

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, February 16, 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 motion by Councilman Jackson, with second by Councilman Giddens, the City Council Agenda was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Minutes

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Giddens, the minutes from the January 5, 2026 and January 20, 2026 Regular Meetings gained approval. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Speakers Appearance

Mr. Perry Ford, Jr., a resident of Albany, once more presented information regarding a proposed birthday block party to be held at Blake's Game Room. He stated that he has met with Public Works Director for the City of Sylvester, Mr. Greg Jackson, and plans to contact Lieutenant Carlos Deriso of the Sylvester Police Department to discuss traffic control and safety measures for the event. Mr. Ford was advised to contact the Community Development Department and Customer Service for an Event Request Application. He was also encouraged to coordinate with the Main Street Department with his ideas. Challenges associated with blocking State Route 33 were also noted, as it is a state highway. No action was taken on this matter.

No additional speakers were present.

New Business

A. Beer, Wine, and Alcohol License Renewal: Blake's Game Room

Mrs. Tenneisha Cushion, Deputy City Clerk, advised of the Beer, Wine, and Alcoholic Beverage License renewal application submitted by Blake's Game Room. Informing that all required documentation has been submitted and all applicable fees paid, Staff recommended approval.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the Council approved the license renewal for Beer, Wine, and Alcoholic Beverages for Blake's Game Room. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

B. Distilled Spirits, Beer, and Wine Package Store License: Dynamic Spirits

Mrs. Cushion also presented a Distilled Spirits, Beer, and Wine Package Store License Application for Dynamic Spirits, submitted by Mrs. Swati Goyal. She noted that an active business license was in place, state and local licensing must be aligned, and all documents were submitted with applicable fees paid. Staff recommended approval.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the City Council approved the Package Store License for Dynamic Spirits Package. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

C. Sylvester Municipal Airport Update

Mr. Chris Davis, City Manager, provided an update on the municipal airport. He reported that training has been completed to operate and bill for aviation fuel. Next steps would be to proceed with hangars development, noting that once ten (10) hangars are established, required municipal funding matches decrease significantly. He also discussed various hangar options, including three-sided and shade structures, and outlined potential funding opportunities for non-revenue generating projects such as runway resurfacing, terminal area paving and weather system installation.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman J. Mark Giddens had no report.

Councilman Melvin Powell noted that Irene P. Hall Park requires attention, specifically citing ant beds near the playground equipment. He stated he will provide photographs to the City Council for review. He further advised that additional rubber mulch is needed and that a standalone iron pipe, for tetherball, should be removed.

Councilman Nykemius J. Hamilton, Sr. had no report.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr. had no report.

City Attorney Lester Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis informed the Mayor and City Council that he met with Justin Stone of Stone's Aquatic to discuss clearing stormwater drains, removing beaver dams, and utilizing a floating excavator for creeks and ponds throughout the city. He stated that a quote to open the channels, maintenance not performed in approximately 20 years, will be presented soon. Mr. Davis also expressed appreciation to both Councilmen Hamilton and Powell for assisting with serving dinner at the Senior Center. He reported another successful Valentine's Dance event for the second consecutive year and thanked staff and participants, noting an appearance by Councilman Hamilton.

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. expressed regret for being unable to attend the Senior Center Dinner and Valentine's Dance events and stated his intention to attend next year.

Executive Session

Councilman Giddens moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss Litigation, seconded by Councilman Jackson. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

Executive Session Begins: 6:24 p.m.

Councilman Giddens motioned to accept minutes as read in Executive Session and reconvene to a regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Jackson. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

Regular Session Reconvenes: 7:03 p.m.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

With all agenda items addressed, Councilman Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hamilton. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor Proctor adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK