**The City of Williamson**

*P.O. Box 9*

*Williamson, Georgia 30292*

**Steve Fry, Mayor Tom Brown, City Council Post 3**

**Stephen Levin, City Council Post 1 Carol Berry, City Council Post 4**

**Bob Harrison, City Council Post 2 Steve Davis, City Council Post 5**

**MINUTES**

 **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

 **4 September 2025 7:00 PM**

\*\*Mayor and all council in attendance\*\*

1. **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, WELCOME……**Mayor Steve Fry-7:05p
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**(O.C.G A. § 50-14-1(e)(1))-Motion to amend agenda to move Public Comment directly after Financial Report TB/BH 5-0. Motion to approve agenda as amended SD/TB 5-0.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))
4. Minutes from Meeting held 7 August 2025-Motion to approve as written TB/SL 5-0. Motion to amend agenda to add approval of the August 28 Budget Hearing minutes CB/BH 5-0.
5. Minutes from Budget Hearing held 28 August 2025-Motion to approve as written BH/SL 5-0.
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**-BH asked if any more disbursements have been made to the water people. Clerk reported next pay request has been submitted, and Mayor advised payment will be withheld until after the walkthrough on Friday. TB inquired about a ten percent hold back; Mayor confirmed there is. BH mentioned citizens with damages around their water. Mayor requested that any available council members participate in the walkthrough at 10am. Motion to approve report BH/SD 5-0.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Multiple Requests regarding paving of 2nd District-Robert Gordon expressed shock at not being allowed to speak at the August meeting as well as the lack of support from the council regarding paving of 2nd Dist. He spoke in favor of paving the road due to safety concerns. Requested that the council at least consider a resolution in support of paving, stating that support from the city would assist in working with the county. Asked those in support of paving 2nd Dist. to stand up, and 12 citizens stood. Chris Gordon listed dust as a superficial reason to have the road paved. He then noted that having the road paved could bring people outside of the community in, which would add revenue for the city. Addressed concerns that paving the road would increase speeding and pointed out how the dirt road frequently sees side-by-sides/4-wheelers that create a danger due to speeding. Said installation of speed bumps should address speeding, and reiterated safety is the biggest concern. He noted that TB & SD both have property that backs up to 2nd Dist. Resident on Skyview Dr expressed safety concerns and damages to vehicles as reasons to pave the road.
8. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**
9. City Clerk Report-Advised Three Rivers Regional Commission offers grant writing assistance. Reached out to Mr. Sonaike per council’s request about conducting the city’s FY25 audit for the same cost as FY24. He will send a letter of engagement as well as contract options.
10. Council Member Reports: **SL**-Discussed ongoing tree work at the city park and asked about stump grinding. Noted disc golf isn’t usable, to which Mayor advised baskets were taken up to prevent damage during tree removal. Mayor reported plans to convert the area to a memorial garden.

**CB**-All topics already on agenda.

**BH**-Welcomed residents, noting it is good they are involved, and apologized for not letting them speak at the previous meeting. Said there is protocol in place to request speaking at meetings. Reminisced about the city’s history and all the changes it’s seen. Stated that he hasn’t heard any of the council say they don’t want to pave 2nd Dist. and that they are all in favor of having it paved, but the question of who owns the road needs to be settled first. Reported tree limbs at Dollar General need to be trimmed and the drain at Little St/2nd Dist. is full of debris. Announced he cleaned the drains on 2nd Dist., but the ditches are overgrown. Relayed that Keith Edmondson would like to rent the library for an end of the year art show.

**SD**-Clarified that his home backs up to the already paved section of 2nd Dist. and reiterated that he never said he didn’t want the rest paved. Expressed disappointment with the tree service due to several dangerous trees still standing months later. Acknowledged that he didn’t look at the contract to see if stump grinding was included and Mayor advised it was not part of the scope. Inquired about price update for completion of amphitheatre. Mayor provided timeline of work and various issues that ultimately led to the project being shut down; then reported he is awaiting the updated pricing. BH suggested temporarily installing a sun sail in the interim, saying the sail would cost around $25K; he will contact Chris Young for a quote. SD reported having marked locations for speed humps and the county was contacted to install them.

**TB**-Stated that he never said he didn’t want 2nd Dist. paved and reported the county plans to pave it within the next several years, but the potential roundabout could affect it. Encouraged citizens to take the matter to the Pike BOC. Talked about how spot zoning to allow commercial in a residential area would ruin lives and can’t be undone. Announced the city doesn’t have the money to pave 2nd Dist.

1. City Attorney Report-Provided counsel on Board of Ethics appointments, advising this should be on the next agenda. Mayor reported he appointed Keith Crawford, the attorney is the second, and the council needs to appoint their choice. Board has not been convened since its initiation in 2017.
2. Mayor’s Report-Requested clarification of accusation made about caboose meetings. TB replied they could talk about it after the meeting.
3. County Matters-Commissioner Jenkins advised 2nd Dist. is on the county’s list to pave, but it would be several years out. Confirmed that the city’s portion of 2nd Dist. ends at the last house by the curve on the left before the arena. Expressed understanding of safety concerns over Chapel Hill Rd but advised it’s in Spalding County. Suggested utilizing Melville Brown as a temporary alternative. County is using LMIG funds to pave Melville Brown. Impact of roundabout is unknown, as this is a state issue with no county input. IDA is taking over the land purchase from the county.
4. Library Report-Beverly expressed gratitude for Sean covering her shifts to keep the library open while she was out recovering from surgery. Reported 17 tickets sold for 9/12 and 25 for 9/13 Mystery Dinner Theatre with proceeds allotted for purchasing new books. Open 22 days with 90 patrons, $14 income, 44 books checked out, and 4 new library cards issued.
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
	1. City Hotel/Motel Tax Discussion-Mayor acknowledged misunderstanding of how the tax was collected, as it was believed to come from the state’s portion but it is actually a new tax. The city does not have a way to collect the tax. Motion to discontinue city’s Hotel/Motel Tax BH/SL 5-0.
	2. City Main Waterline Project and Improvements Update and Citizen Impacts Planning-Impact was service interruption for valve testing. Punchlist walkthrough is 9/5 at 10a.
	3. Second District Road Drainage and Curbing Issues-Mayor working on seed grant. Drains need to be cleaned out. Mayor and clerk to discuss and contact public works for assistance.
	4. Results From City Contracts Review Workshop-All contracts will continue.
	5. Memorial Tree Planting Project for Park Update-Clerk consulted Mr. Stafford with The Country Estate for planning and plant options. They are excited at the concept and willing to assist. TB said we need to talk to UGA, as this is a project they could utilize students to undertake.
	6. Old Fayetteville Road Paving Project Update-Mayor consulted with an engineer who provided a diagram for proposed traffic patterns. Road is not wide enough to be a legal 2-way with striping, so conversion to a one-way was presented. Approximate cost for a 1.5” overlay is $100K, and if existing road was milled estimate is $150K. Discussed closing Drewry St. or widening it. BH stated heavy trucks are damaging the roads, and enforcing no thru trucks is a better option than closing roads. Engineer Mark Whitley is willing to come to a meeting to discuss options.
	7. New Picnic Table for Memorial Park-Kit and lumber purchased, table needs to be assembled.
	8. Status of Tree Limbs on Purser Circle-Road department reported limbs have been trimmed, but additional limbs require attention. Input from bus garage requested.
	9. Status of Speed Hump Installations-Locations marked on Drewry and 2nd Dist. and installation was requested, but no update from public works.

\*\*Mayor requested input from council regarding permit for improperly installed fence on Old Fayetteville, as the property is owned by a councilmember. Fence and deck were constructed before a building permit was submitted, and the fence’s setback does not meet city ordinance. Deliberated issuing a variance or having contractor move the fence to come into compliance. Planning Commission would have to review the variance request and submit their recommendation to the council.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. Adoption of FY 2026 Budget-Motion to adopt CB/SL 5-0.
3. Setting of FY 2026 Millage Rate-Motion to set millage rate at 2.075 CB/SL 5-0.
4. GAEPD Grant Info in Work-Mayor is working on applying. City could receive up to $75K and the funds would be used to address drainage issues on 2nd Dist. BH stated he hasn’t seen any issues with water on 2nd Dist.
5. Sherlock Holmes Mystery Dinner Theater Planning-Event is Sept. 12 and 13 at the Williamson Methodist Church. Some food will be purchased from Freshway and Commissioner Jenkins is donating the rest. Carol has painted the mural. Proceeds will go to purchase library books.
6. Trunk Or Treat / Fall Festival Planning-Held at Benson Hilley Park on October 25 at 5p.
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(a)(2)-Potential Litigation**;** §50-14-3(b)(2)-Personnel-Motion to exit open session and enter executive session SL/BH 5-0 9:09p. Motion to exit executive session and reenter open session TB/SD 4-1 with BH against 9:34p. No actions taken as a result of executive session.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**-SL/SD 4-1 with BH against 9:35p.