

CITY COUNCIL:  
MAYOR ZINDA MCDANIEL  
MAYOR PRO TEM LULA SMART  
COUNCIL MEMBER KECHIA HARRISON  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROBBY CHRISTIAN  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACANT



CITY OFFICIALS:  
CITY MANAGER JAMES LAWRENCE  
CITY CLERK DAWN MONTGOMERY  
ATTORNEY KARLA WALKER  
POLICE CHIEF LAWRENCE MCGEE  
FIRE CHIEF VACANT

QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
6:30 PM

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The work session roll call was administered by the City Clerk on April 7, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Of the five eligible voting members, all were present. A quorum was declared as outlined in Article II, Section 16 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Quitman, Georgia. Others in attendance were City Manager James Lawrence, City Attorney Karla Walker, and City Clerk Dawn Montgomery.

II. **INVOCATION**

Led by Pastor Jim Pitt, Morven Baptist Church

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor McDaniel led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Lula Smart to accept the agenda, seconded by Robby Christian, unanimously approved.

V. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Kechia Harrison to approve the minutes from March 3, 2026, seconded by Christopher Cole, unanimously approved

VI. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

ANDREW WADE, 401 S Broad St, has a non-profit and has requested to use the city hall meeting room to host workshops for kids, using materials donated by The Home Depot. Mayor McDaniel asked if this could be in conjunction with 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. Councilwoman Harrison suggested using a different location due to the materials being used.

WILLIE BROWN, address unknown, addressed an issue with Zoning and Code Enforcement. His apartment was condemned. He requested paperwork to submit to his attorney, but his attempts have been unsuccessful. He is bringing it to the council's attention to request assistance in obtaining the paperwork. Mayor McDaniel told Mr. Brown to meet with the City Manager for help.

CHARLES BACKSO, 1202 N Court St, thanked the Mayor and City Manager for taking the time to travel to Atlanta regarding HB 1567 and speaking up for the city, asked about Cities Week and the meeting location for the Citywide cleanup, and also inquired if the city will return recycling bins for citizens to use at the city dump at the end of town.

GARY CHRISTIAN, 404 S Walker St, commended the Fire Department for its efforts to contain the fire on Warren St. He also asked about the Fire Chief. The mayor stated he resigned.

JEROME TUCKER, Executive Director of Brooks County Development Authority, 5922 Jumping Gully Rd, Valdosta, Ga, expressed his appreciation for the new industry coming to Industrial Park

ROD DIXSON, employed by the City of Quitman, thanked the council for hiring him, and he enjoys working for the city. The department is working hard to make it great.

TOM WHEELER, 334 N Washington St, had a concern regarding the Fire Chief. The stop sign at Warren St has been repaired, welcomed new council members, and the city clerk asked about advertising department head positions to hire the best possible candidate

HR DIRECTOR addressed the advertising issue.

**VII. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McDaniel discussed Cities Week and read the list of events

**VIII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief not in attendance

**IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lawrence offered his condolences to David Milton's family and to the families affected by recent tragedies. The city's primary focus is on water and sewer infrastructure. He discussed current and recent projects. He gave an update on the city's financial position and audit recovery process.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilman Christopher Cole, unanimously approved at 7:03 pm

**XI. ACTION ITEMS**

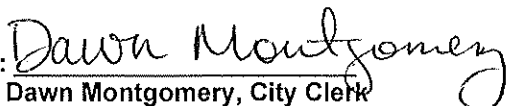
- Bank Signature Cards (remove Heidi Gardner, add Dawn Montgomery); Motion made by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, unanimously approved
- Electors for Municipal Gas Authority (remove Willie Burns... Motion for Council to appoint new voter via Resolution); Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilman Christopher Cole, unanimously approved; Motion made to appoint Mr. Lawrence by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, unanimously approved

- New Business License Approval- 4D Grocery and Stephen's Pizzeria; Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilman Christian Cole, unanimously approved
- Resolution- To ratify and confirm operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, 2026; Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, unanimously approved
- Approval of Central Warehouse for Inventory Management; Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilman Christian Cole, unanimously approved
- Approval of using James Moore & Co., P.L. in the audit recovery plan; Motion made by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, seconded by Councilman Christopher Cole, unanimously approved
- Approval of Lawn Maintenance with Martinez Mowing Services, LLC; Motion made by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, unanimously approved
- Approval of paying the invoice to Southern Vac for the sewage vac truck repair; Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, unanimously approved
- Approval of the paving of West Battle Street using Southland; Motion made by Councilman Robby Christian, seconded by Councilman Christian Cole, unanimously approved

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, unanimously approved AT 7:44 PM.

BY:   
Zinda McDaniel, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Dawn Montgomery, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: May 5, 2026

**AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICIAL(S) FOR A CLOSED PUBLIC MEETING**

While in Regular Session, the motion was made to enter Executive Session to discuss certain matters in a closed session.

- ( ) To discuss with council pending and/or potential litigation, settlement claims, administrative proceedings or other judicial actions, which is exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2(1).
- ( ) A meeting to discuss the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property; authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in subsequent public vote, which is excluded from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C).
- (X) A meeting discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action, or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee, which is excluded pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(2).
- ( ) Discussion in Executive Session of Records that are otherwise protected from disclosure under the Open Records Act as pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(4).

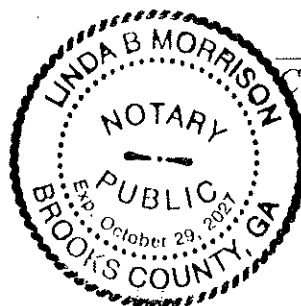
X The subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting or Work Session was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law.

Because of events occurring during the closed session, I am unable to affirm the subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting or Work Session was devoted to only matters within the exceptions provided by law.

*Zaida Murray*  
Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of June, 2026.

*Linda B Morrison*  
Notary Public



10-29-2027  
Commission Expires