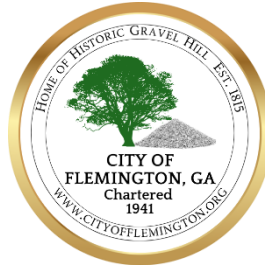


*"Preserving Our Heritage,  
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill  
Est. 1815

*Paul Hawkins,*  
MAYOR



*City Hall*  
156 Old Sunbury Rd.  
Flemington, GA 31313

912.877.3223  
cityhall@cityofflemington.org

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 AT 4:30 p.m.**  
**FLEMINGTON CITY HALL ♦ 156 OLD SUNBURY RD**

Present at City Hall: Mayor Paul Hawkins  
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell  
Councilman Larry Logan  
Councilwoman Gail Evans  
Councilman Hasit Patel  
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley  
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk  
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem ("MPT") David Edwards  
Craig Stafford, City Attorney

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:38 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Mayor Hawkins welcomed all attendees.
3. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Evans and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
4. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as written. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. LT Anthony Gallob with the LCSO gave a report on law enforcement activities for the month of March.
6. The Council reviewed the draft FY24 Impact Fee Capital Improvements Element ("CIE"). *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to adopt the resolution to transmit the draft FY24 Impact Fee CIE to the Coastal Regional Commission. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.* The Council also Profit & Loss ("P&L") statement and Balance Sheet for the month of March. The first viewing of the FY26 budget was presented. The consensus of the Council was to hold a workshop on 4/18/25 at 1:15 pm for further budget review.
7. Mayor Hawkins signed a proclamation for National Travel and Tourism for the Liberty County Convention and Visitors Bureau.
8. Mr. Jeff Ricketson with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission ("LCPC") came before Council with multiple items of business.
  - i. Mr. Ricketson presented two business license requests. The first was for Julz Tanning Lounge, a spray tanning business at 1705 E. Oglethorpe Highway. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve the*

*business license for Julz Tanning Lounge. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The next business license presented was for IMS Robotics, a robot sales and repair center located at 1661-F E. Oglethorpe Highway. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve the business license for IMS Robotics with the special conditions of obtaining a certificate of occupancy and impact fees remitted before the business license could be issued. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.* \*\*Councilwoman Smiley recused from discussion and voting due to conflict of interest.

The Publix shopping center, located at 1435 E. Oglethorpe Highway, submitted two sign permits to the LCPC – one for a main sign and one for a slightly smaller sign, which both conformed. The Council requested that Branch Properties illuminate the main sign on the portion that showed City of Flemington, to which they agreed. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve both signs. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Mr. Ricketson's final item if business was a Unified Development Ordinance ("UDO") amendment to include the Flemington Downtown Development Overlay District. The amendment included a proposed road network and would end the city's building moratorium set in January. The Council concurred that the commercial overlay extended down to Patriots Trail, with mixed-family residential behind it. \*\*\* Mayor Hawkins opened the public hearing on the rezoning at 5:17 p.m. Hearing no comments, the public hearing closed at 5:18 p.m. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the UDO amendment with the changes made to extend the town center commercial district to Patriots Trail. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

9. Mr. Aaron Carpenter with the Coastal Regional Commission ("CRC") came before Council to present the draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan. He explained that because the City has an Impact Fee program, the update was required by the state before June 30<sup>th</sup>, with a county-wide Comprehensive Plan to be reviewed in June. \*\*\* Mayor Hawkins opened a public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Plan at 5:21 p.m. Hearing no comments, the public hearing closed at 5:27 p.m. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the draft and to transmit it to the CRC, who would then transmit to the Department of Community Affairs. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
10. Councilman Logan presented the City Clerk and Administrative Assistant job descriptions. Councilwoman Evans required more time to review the documents, and the consensus of the Council was to address it at a further date.
11. The Flemington Downtown Development Authority ("FDDA") Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") was presented to the Council. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to adopt the FDDA MOU. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The discussion then shifted to Board appointments for the FDDA. Councilwoman Smiley shared that there had been interest expressed by Mike Reed and Dr. Tim Byler. Councilman Patel requested an application form be sent to prospects. The consensus was that the Council would reconvene with an application and with additional board member suggestions at an upcoming special called meeting.

12. Mr. Randy Sykes with M.E. Sack Engineering came before Council with an update on the full-depth reclamation of Wallace Martin, Joseph Martin, and Old Sunbury Rd. He stated that the compression tests results passed and that paving would resume. Mr. Marcus Sack stated that Platinum Paving is asking for an extension to June 27<sup>th</sup> (plus any rain make-up days.) The Council expressed frustration at the delays and inconveniences to the citizens. *Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the change order to extend the completion date to June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
13. ADDED WITHOUT NOTICE: Mayor Hawkins shared that Nationwide had offered a settlement of \$110,000 to the City on behalf of Bridge Capital Investments for the incomplete sidewalk construction from the Performing Arts Center to Liberty High School. Mr. Sack shared that they also agreed to release the held retainage (approx. \$38,000). *Councilman Patel made a motion to accept the Nationwide settlement for the sidewalk. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Mayor Hawkins also relayed that the construction of the signal at Flemington Village Blvd. and E. Oglethorpe Highway (Publix) was stalled due to the Board of Commissioners lack of funds to relocate two power poles at the cost of approximately \$5,000. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to pay to relocate the power poles and to utilize TSPLOST funds for the transaction. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

14. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to enter Executive Session for Real Estate. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and Executive Session began at 6:00 p.m.*

*Regular session resumed at 6:29p.m. Councilman Patel made a motion to finance 100% of the cost of the McLarry's Curve properties. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. \*\*Councilwoman Smiley recused from discussion and voting due to conflict of interest.*

15. *Councilman Patel made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.*