

Zinda McDaniels, Mayor
Lula Smart, Mayor Pro Tem
Robby Christian, Council Member
Kechia Harrison, Council Member
Vacant, District 2 Council Member



James Lawrence, City Manager
Dawn Montgomery, City Clerk
Karla Walker, City Attorney
Lawrence McGhee, Chief of Police

THE CITY OF QUITMAN

100 W. Screven Street
Quitman, Georgia 31643

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 16, 2026 6:30 pm, City Hall Annex

I. **Opening Ceremonies**

Attendance: Councilman Harrison, Councilman Christian, and Mayor Pro Tem Smart were present, establishing a quorum. Also in attendance were City Manager Lawrence, City Attorney Walker, and City Clerk Montgomery.

II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from May 5th, June 9th, and June 16th sessions were unanimously approved.

III. **Mayor's Report**

The mayor had nothing new to report.

IV. **Police Chief's Report**

The chief was not present at this meeting.

V. **City Manager's Report**

Fiscal Year 2018 (James Moore Co.)

- Auditors are actively performing audits. All requests from the City of Quitman have been submitted and uploaded. The audit team addresses follow-up questions and documentation requests. The first draft of the audit is expected by the end of the month.

Audit Recovery Update (CKH Group)

- Fiscal Year 2019: Cash accounts have been reconciled, establishing reliable year-end balances. CKH is reviewing the trial balance and supporting documentation for other key accounts.
- Fiscal Year 2020: Cash reconciliations work is being finalized. The accounting team is reviewing the trial balance and preparing adjustments
- Fiscal Years 2021-2025: A comprehensive review of previously scanned records and historical findings has been completed. District records for missing bank statements have been provided.
- The goal is to complete the entire audit project by December 2027, achieving compliance by January 2028.

Forensic Audit Findings

- A letter from Bradfield Sheely, DA for the Southern Judicial Circuit, stated: "Based upon my review, I see a lot of improper protocols and lack of simple bookkeeping standards. However, because of the aforementioned issues, I cannot pursue any criminal matter, I will take no action on this matter at this time."
- City Attorney Walker was asked by Council Member Harrison to draft a statement clarifying the "missing 1.3 million" narrative. The statement will be posted on the city's website and other appropriate platforms. She will work with the city manager to draft this statement.

Insurance Program Review

- An insurance program implemented under the previous administration was identified. The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) previously raised concerns about this supplemental insurance company and program, forwarding the matter to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- The GBI opened a case, and City Manager Lawrence provided communications, agreements, and related documentation. The matter remains under review with authorities. The city is not currently paying for this insurance company.

Water/Sewer Operations

- Several infrastructure repairs have been completed on North Laurel, Wiregrass, and South Court. More projects are pending
- Water Loss Audit (FY 2025): Approximately 389 million gallons were generated, only 171 million gallons delivered to customers, indicating a loss of 218 million gallons. This signifies significant leaks in our aging infrastructure. The plan is to invest in new equipment for leak detection.

VI. Citizens to be Heard

Ms. Davis, 512 N Barnes Street: wanted clarification on bill due dates and late fees.

Ms. Brown, 815 N Lee Street: was concerned with the grace period for paying utility bills. She also expressed concern with hiring practices.

Mr. Bascom, 1202 N Court Street: expressed difficulty finding an after-hours contact number for non-emergencies.

Ms. Walker, 804 E Lafayette Street: was pleased with the update; she asked who initiated the audit

Mr. Wade, 401 S Laurel: announced his non-profit has raised money for utility assistance for the senior community. He announced another fundraiser on July 31 (Krispy Kreme Donut sales).

Mr. Gary Christian, 404 S Walker: addressed his issue

Mr. Wheeler, 334 N Washington Street: addressed his issue

VII. Action Items

- **Ordinance 612-26:** An ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Quitman, Georgia, amending Chapter 56 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Quitman by amending and restating Section 56-341, Delinquency charges
- **1st Reading,** read by City Attorney Walker, after the reading a motion to suspend the rule was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Christian; voting was unanimous; **2nd Reading,** read by City Clerk Montgomery; **3rd Reading,** read by City Attorney Walker, a motion was made by Council Member Christian for the final adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Harrison; voting was unanimous.
- **Resolution 354-26:** Amendment to Resolution 349-26 to repeal the additional \$30 late fee for bills paid after the 20th of the month. A motion was made by Council Member Christian, seconded by Council Member Harrison; voting was unanimous
- **Resolution 355-26:** To authorize the City Manager to execute a transfer from the Edward Jones Investment account to the general fund in the amount of \$200,000.00 to support budgeted general fund operations. A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Christian; voting was unanimous
- **Resolution 356-26:** to authorize the City Manager to execute withdrawals from Mutual Competitive Trust accounts in the amount of \$150,000.00 to support budgeted electric fund transfers to the general account. A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Christian; voting was unanimous
- Consideration authorizing the City Manager to engage with Southland Contractors for the purpose of commencing targeted road resurfacing and repairs throughout the city using remaining TSPLOST funds not to exceed \$150,000.00:
 - West Lake Drive, 540 ft from Hwy 84 (est. cost \$23,000)
 - Seymore St, 500-700 ft (est. cost \$48,000)
 - Intersection of Gordon & N. Jefferson (est. cost \$10,000)
 - W. Bartow from Madison to Walker (est. cost \$30,000)
 - MLK, multiple spot repairs (est. cost \$8,000)
 - Courtland, spot repairs (est. cost \$10,000)
 - Quincy St, targeted repair (est. cost \$15,000)
 - West Crawford, targeted repairs (est. cost \$6,000)A motion was made by Council Member Christian, seconded by Council Member Harrison; voting was unanimous.
- Consideration of reducing the Enterprise Fleet vehicles through positive market value returns and positive market replacement for needed vehicles, out-of-warranty vehicles, or those approaching out-of-warranty status. A motion was made by

Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Christian; voting was unanimous

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

BY: Zinda McDaniel
Zinda McDaniel, Mayor

ATTEST: Dawn Montgomery
Dawn Montgomery, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: 8/4/26