

*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Timothy Byler,
MAYOR



City Hall
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14TH, 2026 AT 4:30 P.M.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL - 156 OLD SUNBURY RD

Present at City Hall: Mayor Timothy Byler
Mayor Pro Tempore ('MPT') Rene' Harwell
Councilman Larry Logan
Councilman Hasit Patel
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
Councilman Paul Martin
Councilman Manish Patel
Shameka Hawkes, City Clerk
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent: Craig Stafford, City Attorney

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Byler on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Harwell, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Logan and recited in unison.
3. Mayor Byler requested approval of the agenda.
Mayor Pro Tem Harwell made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Martin seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.
4. *Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the March 10th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as written and Councilman H Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. Lt. Gallob stated that no data packet is available at this meeting due to staff absence; two packets will be provided at the next meeting. Notable increase in traffic crashes, particularly along the Highway 84 corridor and at the Publix shopping center (private property crashes). Mayor publicly thanked Lt. Gallob and Wilson for going above and beyond, including assisting with chair assembly at City Hall.
6. Financial Reports County TSPLOST/SPLOST reports are delayed due to staffing issues, January report forthcoming. City has collected ~79% of budgeted revenues (ahead of schedule). City has expended only ~58% of budgeted expenditures (in good shape, with some travel/training bills pending). Distributed a budget worksheet/analysis including year-to-date 2026 actuals (through end of March) Proposed 2027 budget as a starting point. 8-year local option sales tax graph, 5.5-year hotel/motel tax graph. Council did

not have questions for General Ledger Reports. Budget Workshop scheduled: April 21st, 9:00–11:00 AM, Discussion of capital fund reporting (by fund and by project) to be introduced — covering SPLOST, TSPLOST, LRA, etc. Clarification provided: LOST comes directly from the state; TSPLOST/SPLOST goes to the county first, then are distributed per intergovernmental agreement. Meeting with engineers scheduled for the following day to address project accounting structure.

7. Business License – Presentation by LCPC

Sharon Cadiz, representing the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC), presented a Business License, Name of Business BenVette Foods, LLC: 1069 Turpentine Trail, Parcel # 083B108, Property Zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development Districts), Owner applying to sell baked goods at popup markets and farmer's markets (no home sales). No health department inspection required under current law; food handler certification completed. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the Business License Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Sharon Cadiz, representing the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC), presented a Sign Permit, Contractor: Sizzling Ceasars, LLC Name of Business: Little Ceasars Parcel: 1429 E. Oglethorpe Hwy, Parcel # 069D020, Property Zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development Districts), The temporary signs messaging is subject to change to advertise a countdown to Grand Opening and Now Hiring. LCPC Zoning Recommendation: Approval. *Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve the Sign Permit. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

8. Burning (Ordinance & Permits)- Presented by Jeff Ricketson

Presented by Jeff Rickson; modeled after the City of Hinesville's existing burning ordinance. Key provisions: Burn permits required for bonfires; no fee. Permits issued by City of Hinesville Fire Department (link already on Flemington website). Campfire rings (non-combustible, ≤3 feet diameter) are exempt from permit requirement. Violations subject to up to \$1,000 fine (per existing city ordinance Section 110). Burn permits are per-event; approval based on wind/weather conditions. Effective immediately upon signing. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to adopt the Burning Ordinance. Councilman Martin seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

9. Millage Rate Certification-2026 Estimated Roll-Back Millage Rate Certification *Mayor Pro Tem Harwell made a motion to approve the Millage Rate Certification. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Social Media Policy: Councilwoman Smiley

Draft policy emailed to council for review, Clarify comments will be disabled (not recognized as official public comment Key amendments discussed: Change all references from "Facebook" to "social media." Change "shall livestream" to "may livestream" in Section 7. Update administrator roles to use position titles rather than individual names. Add EMA Director as emergency backup administrator. public records). Discussion of consolidating/unpublishing the secondary "community involvement" Facebook page. *Mayor Pro Tem Harwell made a motion to forward draft social media Policy to City Attorney Craig for review and finalization. Councilman M Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

10. Engineering Report – Randy

Platinum contractors still need to repair the road cut from recent water line work. Meeting scheduled with Mayor, Kim, and Marcus (April 15, 3:30 PM) to discuss LMIG project funding and accounting.

Business in Progress-update

Annexation-Councilman Logan: Research underway; former Mayor Paul Hawkins has existing documentation on three annexation approaches. Requires state and county involvement, a long-term project. Council committed to moving forward aggressively.

Parking UDO-Councilwoman Smiley- Craig (city attorney) is in DC; expected to have draft parking and UDA information ready for the next regular meeting.

Water & Sewer- Productive conversations are ongoing with Marcus and other municipalities. A new potential funding source has been identified: GPAC grants through Fort Stewart (via Peter Hoffman), which may cover a substantial portion of the water and sewer project. GPAC Grants available (Peter Hoffman)

County district funds available; working to reach the district commissioner. Goal: secure traffic light and begin road/infrastructure improvements.

City Logo / Branding

Logo designed by Lillian; adaptable for multiple use cases (full logo, lamppost only, color variations). Minor technical adjustments (letter sizing for embroidery) finalized. Moving forward with name tags and shirts; tote bags and other items to follow.

Property across from LaQuinta: Mayor to schedule meeting with property owners regarding maintenance; Council Member requested a "No Trespassing" sign be posted immediately — Mayor confirmed this can be handled administratively without a motion.

Historic Committee-to meet after May

GDOT liaison: City now has direct GDOT liaison; recent improvements include replacement of damaged island signs and Oglethorpe sign correction. Mayor to follow up on damaged traffic pole reimbursement and welcome sign progress.

11. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm*