

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

January 8, 2026
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor Arch Willingham

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

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Arch Willingham called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. Council Member Tony Towns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council's regular meeting of December 11, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 353 – ONE-WAY STREETS: City Attorney Bill Pickering presented and read Ordinance No. 353, an ordinance to designate certain streets within the City of Lookout Mountain as one-way streets, to provide for appropriate signage, and for other purposes. Council Member Kevin Leckenby made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 353 on second reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously. The ordinance becomes effective in ten days. Notifications will be sent to residents, and signage will be placed on Wendy Trail.

ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR: Under Section 2.04 of the City Charter, the Council is to elect a Vice Mayor from one of its members at the first regular meeting after the newly elected Council Members have taken office. Mayor Willingham recommended Council Member Kevin Leckenby for Vice Mayor. Council Member Tony Towns made a motion to elect Council Member Kevin Leckenby as Vice Mayor, to begin serving in that role effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE – ARCH WILLINGHAM: Mayor Willingham reported that the Municipal Planning Commission's next meeting will be January 13, 2026.

FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE – TAYLOR WATSON: Council Member Taylor Watson provided the monthly fire and police report and update. Residents are advised to prepare for winter weather. Firefighter II training will begin in about two weeks. Both volunteers and paid personnel will be participating. Discussions continue regarding crosswalk lighting. Council Member Jay Brooks reported that a Firehouse Subs grant application has been submitted for extrication tools. If awarded, the grant will be used to purchase a battery-powered spreader, cutter, and ram worth about \$40,000 that is compatible with Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, equipment to allow interoperability between the two departments. The City will host a Tri-State mutual aid training event in May. CPR classes begin January 17, 2026. Sign-ups are still open to anyone who would like to attend, and attendance is strongly encouraged. Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles.

FAIRYLAND SCHOOL UPDATE – TONY TOWNS – Council Member Tony Towns reported that the Fairyland Elementary giving tree was able to provide food for 25 families. Mr. Towns updated the Council on enrollment numbers, upcoming events, and a discussion of a potential four-day school week. A survey will be sent regarding the four-day school week. Total enrollment is 294 students. Private school applications are underway.

STORMWATER COMMITTEE – TONY TOWNS AND CAROLINE WILLIAMS: The committee has not met this month. City Manager Kenny Lee reported the Georgia Environmental Protection Division conducted its five-year inspection last week. The City expects a positive letter of compliance.

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.

CITY MANAGER – KENNY LEE: City Manager Kenny Lee noted the passing of beloved plumber Eston Henson. An email has been sent to the Lookout Mountain Mirror regarding a potential February article honoring Mr. Henson. Mr. Lee provided an overview of the 2026 election schedule, noting that early voting will run from February 28 through March 10, with a possible April 7 runoff. Walker County will manage the elections and operate multiple voting sites. Mr. Lee reported that work is beginning on the joint Comprehensive Plan with Walker County. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for January 29, and the plan document is due February 28, 2027. The City will be providing input to the Ragan Smith firm regarding the draft connectivity plan. Once finalized, the full committee, including the Land Trust, will reconvene to determine next steps. Mr. Lee provided an update on the Cinderella Garden, where benches have been ordered and additional improvements will be installed after winter. Mr. Lee reported that the City will soon incur costs for new sewer pumps, expected to be approximately \$40,000. Only one manufacturer supplies the required pumps. City Attorney Bill Pickering recommended that the need for the pumps be advertised and bid. Mr. Lee finally reported that planning is underway for the 250th anniversary of the United States in July.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE – PUMP STATION REPAIRS – WES HASDEN: Mr. Hasden reported that work on the pump station renovation is beginning. It's anticipated that bypass valves and clean-outs will be installed within the next week. Mayor Willingham noted

that a portion of the road from Chickamauga Trail to Mother Goose will be temporarily closed during construction to protect workers due to limited visibility around the curve.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Willingham reported that City Manager Kenny Lee was meeting with Michelle Workman with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) regarding the fourth of July celebration. The Mayor also reported that civil engineer Chelsey Settles of EMC Engineering is preparing stormwater recommendations for Oberon Trail. Once received, the report will be forwarded to Council Members Caroline Williams and Tony Towns for review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk