

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

September 26, 2025
7:30 a.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor Arch Willingham

PRESENT: Council Members Taylor Watson, Caroline Williams, Tony Towns and Kevin Leckenby; City Attorney Bill Pickering; City Manager Kenny Lee; City Clerk Cindy Roberts; and Chief of Police and Fire Jason Lewis.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mr. Willingham called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, September 26, 2025, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. Council Member Kevin Leckenby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LETTER CONFIRMING MAYOR DAVID BENNETT'S RESIGNATION: The Council received David Bennett's written notice and confirmation of his resignation as Mayor, as communicated during the Council meeting on September 11, 2025. Council Member Kevin Leckenby made a motion to accept Mr. Bennett's resignation as Mayor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously. Mayor Bennett's letter to the Council is filed with these minutes.

FORMAL APPOINTMENT TO FILL MAYOR BENNETT'S UNEXPIRED TERM;
SWEARING IN OF NEW MAYOR: Council Member Tony Towns made a motion to appoint Arch Willingham as Mayor to fill Mr. Bennett's unexpired term ending December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously.

Before accepting the appointment, Mr. Willingham submitted his own resignation as a member of the City Council and as Vice Mayor, effective immediately. Mr. Willingham's letter of resignation from the Council is filed with these minutes.

Municipal Judge Buddy Presley then administered the Oath of Office to the new Mayor. The Oath of Office, as signed by Mayor Willingham and attested by the City Clerk, is filed with these minutes.

SCHEDULING OF SPECIAL ELECTION: City Attorney Bill Pickering advised the Council that based on his research and consultation with the Office of the Georgia Secretary of State, it would be necessary to hold a Special Election for the office of Mayor (for the term beginning January 1, 2026). A special election is necessary because Mr. Bennett resigned and officially withdrew as a candidate for reelection as Mayor. No one else qualified to run for Mayor, and the

Secretary of State's office confirmed that Georgia law did not authorize a reopening of the qualifying period in this situation. The "call" of a special election must be made at least 29 days before the date of the election. Mr. Pickering advised that the special election could be held on November 4, 2025 (the same date as the upcoming general municipal election) or on the third Tuesday of March, 2026. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the special election on November 4. Mr. Pickering presented and read a written Resolution for the Call of the Special Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the same time as the general election for members of the Lookout Mountain City Council. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously. The Resolution as adopted is filed with these minutes.

BID FOR SEWER PUMP STATION PROJECT; AUTHORIZATION OF

NEGOTIATIONS: Mayor Arch Willingham advised the Council that Morgan Construction Company had submitted the only bid for the construction of the Chickamauga Trail Pump Station improvements. Mayor Willingham is familiar with Morgan Construction Company and its primary subcontractor, B&B Plumbing and Heating Company, and commented that both were good and reputable companies and were well qualified to undertake and complete the work on the project. Mr. Pickering advised that Georgia law and the Invitation for Bids issued by the City provided that if the bid from the lowest bidder exceeded the funds budgeted for the project, the City could negotiate with the apparent low bidder to obtain a contract price within the budgeted amount. Council Member Tony Towns made a motion that Mayor Willingham and Mr. Pickering be authorized to negotiate an acceptable contract with Morgan Construction Company for the completion of the Chickamauga Trail Pump Station project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

COMPENSATION FOR POLL WORKERS – RESOLUTION: Mr. Pickering advised the Council that pursuant to Georgia law, the City needed to set the compensation for its election officials (poll workers). The City's Election Superintendent, after consulting with the Walker County Director of Elections and with other municipal election superintendents, has provided a recommended schedule of compensation for the City's election officials. Mr. Pickering prepared a written Resolution setting the compensation for the City's election officials and presented the resolution to the Council. Council Member Tony Towns made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution for the Compensation of the City's Election Officials. The Resolution as adopted is filed with these minutes.

Mayor Willingham concluded the Special Meeting by thanking Mayor Bennett for his many years of outstanding service to the City. The Council and members of the audience gave Mr. Bennett a standing ovation.

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk