

Minutes of the  
SPECIAL MEETING  
of the  
CITY COUNCIL  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

May 13, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor David S. Bennett

**PRESENT:** Council Members Arch Willingham, Taylor Watson, Caroline Williams, Tony Towns, and Kevin Leckenby; City Attorney Bill Pickering; City Manager Kenny Lee; and City Clerk Cindy Roberts

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE:** Mayor David Bennett called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. This Special Meeting was held in place of the Regular Meeting that was scheduled for May 8 but postponed due to the lack of a quorum. Paul Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PAUL JOHNSON – QUARTERLY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – SEWER FUND AND RATES:** City Auditor Paul Johnson distributed and reviewed the City's financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2025. Revenues and expenses in the City's General Fund are consistent with expectations. Quarterly revenue in the General Fund was \$216,000 and year-to-date net revenue over expenditures in the General Fund was \$20,000 better than the budget projection. Mr. Johnson then commented on the City's Sewer Fund which is separate from the General Fund and has to stand on its own. Mr. Johnson informed the Council that the good news is that last year's rate increase has ensured the sewer department is currently operating within budget, and the Sewer Fund is projected to have income of \$29,000 during the next fiscal year. But this projection does not consider substantial increases in expenses that are certain to occur and significant new debt service obligations the City will have for the rehabilitation of the existing pump station. As a result, Sewer Fund revenue needs to be increased significantly, and a rate increase is necessary. Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to increase sewer rates by 30%, with the increase to go into effect July 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caroline Williams and passed unanimously. Mr. Johnson commended the Council for taking this action.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LOAN AGREEMENT AND BORROWING WITH GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY:** The City will be borrowing up to \$2,300,000 from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to assist in financing the rehabilitation of the City's sewer pump station. City Attorney Bill Pickering presented a resolution authorizing the borrowing and the execution of a Loan Agreement, Promissory Note, and related documents with GEFA. Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to approve the resolution and the borrowing from GEFA under the terms set forth in the Loan Agreement, Promissory Note, and related documents. The motion

was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously. Mr. Willingham was appointed as the designated signor of the documents on behalf of the City, and the documents will be attested by City Clerk Cindy Roberts. The resolution as approved is filed with these minutes.

**FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE – TAYLOR WATSON:** Council Member Taylor Watson provided the monthly police and fire report and commended the "dynamic duo" of Jason Lewis and Brian Dedmon for what they had accomplished in a short time. Multiple certifications have been completed, as has fire testing. Mutual aid with other local departments has been reestablished. Ms. Watson again pleaded with residents to lock their cars, doors and windows. Council Member Caroline Williams also warned residents not to leave their garage door openers on their car visors, since it would be so easy to break a car window then get into the house through the garage.

**FAIRYLAND SCHOOL UPDATE – CAROLINE WILLIAMS –** Council Member Caroline Williams reported that things at FES had been busy with Field Day and award ceremonies. She reminded all the to put Music on the Mountain on their calendars for August 23. Registration for next year is upcoming.

**STORMWATER COMMITTEE – TONY TOWNS:** Council Member Tony Towns reported that the Stormwater Committee met today with Walker County officials and walked the area. Chris Wallace will be putting together a plan to address issues in the Fairyland Elementary School area.

**PUBLIC WORKS – KEVIN LECKENBY:** Council Member Kevin Leckenby presented the monthly Public Works report. Mr. Leckenby's detailed written report is filed with these minutes.

**HARDY ROAD ARCHWAY REPAIRS:** G & P Masonry, Inc., was the low bidder for the Hardy Road Stone Archway Repair Project with a bid of \$28,580. Council Member Kevin Leckenby made a motion to approve the execution of a contract with G & P Masonry for the project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Arch Willingham and passed unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER – KENNY LEE:** City Manager Kenny Lee reported that Fairyland Elementary second graders had visited City Hall for a "Meet the Mayor" event. Representatives from Walker County and the Chamber of Commerce also visited today. Lulu Brock, who is in charge of Gardens, will be making recommendations for improvements to the gardens.

**STORMWATER REPORT – BRAD HAVEN:** Mr. Haven submitted a written stormwater report which was in the Council packet.

**SEWER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE – PUMP STATION REPAIRS – WES HASDEN:** Mr. Hasden reported that the pump station rehabilitation project was on schedule and should be completed within one year after breaking ground.

Council Member Arch Willingham concluded the meeting by commending Municipal Judge Buddy Presley for his professionalism and courteous treatment of both defendants and witnesses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts  
City Clerk