

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, March 2, 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 Giddens, with second by Councilman Jackson, the City Council Agenda Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Speakers Appearance

Mr. Perry Ford, Jr., an Albany resident and previous Council speaker, invited the public to Albany in support of a birthday event he presented in February. While the event will be held in Albany, he shared his interest in engaging individuals ages 21–50 and exploring the development of a “Night Tour” in Sylvester, highlighting the downtown area. Mr. Ford noted he has discussed potential parking accommodation with Public Works Director Greg Jackson regarding a future event. He was advised to complete an Event Application and coordinate with the Sylvester Main Street Department. No action was taken on this matter, and no additional speakers were present.

Presentation of Proclamation - Girl Scouts 114th Anniversary

For over a century, the Girl Scouts have empowered girls to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and positively impact their communities. In recognition of the 114th Anniversary, representatives from the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia were present to accept a proclamation from the Mayor and City Council honoring their contributions.

Unfinished Business

City Projects Update

City Manager Chris Davis updated the Mayor and Council regarding Public Works activities in response to Councilman Powell's request for Ward 1. Additional rubber mulch has been placed at designated parks, with extras to be distributed among other park locations as needed. He further reported that trash and debris cleanup efforts are currently underway and improvements at Jeffords Park include the replacement of the pavilions. Additionally, the replacement and repair of speed bumps throughout the city are scheduled to take place.

New Business

A. Sylvester Woman's Club Environmental Project

Representatives of the Sylvester Woman's Club presented a proposal to refresh the American Flag display and Pledge of Allegiance at T.C. Jeffords Park in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the United States. A photo of the current site, including existing flowers and concrete, was provided for reference. The proposed project includes upgrading and revitalizing the area near the intersection of Franklin Street and Westberry Street and required materials of UV-resistant paint, epoxy, and related supplies noted, with a target completion date of June 14. Mayor Proctor confirmed that the City will partner with the Sylvester Woman's Club to ensure completion of the project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilmen Hamilton and Jackson, combined, the request to upgrade and revive the American Flag and Pledge of Allegiance marker at T.C. Jeffords Park was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

B. Discussion: Budget Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce

Mrs. Kayla Myers, President/CEO of the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce, expressed appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their investment and partnership with the City of Sylvester over the past year. Following a recent review by the Chamber's Executive Board, she requested consideration of a 10% funding increase to support continued success and operations. The Mayor and Council expressed appreciation for the Chamber's dedication and discussed considerations including operating cost, City Staff's demonstration of exceptional support of the Chamber and financial contributions from other partners. The involvement of the Economic Development Authority and Worth County's contribution was also mentioned, leading the City Manager and Finance Department to review current obligation. No action was taken on this agenda item, and the matter will be revisited at a future City Council meeting.

Reports/Remarks

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. had no report.

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

Councilman J. Mark Giddens referenced traffic congestion at the intersection of King Street and Isabella Street, during weekday afternoons, specifically between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. during school dismissal. He noted that discussions with Worth County School Superintendent Nehemiah Cummings emphasizing both safety concerns and potential liability for the City and School System with the impact on traffic flow from the Sylvester Water, Gas and Light Office onto GA-33 (Cordele Highway).

Councilman Isaac Jackson noted that the dumpster at the intersection of Johnson Street and Sadler Street is overflowing and should be removed if the associated project is complete. He also requested the installation of speed bumps on Carter Road and Cherry Lane to reduce excessive speed and noise in the neighborhood. Additionally, limbs along West side of Livingston Street need to be trimmed to prevent damage with school buses.

Councilman Melvin Powell expressed appreciation for the use of the new excavator, noting that the wider and deeper ditches in Ward 1 are neatly maintained and the cleanest in city history. He also addressed Irene P. Hall Park, requesting with each bathroom inspection, review the park and remove limbs and debris to ensure public safety. Additionally, he inquired about how production is measured in each department, including the use of work orders and the evaluation of staffing levels in the past.

City Attorney Lester Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis confirmed the traffic concerns raised with Superintendent Nehemiah Cummings and indicated plans to discuss next steps regarding congestion during school dismissals. Noting that work orders are still used to measure departmental productivity and staffing levels. Additionally, Mr. Davis reported a sewer issue at the Dewey Street lift station in the Boulder Trails Mobile Home Park. With additional units expected, he emphasized that planning and design for lift station upgrades should have been considered to accommodate additional phases and noted eighty (80) more trailers in the future. More information will be forthcoming.

Executive Session

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

Executive Session Begins: 6:29 p.m.

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

Regular Session Reconvenes: 6:58 p.m.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

With all agenda items addressed, Councilman Giddens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Jackson. 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 6:59 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED