

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, May 18, 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 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 Councilman Jackson, the March 16, 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

There were no public speakers.

Unfinished Business

A. Event Application: Punk at the Park

Mrs. Ebony Moore, Community Development Director, advised Mayor, and Council that the "Punk at the Park" event previously presented and tabled has been cancelled due to lack of participation. The event was scheduled for July 1, 2026, but will not proceed.

New Business

A. City of Sylvester Sponsorship Opportunity

Prior to the City Council Meeting, Mayor and Council received information regarding Worth Bulls & Barrels Rodeo sponsorship opportunities, including various sponsorship levels, advertising options ranging from \$100 to \$5,000, and program advertisement details. The event is scheduled for February 2027 at Camp Osborne. No motion was made, and no action was taken.

B. Resolution 2026-03: MEAG Power Voting Delegate

City Manager Chris Davis advised that the voting delegate and alternate voting delegate records need to be updated for the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power). Resolution 2026-03 will update the records to reflect Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. as the voting delegate and Mr. Chris Davis as the alternate delegate.

The City Council unanimously agreed to approve Resolution 2026-03: MEAG Power Voting Delegate. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

C. 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget

Mr. Chris Davis advised that, although Council previously planned to hold the first Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Public Hearing during this meeting, new dates for all three required public hearings will need to be scheduled. He reported that the Finance Department has completed preliminary budget figures with department heads and anticipates a 2% increase in revenue. Mr. Davis stated the budget is expected to be balanced and noted that a special-called meeting may be necessary to meet the public hearing requirements. He also discussed reduced spending, the Auditor's recommendations, and other budget improvements.

Reports/Remarks

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. requested additional information from City Attorney Lester Castellow regarding the dark fiber agreement and an update on storm cleanup reimbursement. Staff advised that Worth County is not pursuing reimbursement due to the limited extent of the damage and that local legislators have been asked to assist Sylvester.

City Attorney Lester Castellow provided an update on litigation involving a past-due business loan. He advised that a motion for summary judgment was filed approximately two weeks ago and that a lien has been placed on the property, preventing the owner from selling or refinancing it until the matter is resolved. In response to Mayor Proctor's inquiry, Mr. Castellow explained that the dark fiber network was financed and constructed in 2004 through an agreement between the City and the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA) to provide service to the Worth County School System. He advised that the School System sought bids last year without reviewing the existing intergovernmental agreement and awarded the contract to SGGSA. After the oversight was identified, the City sought reimbursement, and revised agreements were prepared for the Mayor's signature and future Council approval, where in the future, SGGSA will not submit a bid.

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

Councilman J. Mark Giddens raised a Code Enforcement concern, regarding the clothing donation boxes at both Handy Express and Sylvester Express. He noted that clothing was overflowing around the boxes and requested the issue be addressed. He noted that a similar issue near Piggly Wiggly had previously been addressed, resulting in the removal of the donation boxes from that location.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr. advised that behind the Henry Hall Woolard Center near the dumpster, there is illegal dumping going on. Visitors inquired about renting the facility and noticed mattresses and garbage in this area. A plan to remove the dumpster and continue cleaning consistently or fencing the area was mentioned.

Councilman Melvin Powell reported concerns, including open ditches needing cleaning, grass cutting and trash removal along Pine Street near Highway 82 by Domino's Pizza, and tree limbs extending into the roadway on Hobson Street between Livingston Street and Washington Street, causing traffic issues. He also noted a ditch concern near Crockett Street by the new gin. Councilman Powell requested review of the New Jerusalem Church property request regarding a proposed kitchen addition and discussed property line concerns, utilities located on the property, and the possibility of resurveying, combining properties, or constructing on the lot.

City Manager Chris Davis advised that the Public Works Department is awaiting delivery of the paving machine and plans to resume work next week. He reminded Council that alleys and parking lots are not eligible for LMIG funding and will provide Councilman Powell with the list of streets submitted over the past two years. He also reminded the Mayor and Council of the Hazard Mitigation Kickoff Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Worth County Community Center. Stones Aquatics has begun ditch clearing and has started at South Pond and will continue cleaning storm ditches throughout the city. Chief Jack Colby lost his son, Cale, and everyone is invited to attend the celebration of life, Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Proctor adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED