

*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Paul Hawkins, MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12TH, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL - 156 OLD SUNBURY RD

Present at City Hall: Mayor Pro Tempore ("MPT") David Edwards
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell
Councilman Larry Logan
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 Paul Hawkins
Councilwoman Gail Evans
Craig Stafford, City Attorney

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore David Edwards on Tuesday, August 12th, 2025 at 4:43 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. MPT Edwards welcomed all attendees.
3. The invocation was given by Councilman Logan and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
4. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve the July 8th, 2025 regular meeting minutes and the August 8th, 2025 Millage Rate Public Hearing #1 minutes as written. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. LT Gallob from the LCSO presented a report on law enforcement activities for July 2025. MPT Edwards informed the Council about the necessity to upgrade the current law enforcement body cameras. The City will transition to the Axon platform and camera system, which is known for its reliability; the Sheriff's Department has already made the change. Although the new system comes at a higher cost, the FY26 adopted budget can sustain the increase.
6. The Council reviewed the July 2025 General Fund check register, P&L and Balance Sheet, and the FY26 Budget vs. Actual report (through 7/31/25).
7. Ms. Katelyn Esters with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission ("LCPC") came before Council with a rezoning petition (2025-25-F, Parcel 083A001)) to rezone 9.02 acres of city owned property from A-1 & R-20 to Multi Family Residential. MPT shared that the City is reorganizing where the city footprint will be located.

MPT Edwards opened the public hearing on the rezoning petition at 4:59 p.m.

Public Comments	Council Response
Citizen #1 has expressed concerns regarding the construction of apartments, as they were informed at the time of their property purchase that the City intended to build a new City Hall on that site.	The property's plans have been revised since 2019. City Halls are most effectively accessed by the public when situated in community centers. The Council is uncertain about future use of the land, as the property buyer must make that decision and present a plat to the Council.
Citizen #2 expressed concern about speeding vehicles on Old Hines Road and inquired about speed bumps.	Growth brings traffic challenges, but efforts are underway to tackle speeding and crime. While speed bumps were considered, studies show they may cause issues like road drainage disruption, hinder emergency vehicles, and cars to slow down for the bump only to accelerate quickly afterward. The property access is via Old Sunbury Road, not Old Hines Road. Additional stop signs will be placed on Old Hines Road.
Citizen #3 voiced their concerns regarding the drainage ditch at their residence on Old Hines Road, which is retaining water.	The drainage issue is due to GDOT's signalization project. GDOT has issued a change order to correct the issue.

Hearing no other comments from the audience, MPT Edwards closed the public hearing on the rezoning petition at 5:13 p.m.

Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve Rezoning Petition 2025-25-F for Parcel 083A001.

Councilman Logan seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1, with Councilwoman Smiley recusing from voting due to conflict of interest.

Mr. Jeff Ricketson with the LCPC attended to discuss two items. First, he delivered a presentation on the Service Delivery Strategy ("SDS"), which outlines all the services offered by both the municipalities and the county, a process conducted every ten years. According to the State of Georgia, a city must provide at least three services to qualify as a Qualified Local Government; however, the City of Flemington provides a total of fifteen (15) services. *Councilman Logan made a motion to adopt the SDS resolution. Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.*

His second item of business was to establish a street name for a small section of the area previously known as Old Hines Road, which has been disconnected from the main Old Hines Road following the signalization project. The Council's responsibility was to propose three names to 911 for the new "street" located in front of the former Stacy's Florist. However, the suggested names must not closely resemble any existing street names in the county to ensure clarity for emergency personnel and law enforcement. In order of preference, the Council chose the following for submittal:

1. Old Stacy Road
2. Old Stacys Store Way
3. Gravel Hill Road

The last item of new business was a FY26 donation request submitted by the Liberty County Boys & Girls Club. *Councilman Patel made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Liberty County Boys & Girls Club. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

8. With Liberty County Solid Waste terminating their solid waste service in Flemington on December 31st, 2025, the city advertised a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for City-wide Residential and Light Commercial

Solid Waste Provider. Two companies had submitted proposals; ABC Waste and Atlantic Waste. Representatives from both companies were in attendance and fielded questions from the Council.

Council Questions	ABC Waste Response	Atlantic Waste Response
What is considered bulk waste?	Furniture	Anything from inside of the house (furniture, appliances)
What do you do if a car on the street is blocking a can?	Collect it by hand	Collect it by hand
What if the truck can't get down a street due to cars on the street?	If they can come another way, they will. If not, they'll collect by hand	Collect by hand
What are your billing fees?	Waives processing fees for customers, added to proposal for future use (if any)	None to customers. All fees included

Atlantic Waste included two rate structures in their proposal; one set of rates for tipping at the Liberty County Transfer Station and another for tipping in Chatham County. Mr. Charles Stewart from ABC Waste stated that he was caught off guard and had it been in the RFP, he would've submitted two rates, as the expense to tip in Chatham County was lower than in Liberty County.

After hearing from both sides, MPT Edwards made the decision to table the bid award until the special called meeting on August 19th, 2025, allowing ABC Waste to submit a rate sheet for tipping in Chatham County as well.

9. *Councilman Patel made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Real Estate and Personnel. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed and Executive Session began at 5:56 p.m. Open session resumed at 6:38 p.m.*

Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve the contract with Crexi for disposition of city-owned real estate and to authorize the payment of personnel expenses. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1, with Councilwoman Smiley recusing from discussion and voting on the real estate matter due to conflict of interest.

10. Councilman Logan reported that the fence issue due to the erosion of the drainage ditch at 564 Tremain Drive is ongoing. There were multiple questions regarding whether the fence was in the easement, if there were any contributing factors that sped up the erosion, and who the responsible parties were. MPT Edwards stated that he would get all of the stakeholders in a meeting to come to a possible, long-term solution.
11. *Councilman Patel made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.*