Budget Meetings: Regular Council Meeting, June 16, 2025 – 6:00 p.m., Special Called FY26 Budget Adoption Meeting, June 26, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. and presented the FY26 proposed budget. Mrs. Slaton-Dixon informed that in a review of prior years, there was not much change; advising of a built-in cost of living 3% raise or one (1) time stipend, an increase in insurance, with no effect on employees, sanitation and airport funds in a surplus, a deficit in the broadband and no change in the gas department budget, were all mentioned. Concerns about employee overtime, staff vacancies, property tax reevaluations and equipment/vehicle purchases were made by the panel.

There were no comments from the public.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1 – Councilman Powell appreciated the ease of understanding the budget.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 – Councilman Jackson agreed with Councilman Powell and gave kudos to the city staff for the best budget he has seen and understood overall.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3 – Councilman Giddens had no report.

Councilman Earnest Carter Jr., Ward 4 – Councilman Carter was not present.

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. – Mayor Proctor had no report.

City Attorney Lester Castellow – Attorney Castellow was not present.

City Manager Chris Davis – Mr. Davis apologized for having no agenda; with the staff working diligently on the budget, plans to provide the regularly scheduled Council Meeting Agenda is Friday, June 13, 2025.

Announcements

The new Sylvester Police Department (SPD) Fire Truck Dedication will take place on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell and second by Councilman Jackson, the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget Public Hearing was adjourned. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED