

City of White Georgia  
City Council Meeting  
July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Present at the council meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Gary Crisp, Stephanie Nicholson, Karissa Noland, and Jean Swank, City Clerk Robin Cochran, and City Attorney Brandon Bowen.

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson followed with the invocation.

Mayor Powell started with the review and approval of the agenda for the meeting and asked to add a request from the Mayor of Milton under new business item "e". Mayor Powell opened the floor for council discussion. No one spoke, and Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to add a request from the Mayor of Milton to the agenda under new business. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of June 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes and opened the floor for council comments. No one spoke, and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke, and Powell closed the public comments.

Mayor Powell moved to announcements and reports. City Clerk; Robin Cochran, addressed the council to give an update on the Clerk's office.

- Cochran provided the council with a copy of the financials from the previous month.
- Cochran reminded everyone that Qualifying for city council seats begins next month for the two available positions.
- The Qualifying fee is \$42.75 and begins Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> -Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-4.
- Cochran continued by discussing the two maturing CD's and presented options of a rate for 8 months at 4.4% or 13 months at 4.2% and gave the balances of both accounts: \$52,471.95 and \$42,464.28.
- Council member Nicholson questioned the bank and asked if there may be any better options for the CDs.
- Cochran stated that the current bank offered the best rates and that all CD's were now at the same bank making money, and it was her recommendation to keep them there.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the CDs for 8 months at 4.4%.

Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

- Cochran ended by discussing the yearly millage rate and stated it was 3% and the city rolled it back to 0%
- Mayor Powell suggested holding off on the discussion as it was listed to be talked about under new business

Chief of Police, Brad Loyd, addressed the council to give an update on the police Department.

- Loyd reported it was business as usual in his department and everything was good.

Public Works Superintendent Shawn Chastain addressed the council and gave an update on his department and began with the multiple water leaks in the Whispering Pine Subdivision

- Chastain stated that the water system in the subdivision is failing
- Most issues are due to the meters being placed beside the house and the waterlines being under the driveways
- Chastain reported 9 leaks in 2 weeks and stated that when they get one leak fixed it blows it somewhere else down the line
- Chastain recommended the replacement of all waterlines in the subdivision
- Chastain described the quality of work and short cuts taken by the individuals that put in the water lines and explained how that affected the current water system and administration
- Chastain stated he was working with the city engineer, John Sweitzer, on replacing the entire system in that subdivision
- Chastain continued by informing the council that the current water lines are 180ft into the yard and re-running new lines that are closer to the road as it should have been from the beginning, would eliminate many of the problems the city faced

Mayor Powell moved to Unfinished Business and spoke about the new pumps for the sewer lift stations.

- Powell stated that this was something that had to be done, and they needed to discuss where to pull the funds from, with his recommendation of utilizing the Short-Lived Asset Funds.
- Chastain spoke about the Aubrey Lift station stating that the pumps were installed and they were working out some electrical issues but otherwise everything was going as good.
- Chastain stated that at the TOYO lift station, the city was down to one pump and running off emergency bypass pump and estimated it would be the end of the current week or the beginning of the following week before those pumps would be installed.
- Councilmember Swank asked about the cost; Chastain stated the cost of \$61215.70 for the pumps at the Aubrey Lift Station and \$65527.80 for the pumps at the TOYO lift Station, for a total of \$126743.50.

- Mayor Powell said he suggested using the Short-Lived Asset Fund and using the money in the Water/Sewer account every month and put it back into Short Lived Asset Fund
- Councilmember Crisp asked about the account balances as he knew there had to be a minimum in the account
- Mayor Powell stated the city was currently over that required balance, the required balance is \$153k and there was \$227k in that account
- Councilmember Nicholson asked for an update on the water tank.
- Chastain stated a new system was installed the week prior and everything was working perfectly.
- Councilmember Nicholson asked how much money was going to be put back monthly into the Short-Lived Asset Account
- Mayor Powell suggested \$2,000/month

Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to use the Short-Lived Asset Fund for both pumps at the Aubrey Lift Station and for both pumps at the TOYO lift station. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell continued unfinished business regarding the Aubrey Lift Station.

- Powell reminded the council that Bartow County asked if the city would be interested in turning the lift station over to the county and they would assume all maintenance and asked the council if that's something they would be interested in pursuing

There was some discussion amongst the council about a possible bond the city still had and the possible options available to allow that as a possibility.

- Mayor Powell stated that if the city kept it, they would need to upgrade it drastically and maybe even add an additional pump to keep up with the flow.
- Councilmember Swank reminded the other council members that the city has already paid off a good bit of the loan and it was just something to consider while they think about handing it over to Bartow County

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion that the city start working on negotiations with Bartow County to take over the Aubrey Lift Station. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to review the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual and opened the floor for council discussion. No one spoke, and Mayor Powell asked for a motion.

Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to New Business and began with the 2025 millage rate and stated they were rolling it back to 0% and opened the floor for council discussion.

- Councilmember Swank stated she thought they were going to discuss the possibility of a millage rate

- Mayor Powell stated they had to have many public hearings before a millage rate was put in place
- City Attorney Brandon Bowen stated that they would need to start that process in the Spring, if not earlier, to implement a millage rate

Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to roll the millage rate back to 0%. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Shawn Chastain approached the council.

- Chastain stated he got two quotes for a sewer camera and locator: \$13,519 and \$12,153.20, respectively.
- Councilmember Nichelson asked if these tools would be helpful
- Chastain stated it would be extremely helpful
- Mayor Powell asked how many locates Chastain had at the time, Chastain responded 3 pending

There was discussion amongst Chastain and the council as Chastain provided more details on his daily, weekly, and monthly struggles without this tool. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to purchase the tools from Ferguson for \$12,153.20 using the 2014 SPLOST. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the Jimmy Nichols Resolution

- Mayor Powell read aloud the resolution honoring his life and the legacy he left at the City of White with his many years of dedicated service.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to discuss the Georgia Power Easement requests

- Powell stated that Georgia Power has 7 proposed easements on city property
- Powell stated that the purpose of these easements was for Georgia Power to ensure no trees or vegetation were in the right of way of any powerlines
- Powell stated the city would be compensated for the easements in the amount of \$8,880
- Councilmember Swank stated they had cut down some vegetation already and haven't cleaned up after themselves and asked if the city would be responsible for cleaning up the mess they leave behind or if the city would have a say in how they cut back the shrubbery/vegetation
- Councilmember Noland provided insight as she personally accepted the easement on her personal property for the same thing stating they wouldn't just trim it back, they would remove it
- Mayor Powell confirmed that they would remove anything that's located within 20ft of the centerline



Councilmember Crisp made a motion to accept Georgia Power's proposed easements and accept the compensation of \$8,880. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to discuss a resolution the city was asked to be a part of for the City of Milton regarding a car wreck and a \$35 million lawsuit and asked the City Attorney, Brandon Bowen, to speak on the matter.

- Bowen stated the request from the City of Milton was sent out to several fellow cities and explained that a young driver was killed in a car wreck and the family was suing the City of Milton arguing their responsibility in the accident
- The family was awarded \$35 million, and the City of Milton was taking it to the Georgia Supreme Court and asked for the city's support in the matter
- An unnamed person (Non-Citizen of the City of White) wanted to speak against the city supporting the City of Milton. Mayor Powell agreed to allow the individual to speak for three minutes at the end of the new business session.
- Mayor Powell stated that according to the resolution the concrete planter in the right of way that the young kid wrecked into had been in place since 1992 and there have been no issues before this
- Bowen stated that the resolution isn't an obligation, it's just stating that the City of White Supports the City of Milton in the appeal of the amount of \$35million payout

Councilmember Crisp made a motion to accept the resolution in support of the City of Milton. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

- The individual from earlier in the meeting spoke against the city supporting the City of Milton and spoke against the Georgia Power Easement and voiced other issues she said she sees in the sunbelt states.

Mayor Powell moved to Council and Mayor comments, none were heard, and Powell suggested going into executive session to discuss surplus property and potential disposal. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss surplus property and potential disposal. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell stated that no votes were taken during the executive session and asked for a motion. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to close the executive session. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Councilmember Crisp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin Cochran", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robin Cochran  
City Clerk

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Powell", written over the word "Attest".

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Curtis Powell, Mayor