

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
Budget Adoption Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
Thursday, June 26, 2025
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2
Councilman Mark Giddens, Ward 3
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris
City Attorney Lester Castellow
City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Councilman Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4

Call to Order: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Invocation/Pledge: City Manager Chris Davis

Agenda Amendment/Approval

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the budget adoption meeting agenda gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Public Hearing

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Mayor Proctor announced the purpose of the third and final public hearing is to hear comments on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget.

Clarification of this fiscal year's 31-million-dollar budget, in comparison to last year, at 29-million, discussion of broadband, inflation and employee salary, with the 3% raise built in as a one-time stipend or pay increase were all discussed, with the possibility of amendment.

There were no comments from the public.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilmen Giddens and Powell, at the same time, Resolution 2025-08: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1 – Councilman Powell had no report.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 – Councilman Jackson advised in a recent training, the City of Sylvester was the highlight of the class. He advised the city has been doing an excellent job reporting and filing the budget timely and gave kudos for the dedication of city employees; the portable bathroom location and same placement as years past for the fireworks were mentioned.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3 – Councilman Giddens reported citizens' concerns about not allowing golf carts at the Fireworks Celebration this year.

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

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. – Mayor Proctor briefly mentioned security for the band.

City Attorney Lester Castellow – Attorney Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis – Mr. Davis informed of a safety meeting held concerning golf cart safety at the Fireworks Celebration. Adults allowing their children to drive side-by-side or ATV vehicles, the possibility of accidents, and city liability were mentioned. As a result, a public notice advised this year, no golf carts will be allowed at the event. Mr. Davis provided Plan B, if decided by the Mayor and Council, where a designated area at the Mary Alice Shipp Center would allow golf cart parking with a permit. Individuals would then walk to the H.H. Woolard Center to make purchases from vendors. Registering golf carts would take place at the Sylvester Police Department, where owners would be given a number for their carts, for tracking purposes, should citations be given. Additional handicap parking will be behind the H.H. Woolard Center. Councilmembers in the past assisted with citizen transport and if carts were registered for street use, the numbers are strictly for fireworks use this year, with a restricted route for travel. Lanyards will be provided for security as well, with no fee to register carts. Signs at Jeffords Park have been installed, with city events, maps, parks, and historical information listed.

Executive Session

Councilman Giddens moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Councilman Jackson. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Executive Session Begins: 6:19 p.m.

Councilman Jackson motioned to accept minutes as read in Executive Session and reconvene, seconded by Councilman Giddens. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Regular Session Reconvenes: 6:48 p.m.

Announcements

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Giddens, the authorization for Mayor Proctor to accept City Manager Chris Davis's contract was approved. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Adjournment

With all agenda items covered, Councilman Jackson motioned to adjourn, with a second by Councilman Carter. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK