

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Monday, June 1, 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 (via phone)

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 by Councilman Giddens to remove New Business Item B, ii – Ross Wings to Go, and with a second by Councilman Jackson, the agenda was approved as amended. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Presentation

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. presented Councilman J. Mark Giddens with a Certificate of Recognition from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute in recognition of his completion of the required training of 18 hours. The City Council congratulated Councilman Giddens on this accomplishment.

Speakers Appearance

Mr. Ben Barbee, recently appointed Interim Worth County Administrator, reintroduced himself to the Mayor and Council. He shared his 14 years of experience as Chief Appraiser in the Tax Assessors Office and noted 28 years of service with Worth County. With recent personnel changes and the untimely passing of Worth County Board of Commissioners Chairman Fred Dent, Mr. Barbee stated that he is reaching out to the municipalities as Mrs. Shannon Merritt is currently serving as Chief Appraiser. Mr. Barbee expressed his desire for the county and municipalities to work together and stated that his office is always open and available to assist.

Public Hearing

A. Applicant

With no further discussion, the Public Hearing was called to order at 6:23 p.m.

All advertising and public notice requirements were met, and no public comments were received.

Upon a motion from Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the Public Hearing was adjourned. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson and Powell. The motion passed, 5-0.

Announcements

The second Public Hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., during a Special Called Meeting. The third and final Public Hearing will be on June 15, 2026, at 6:00 during the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

New Business

A. Event Request Applications

i. Neighborhood Kickball Event

Mrs. Ebony Moore, Community Development Director, presented an event application submitted by Ms. Kimberly Williams, a Sylvester resident. Ms. Williams stated that the purpose of the event is to host a friendly kickball game for the citizens of Sylvester. The event is scheduled for June 13, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Curtis T. Shipp Park.

The Council discussed crowd control, loud music, and potential event locations, including Pope Park and the Henry Hall Woolard Recreation Center ball fields. The Council expressed support for the event, in hopes that it will remain family friendly. Concerns about loud music and large gatherings were noted, and Ms. Williams stated that she had invited the neighboring resident who has voiced issues in the past.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded jointly by Councilmen Hamilton and Jackson, the Event Application for the Kickball Event submitted by Ms. Kimberly Williams was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

ii. Community Pop-Up Event

Ms. Martisha Williams, accompanied by Mrs. Ebony Moore, presented an event application for a Community Pop-Up Event. The event is scheduled for August 8, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Henry Hall Woolard Center. The event will feature local vendors offering a variety of products and allow community engagement.

Upon a motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Hamilton, the Community Pop-Up Event Application submitted by Ms. Martisha Williams was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton,

Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried unanimously, 5–0.

B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Broke Daddy’s Crawfish

Mrs. Teneisha Cushion, Deputy City Clerk, presented an Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Broke Daddy's Crawfish Restaurant. Mrs. Cushion advised that all application requirements were met and that staff recommended approval for this restaurant to sell beer, wine, and distilled spirits for on-premises consumption.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens, seconded by Councilman Giddens, the Mayor and Council approved the Alcoholic Beverage License Application submitted by Broke Daddy’s Crawfish. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilman Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson and Powell. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

C. Margaret Jones Public Library Board Appointment

Mr. Chris Davis informed that it is time to renew appointments to the Library Board of Trustees. The terms of the City's two representatives, Councilman J. Mark Giddens and Mrs. Becky Greer, Member-at-Large, expired on June 30, 2026. Councilman Giddens wishes to continue serving on the Board, and the library has requested that the City also reappoint Mrs. Greer to an additional three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Approval was requested for Mayor Proctor to sign a letter reappointing Councilman Giddens and Mrs. Greer to the Library Board of Trustees.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the request to reappoint Councilman Giddens and Mrs. Becky Greer to the Library Board of Trustees was approved. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilman Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

D. Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) Budget Update

Mr. Chris Davis informed the Council that he recently met with Mrs. Sabrina Milner, Director of Communications for Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG), to discuss the ECG Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget. He reported that the City of Sylvester's budget is in line with the proposed figures and has been reduced by 2%. No action was required on this agenda item.

E. ATV/UTV Traffic Safety Discussion

Mr. Chris Davis presented information on the operation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs). He reviewed the 2018 policy, Georgia law regarding the operation of by licensed drivers of qualifying vehicles on certain streets, and restrictions on certain vehicles, including electric bikes, dirt bikes, and four-wheelers. Functional equipment such as blinkers, taillights and rearview mirrors were noted, as well as inspections and permits. Staff was directed to draft regulations for consideration at a future council meeting. No action was required on this agenda item.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman Melvin Powell reported that the roadway in the 900 block of West Street had washed out near a driveway and requested that the area be repaired with gravel or asphalt. He

also reported tree limbs at Irene P. Hall Park that need to be cut and removed, as well as a wheelbarrow near Brown Drive that needs to be removed. Councilman Powell noted that the road shoulders near the railroad crossing at Albany Road and Ayers Street are in poor condition and requested that City Manager Chris Davis and Public Works Director Greg Jackson inspect the area. Lastly, it was noted that the cemetery in Ward 1 needs to be mowed.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr. had no report.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens had no report.

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

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. commended the maintenance at Pope Park, including the manicured grass at the ball field and park entrance and stressed the need to control overgrown vegetation along the roadway. He also noted that the roof tarp had blown off and suggested adding a chain or steel doors to secure the restrooms or disconnecting the water to prevent unauthorized use.

City Attorney Lester Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis reported that the dumpsters in Ward 2 were removed due to reports of illegal dumping, following the request of the Council. The excavator will address a small issue in Ward 1. He also noted that the second budget public hearing will be held June 15 at 10:00 a.m., with the third hearing scheduled during the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. A vote to adopt the 2026–2027 Fiscal Year Budget will also take place.

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 Councilman Hamilton. Voting in favor were Mayor Proctor and Councilmen Giddens, Hamilton, Jackson, and Powell. The motion carried, 5-0.

Mayor Proctor adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

ATTEST:

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK