

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, April 6, 2026

6:01 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

Attorney Lester Castellow entered at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda

At the request of Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr., removal of Item A: Water/Wastewater Tap Fee was proposed for the City Council meeting agenda. Upon motion by Councilman Powell, with second by Councilman Hamilton, the meeting agenda was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Minutes

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, with second by Councilmen Jackson and Powell, combined, the February 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Speakers Appearance

Mr. Michael Johnson, Jr. of the On-Go-Elite Basketball Team will attend the April 20, 2026 City Council Meeting.

There were no additional public speakers.

Unfinished Business

A. City of Sylvester Mural

Mrs. Karen Singletary, Main Street Director, presented information to the Mayor and Council regarding a mural project planned for the Pedestrian Mall. During a previous Council Meeting, it was discussed that the mural would be displayed on a drop cloth attached to a fence; however, a new location on City-owned property at the Public Works utility building was later proposed. After consulting with the project artist, the revised location increased the project cost from the original amount of \$2,000 to \$6,000. A \$2,000 grant has been awarded for the project, leaving the City responsible for the remaining balance. In addition, a pocket park and new fence will also be installed as part of the project.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the increased project amount for the City of Sylvester mural project was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. Sylvester – Worth County Chamber Request

At the March 2, 2026, City Council Meeting, Mrs. Kayla Myers, President/CEO of the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce, requested consideration of a 10% increase in annual funding. During discussion, donations for events, in-kind services provided by the City, and contributions from the County and other municipalities, prior requests, and cost of living increases were all mentioned.

Following discussion, Councilman Giddens made a motion to approve a 2% increase in annual funding for the Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Mayor Proctor. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilman Giddens. Voting against were Councilmen Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion failed for lack of positive votes 2-3.

Councilman Powell offered a second motion to approve a 4% increase in annual funding for the Chamber's budget, seconded by Mayor Proctor. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

New Business

~~A. Water/Wastewater Tap Fees~~

B. Camp Sylvester 2026

Last year, the Mayor and Council discontinued the summer worker program. However, due to operational needs and the voucher program for Camp Sylvester, staff reviewed the camp's budget and operations. Costs have decreased, food inventory management has improved, and parent participation and community partnerships have increased. Staff requests approval to conduct Camp Sylvester during Summer Break 2026.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell and a combined second by Councilmen Hamilton and Jackson, the request to offer Camp Sylvester for summer 2026 was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman Melvin Powell requested the removal of limbs on South Albany Avenue near West Street, a tree fell on a power line approximately six (6) months ago, where the Utilities Department and Public Works Department typically work together to address and resolve these types of issues. On Ayers Street a streetlight is out and has been marked with a red flag near the pole. Homeowners paying contractors to cut down trees and place them on the roadside to be picked up like storm debris and the city should not be responsible. There was also a recent report on water meters from the replacement project where the contractors placed the old meters on the side of the road. This was mentioned as well as removal of debris placed on the side of the road not from the storm aftermath.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens thanked staff for their prompt response and cleanup efforts related to the log truck incident on North Main Street near South Georgia Bank.

Councilman Nykemius J. Hamilton, Sr. expressed his appreciation to staff for the installation of speed bumps on Welch Street and the efforts made to improve traffic safety.

City Attorney Lester Castellow had no report.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr. inquired about senior citizen utility assistance vouchers through the SOWEGA Council on Aging and asked whether proof of voucher approval could be accepted to avoid late penalties while assistance is processed. He noted concerns about seniors needing funds for medication. He also expressed appreciation for the speed bumps installed in Ward 2.

City Manager Chris Davis reminded the City Council of the Senior Out of Town Trip scheduled for April 22, 2026. The bus will depart from the Mary Alice Shipp Center at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Willie Mae Marlin and the senior citizens look forward to the Mayor and Council's attendance.

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. had no report.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

With all agenda items addressed, Councilman Giddens 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 6:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED