

**City of Locust Grove
 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42 S.
 Locust Grove, GA 30248
 Monday, October 20, 2025
 6:00 PM**

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Carlos Greer - Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Rudy Breedlove – Councilman/Pro Tem	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Lester Clark - Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director
E. Olivia McCornell - Councilwoman	Colleen Cook – Main Street Manager
Keith Boone – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Brandon Morris – Police Captain
	Andy Welch - Attorney
	Staff not Present:
	Derrick Austin – Police Chief

Mayor Carlos Greer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation given by Community Development Director Daunté Gibbs

Councilman Shearouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Greer asked for a motion. Councilman Clark made the motion to approve the agenda.

RESULT	APPROVED AGENDA
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN CLARK
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

PRESENTATIONS –

- **Introduction of new hire – Human Resources Generalist, Erin Bryant**

City Clerk Misty Spurling introduced new employee Erin Bryant to Loust Grove staff. Erin thanked everyone for the opportunity and said she is glad to be here.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS –

1. **FY 2026 Operating and Capital Improvmnts Budget Hearing – (1st Hearing) –**

Tim stepped forward to comment. The General Fund will be \$13 million dollars, which is down from the current year. Discussion took place about the spreadsheets provided and said 74% of the revenue comes from taxes (sales tax, insurance premium tax, occupational tax). Tim reviewed revenues and expenditures 2026 breakdown and comparison. Reviewing other funds, current year H/M has decreased but anticipate an increase due to openings [in hotels] coming this next year. We will be increasing sewer rates and will affect the budget. Discussion about capital items to purchase (lease items), etc. We have

paid \$900,000 to HCWA this year and anticipate an increase to \$1 million next year due to developments. We have an issue with water supply and are looking at another other source to produce more water into the city [to offset this expenditure over time]. The sanitation rates will be steady, but we need to adjust the budget if costs increase out of the RFP for services. There will be a projected increase in stormwater rate by twenty percent [to \$46.21 to accommodate for inflation].

Mayor Greer said this is a public hearing and asked for any comments from anyone in favor of the request and there were no comments.

Mayor Greer asked for comments from anyone opposed to the request and there were no comments.

The mayor closed the public hearing.

Mayor Greer asked for comments from the council and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS -

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS – COLLEEN COOK

Main Street Director Colleen Cook stepped forward to give her update. Colleen said the DDA, HPC, Main Street, Inc., and the Events Committee, had their regular meetings in October. Rummage in the Grove was cancelled due to lack of applications and will try again in the spring. There were no new open/closed businesses downtown. We are in the process of scheduling interviews for the special event coordinator opening. Further, Colleen said there were about 840 people in attendance at the Chili Cook Off event and about 200 people in attendance at Rumble in the Grove. Voting has been active in the scarecrow village, and the Trunk or Treat event is this Friday at 5pm. Colleen said she attended training on how other Main Street programs revitalize downtown areas focusing on Americus and Thomaston. Nothing further.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS – BRANDON MORRIS for CHIEF AUSTIN

Captain Brandon Morris reviewed the monthly report and gave an update total collected in September 2025 was \$76,698.00. The department completed 172 training hours in September. We had 299 new cases for investigation and cleared 271 of those cases for 2025. Captain Morris said overall theft related crimes are down from previous years and nothing further.

2. Resolution to adopt the Henry County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Captain Morris said this has been federally approved through September 22, 2030, and is an update of the plan adopted in 2019 and is required for eligibility of state accreditation. The City of Locust Grove is an eligible applicant for the (HMA) grant programs available through GEMA/HS.

Tim said the entire plan is available on the city website. Councilman Shearouse made a comment the names are incorrect on the copy provided [specifically the chief's name and jurisdiction]. Tim said he will contact Henry County for an updated copy. Shearouse asked if the City of Stockbridge participates and Tim said Stockbridge didn't have a police department in 2018; however, said he would think they participate now.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE

Jack stepped forward with an update for his department. Jack said the water treatment plant is good and said Travis is here to answer any questions. The Carter Lane sewer project will begin soon and continue with normal street maintenance. Further, Jack said he and several of his staff had the opportunity to tour the new Henry County Water Authority plant in Ola and discussion took place. We completed interviews for several positions and in process of selections.

Attorney Andy Welch asked Jack if Henry County talked about the rare earth materials on their tour. Jack said yes, and the mayor said they discussed future intentions of reselling eventually to other states. Andy said this is a process for removing phosphorus from the drinking water [creating less sludge and reducing transport costs].

ADMINISTRATION –BERT FOSTER

Bert gave an update of capital projects and reviewed the report provided in the packets and said the kickoff for the Heart of Locust Grove project [public forum] will be October 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm. We have the bids for removal of the structures for the abatements in Skyland [28 Skyland Drive and 26 Lakeview]. Nothing further.

Councilwoman McCornell requested a listing of sidewalks for replacement. Tim said he will get that out this week with the trail plan. McCornell asked if the Dollar General sidewalk area will be on the list and the mayor said that location will be the first project for next year.

Councilman Boone asked for confirmation of the Skyland abatement addresses and Bert said 28 Skyland Drive and 26 Lakeview (Clubhouse). Boone asked how the city will recover the costs and Bert said we will put a lien on the properties. Andy said when and if the properties are sold, the city will recoup the costs.

3. Ordinance to approve a right-of-way dedication plat for the Springs at Locust Grove/Price Drive located along Price Drive -

Bert said this is for right-of-way dedication plat for the Springs at Locust Grove/Price Drive and reviewed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – DAUNTÉ GIBBS

Mr. Gibbs gave an update that his department has issued a total of 1,384 permits for 2025 and 188 new housing permits. We have issued 232 COs [162 residential / 70 commercial] with 445 business licenses issued [59 new businesses, 351 renewals, and 59 businesses closed] so far for 2025. Daunté reviewed the new updates including Fire Marshal, Building Inspector, Development Inspector, and Code Enforcement for 2025.

Daunté reviewed current development including Longhorn, Dutch Bros, U-Haul, and Publix is under construction with review of developments coming to the Shoppes at Indian Creek. Bowery Farms have settled a previous litigation and should be proceeding with development soon.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –TIM YOUNG

Tim gave an update the staff have met with the team who will be implementing our new website and hoping to be more efficient with packet production once we transition. Further, we met with GDOT on ways we can improve the area for traffic flow at the Shoppes at Indian Creek.

4. FY 2025 Budget Amendment –

Tim said Misty verified the insurance premium tax revenue deposited on October 15th was \$974,000 and said he included in this amendment. The General Fund tops out at \$14 million dollars and all other funds are balanced. There will be one more update the beginning of the year after the year end closes out. We are moving most capital projects to next year as well. Nothing further.

5. 2026 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule - Draft –

Tim said after discussion with the mayor, we will refer to the normal schedule which is first and third Mondays with exception to those holidays that fall on a Monday. The updated copy will be presented at the November 3, 2025 meeting to allow us time to publish in the paper. The mayor asked the council if they agreed to this schedule and the council agreed.

6. Update on Sanitation RFP – Selection Committee -

Tim said we received seven responses for sanitation RFP, and we would like to finalize the selection committee. We will review some dates and the council agreed on having the meeting begin at 5:00pm [once a date is decided].

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Ms. Donna Moye, resident of Richmond Park Subdivision, stepped forward to comment. Donna said there are people driving recklessly in her neighborhood and doing donuts in the cul-de-sac around her house. She said that she and her neighbor both have complained, and she has also talked to Daunté about the process she needs to take for getting speed humps installed. She said the police department suggested that she come to the council meeting to request an investigation so that action can be taken. Donna said vehicles are speeding while children are out playing and it is very dangerous. Donna suggested adding a flock camera, and she said she also talked to the HOA about a solar camera.

The mayor asked Captain Morris to come forward. Captain Morris stepped forward and asked Donna if she had called at the time of occurrence and Donna said yes. Discussion took place and Captain Morris said there are flock cameras on the outside of the subdivision that can track the vehicle if entering the subdivision [with proper vehicle description]. Donna said the speeding is during the daytime and donuts at night.

The mayor advised Donna to get petitions from neighbors for the request of speed humps. Donna asked how she should proceed after getting petitions. Discussion took place. Andy confirmed the two requests of Ms. Moye [flock camera in subdivision, and speed control device]. Andy suggested Ms. Moye give her address to the captain and make a request that they do an evaluation of that area and added that Flock cameras inside the subdivision are typically not recommended. After the assessment, the council can decide whether to approve or not and said he will review the petition requirement and provide it to Donna.

Ms. Patty Ahart, stepped forward to comment. Patty said she is Donna's neighbor and said she has a six-year-old grandson and almost everyone in the cul-de-sac has children. She said the police have been very responsive; however, there are no "Children at Play" signs posted. Patty said she hopes something can be resolved.

Ms. Evelyn Roberts stepped forward to comment. Ms. Roberts said her concern is with the turning lane on Highway 42 south is still dangerous. People do not slow down and would like a solution. Tim said we have asked GDOT to remove the lane so there is a turning lane into the driveway to Ms. Roberts home. Andy said Highway 42 is both a federal and state highway and the city can't make any changes without state approval. Tim and staff will keep asking and raising the issue. Andy also told Ms. Roberts to contact the state representative and state senator with her concerns. Nothing further.

Mr. Nick Baker (28 Skyland Drive) stepped forward to comment. Mr. Baker asked when the abatement for 28 Skyland Drive was approved or discussed. Andy said abatements are discussed in executive session. Mr. Baker said the abatement hearing was issued without notifying Lisa Meeks. The mayor asked Mr. Baker if he is the registered owner of the property and Mr. Baker said no, but he pays property tax. The mayor told Mr. Baker this couldn't be discussed with him because he is not the property owner. Andy said notice is given to any property owner and has been decided by municipal court. Andy told the council that Mr. Baker continues to serve the city with Ante Litem notices and open records requests. Discussion took place and Mr. Baker asked if action must be taken in public session and Andy said no. Andy said Ante Litem are discussed in executive session and cannot be discussed before the public. Mr. Baker asked why notice wasn't posted on the property and Andy said notice doesn't have to be posted on property and commented that none of those are city council issues, those are municipal court issues. Mr. Baker said thank you and no further discussion took place.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilwoman McCornell said thank you to those residents present tonight and bringing their concerns to the council. We appreciate the opportunity to try resolving their concerns.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Mayor Greer said he agrees with Councilwoman McCornell and said as elected officials, we can't be everywhere and thank you to those who make us aware of the unknown. The mayor said we had a domestic violence forum on October 9 and a fire safety class on October 11, presented by our fire marshal. Staff also had the opportunity to tour the Henry County Water Plant recently and appreciated them welcoming our team. Thank you to staff and citizens for all you do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND PERSONNEL

Motion to go into executive session to discuss property acquisition by Councilman Breedlove and seconded by Councilwoman McCornell. Motion Carried All in favor 7:26 PM.

At 7:51 PM, motion to come back into regular session made by Councilman Breedlove and seconded by Councilman Shearouse.

ADJOURNMENT-

Mayor Greer asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Breedlove made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BREEDLOVE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILWOMAN MCCORNELL
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED 7:51PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk