

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
City Council Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. called the meeting to order.

Attendees

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2
Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3
Councilman Nykemius J. Hamilton, Sr., Ward 4
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris
City Attorney Lester Castellow
City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Invocation/Pledge

Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

Agenda

Upon request of Mayor Proctor, Carter & Sloope Consulting Engineers was added under New Business, as Item D. Councilman Jackson made the motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilman Giddens. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Speakers Appearance

Mr. Perry Ford, Jr., Civil Engineer for the City of Albany, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding a special event request for Downtown Sylvester. Mr. Ford shared details of a proposed birthday block party to be held at Blake's Game Room. He was advised to contact the Community Development Department to complete an Event Request Application and coordinate with the Main Street Department regarding a potential partnership.

No action was taken on this matter, and no additional speakers were present.

Unfinished Business

Discussion: Playground Equipment

City Manager Davis reminded the Mayor and Council of a previous request to obtain quotes for new playground equipment at T.C. Jeffords Park. He reported that two companies, River City Swing Sets and Pro-Playgrounds, submitted proposals and requested directions from the Mayor and Council. The next step is to either proceed with one of the proposals received or continue soliciting additional quotes.

Staff also discussed proposed improvements for Historic Pope Park, including the installation of two new pavilions at a lower cost than the single pavilion currently in place, relocating and refurbishing the existing playground equipment from T.C. Jeffords Park for use at Pope Park, and the addition of exercise equipment and a walking track.

The proposed Memorial Wall was also mentioned, along with Mayor Proctor's recent meeting with a playground vendor, stating he was impressed with the proposal and requested that action be taken regarding new equipment.

The proposal from Pro-Playgrounds included a train-themed feature integrated into the design. While the concept was well received, the total cost was just under \$350,000. The proposal submitted by River City Swing Sets included a larger playground system than the one currently at the park, at a more conventional price of approximately \$55,000.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the proposal from River City Swing Sets for playground equipment for T.C. Jeffords Park gained approval. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

New Business

A. T. C. Jeffords Tennis Courts – Worth County Middle School

The Worth County Middle School Tennis team requested use of T.C. Jeffords Park tennis courts for their practices on weekday afternoons, same schedule as last year. Late January until the end of March, until 5:15, Monday – Thursday are the practice dates.

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, with a second by Councilman Giddens, the Worth County Middle School Tennis team gained permission to use the tennis courts at Jeffords Park for practice. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

B. Beer, Wine, and Alcohol License Renewals:

Family Dollar #32851	Skillz	Sylvester Food Mart
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Mrs. Cushion informed the Mayor and Council of the Beer, Wine, and Alcoholic Beverage License renewal applications submitted by the above-referenced establishments. Staff recommended approval, noting that all required documentation had been submitted and all applicable fees, including late fees due to a missed deadline, had been paid.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the Council approved the three (3) proposed Beer, Wine, and Alcoholic Beverage License renewals. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

C. Pest Control Bids

Ms. Jinny Boyd, Special Projects Manager, provided details of Pest Control bids for the City. A Request for Proposal was issued to cover inspection and treatment services for various pests across all City facilities. Staff recommends Bert's Pest Control, a local company, which submitted a bid with the most cost savings. During the discussion, it was noted that the current pest control provider did not submit a bid. The City's local vendor preference ordinance was also referenced.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Giddens and Jackson, the Council approved the pest control bid from Bert's Pest Control of Sylvester. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

D. Carter & Sloope Engineering Consultants

Mr. Stephen Rakestraw, Project Engineer with Carter & Sloope, Inc., provided information regarding the bid opening held in November for the Water System Improvements Project, including the purchase and installation of automated water meters. In recent months, the City approved the purchase of Master Meters from Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co. for the automated meter project.

Four (4) bids were received, and with the rebid process for installation complete, Carter & Sloope recommended awarding the meter installation contract to M&E Construction Company, the second lowest bidder. The bid tabulation will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council as soon as possible.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Giddens, the bid award for the meter installation project was approved for M&E Construction Company. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Mr. Rakestraw also stated that Carter & Sloope conducts research related to playground planning and recreational development and expressed the firm's willingness to assist the City of Sylvester as a courtesy and investment in the community's children.