

*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Paul Hawkins, MAYOR



City Hall

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**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9TH, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL - 156 OLD SUNBURY RD**

Present at City Hall: Mayor Pro Tempore ('MPT') Rene' Harwell

Councilman David Edwards

Councilwoman Gail Evans

Councilman Larry Logan

Councilman Hasit Patel

Councilwoman Leigh Smiley

Shameka Hawkes, City Clerk

Craig Stafford, City Attorney

LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent: Mayor Paul Hawkins

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Rene' Harwell on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025 at 4:32 p.m. in the Council Room at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. The invocation was given by Councilman Logan and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
3. The Mayor Pro Tem and Council presented plaques to Councilwoman Gail Evans and Councilman David Edwards in appreciation of their years of dedicated service to the City.
4. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the November 5th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as written and Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve November 21st, 2025 Solid Waste Bid Opening Minutes as written. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilman Logan made a motion to approve November 24th Workshop Minutes as written and Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the November 28th, 2025 Millage Rate Public Hearing #1 Meeting Minutes as written and Councilman Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the November 28th, 2025 Millage Rate Public Hearing #2 Meeting Minutes as written and Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Councilman Patel made a motion to approve the December 5th, 2025 Millage Rate Public Hearing #3 & Adoption Minutes as written and Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
5. LT Gallob from the LCSO presented a report on law enforcement activities for November 2025. Lt. Gallob reported a decrease of 10 calls for service, along with a significant decrease in traffic crashes. Alarm calls decreased, while domestic-related calls increased. Reported thefts declined. Lt. Gallob also noted an increase in crime prevention efforts, including enhanced direct patrol controls and additional business

checks. Lt. Gallob further reported that a traffic survey is being conducted on Old Sunbury Road and will consist of two phases, with the first phase completed. Preliminary results show the 85th percentile speeds at 42–43 miles per hour, which does not yet meet the threshold for enforcement. The average speed on the roadway is approximately 37–38 miles per hour. Traffic volume was reported at nearly 20,000 vehicles over a four-day period.

6. Financial Reports -The Mayor Pro Tem noted that Kim McGlothlin was out; however, if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report, City Clerk Shameka Hawkes could possibly address them. Council expressed approval of the new format of the report. Councilwoman Smiley inquired about the legal fee amount listed on page two. The City Clerk was unable to answer the question at that time and advised she would follow up with Kim McGlothlin upon her return and relay the information to the Mayor Pro Tem.

7. **Jalapenos Mexican Grill #11, LLC – Presentation by LCPC**

Jeff Ricketson, representing the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC), presented a Business License application for a business located at 1419 E. Oglethorpe Highway, within the Publix Shopping Center Planned Unit Development (PUD), Parcel No. 069D020. The LCPC recommended approval of the Business License. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the Business License. Councilman Edwards seconded. All approved. The motion passed.*

Jeff Ricketson, also presented an Alcohol Sales License application. The distance to the nearest protected use was reported as 100 feet; however, the information presented listed the required distance as 300 feet from libraries, schools, and churches. The LCPC recommended approval of the Alcohol Sales License.

Councilman Patel a motion that we accept the alcohol license application. Councilwoman Smiley seconded. All approved. The motion passed.

Jeff Ricketson, also presented an Alcohol–Sunday Sales License application. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve. Councilman Patel seconded. All approved. The motion passed.*

A Sign Permit Application was presented for signage to be placed above the front door. The contractor is Denyse Signage. The proposed sign meets the City of Flemington Sign Ordinance requirements and Publix design guidelines. The sign dimensions are 17 feet 8 inches wide and 4 feet tall. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Evans seconded. All approved. The motion passed.*

Vaden Car Rental dba Savannah Car Rental – Location Change only Business License and Sign Permit- Presentation by LCPC

Jeff Ricketson presented a Location Change Only Business License and Sign Permit application for Vaden Car Rental, dba Savannah Car Rental. The new business address is 1559 E. Oglethorpe Highway, Hinesville, replacing the former location at 116 Patriots Trail. The Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC) recommended approval. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

The Sign Permit contractor is Signarama of Hilton Head, South Carolina. The proposed sign meets the City of Flemington Sign Ordinance requirements. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Soawk, LLC – Home Based Business License (Presented by Jeff Ricketson, LCPC)

Jeff Ricketson, presented a Home-Based Business License application, owned by Eva Harrison, doing business as SOAWK, LLC. The business specializes in online clothing sales and screen printing and is proposed to operate from a single room within the residence located at 103 Turpentine Trail. The LCPC reviewed the application and determined that the proposed use is permitted under the City's ordinance and the applicable homeowners association guidelines. The LCPC recommended approval of the Home-Based Business License. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Evans seconded. All approved. The motion passed.*

8. Lockbox Storage Unit

The Mayor Pro Tem reported that the City received a list of outstanding items related to the Lockbox Storage Units on O.C. Martin Road. While some items may have been completed, written verification from the engineer is required, including documentation for required bonds and landscaping. At this time, the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC) considers the items outstanding. Mr. Ricketson stated that payment to the tree fund was previously approved in lieu of additional landscaping; however, no written confirmation has been received by LCPC or the engineer. A landscaping maintenance bond is also required. Trent Long stated he has a copy of the maintenance bond. A fence is required behind the building. A request to install a four-foot fence instead of the six-foot fence required by ordinance, along with a 30-day extension, was denied. Council agreed to enforce the ordinance and require a six-foot fence.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the Business License contingent upon installation of the required fence, with the Mayor Pro Tem authorized to sign once all fees are paid. Councilman Logan seconded. All approved. The motion passed.

9. Transient/Peddlers Business License

Council discussed the proposed Transient/Peddlers Business License fees, including a rate of \$30 per day for no more than seven (7) days, a \$250 application fee, and a \$25 administrative fee. Council also discussed the allowable duration for sales. The matter was tabled for further discussion and will be revisited at the next Council meeting.

10. Speed Abatement/Traffic Calming in Neighborhoods (Tranquil South)

Due to a recent traffic accident and subsequent citizen complaints, Lt. Gallob addressed Council regarding traffic safety concerns. Lt. Gallob conducted traffic studies in the affected area and consulted with the Fire Department regarding potential traffic-calming measures. He advised that any traffic-calming devices implemented would require Fire Department approval. Lt. Gallob also consulted with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) concerning response times and reported that there is no significant concern regarding delays to emergency response. Lt. Gallob outlined available options for the City, including the continued use of stop signs at multiple intersections, noting this as the most cost-effective solution. He also referenced the existing speed zone of approximately 26–30 miles per hour and advised that grant funding may be available to assist with the installation of speed humps. Lt. Gallob will follow up with Marcus Sacks regarding potential grant opportunities and will provide a recommendation to Council. Councilman Patel suggested consideration of an ordinance establishing construction-related speed limits. Mayor Pro Tem Harwell advised that she will respond to the citizens of the Sapwood area regarding the matter.

11. Sunday Brunch Bill

Council discussed the Sunday Brunch Bill and considered a change to the allowable service start time. Council agreed to move forward with a referendum to amend the Sunday Brunch Bill, changing the permitted start time from 12:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. The matter will be submitted to voters for consideration. *Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the change the from 12:30 pm to 11:00 am for this Georgia Sunday Brunch Bill. Councilman Edwards seconded. All approved. The motion passed.*

Engineering Report – Randy Dykes

Randy Dykes reported that a new punch list was prepared for the project. After reviewing the outstanding items, Marcus Sacks and Randy Dykes reached the conclusion to recommend terminating ties with the contractor due to incomplete work and the project exceeding its original scope. It was recommended that the contract amount be reduced by \$50,000 to account for the unfinished work. The remaining funds would be used to hire another contractor to complete the road shoulder repairs and

obtain the required permits. Council noted that obtaining a quote for the remaining work was discussed at the previous meeting, and the City has since received a quote. Randy Dykes advised that he discussed these matters directly with the contractor and informed him that the situation and recommendation would be presented to Council. The City received a quote in the amount of \$37,500 to complete the remaining work, which is expected to cover all outstanding items with funds remaining. Council discussed enforcement provisions related to the Paving Project contract. A penalty of \$300 per day was referenced for each day the work remains incomplete, in addition to the previously discussed \$50,000 contract reduction and applicable fines. Council directed that the Paving Project contract be forwarded to the City Attorney, Craig Stafford, for review. It was further noted that funds for Invoice 7 and 8 are being withheld due to a breach of contract. Marcus Sacks will provide written correspondence to the contractor regarding these matters. An update will be provided to Council at the next scheduled meeting.

Business in Progress-update

Solid Waste Contract- Reviewed by Council

Councilman Edwards made a motion to accept the contract for services effective February 1st, 2026. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved the motion passed.

Contract for Services [Tax Collection]-Reviewed by Council

Councilman Logan made a motion to accept the contract for the County for collection of taxes. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All approved the motion passed.

Work in Progress-update

- 564 Tremain Drive: **No update**
- Traffic Calming in Neighborhoods (Tranquil South and Others): **Discussed under New Business**
- Community Homeless Coalition/Homeless Ordinance-Councilman Logan & Councilman Patel: **No update**
- Branding and Marketing-Councilman Patel, Councilwoman Evans and Councilwoman Smiley: **No update**
- Annexation: **No update**
- Flemington Downtown Development Authority-MPT Harwell: **FDDA to meet after New Year**
- Highway 84 Corridor-Zoning, Architectural Standards, and Land Use: **No Update**
- City-wide Design & Architectural Standards- **No Update**
- Trash Fee Policy- **[Already set no further discussion]**
- Social Media Policy-**No Update**
- Ordinance Enhancements for Nuisance Abatement- **No Update**
- Parking Ordinance-HOA Rule vs City Ordinance-**HOA rules and City ordinance enforceability discussed.**
- Mobile Home Ordinance- **No Update**
- Welcome Sign Project- Councilman Patel, Councilwoman Evans and Councilwoman Smiley: **Council discussed potential locations for a Welcome Sign including the wall in front of Publix. Additional Welcome Sign location at the City limits including Welcome 3rd ID.**
- Establish Historic District- **Council to research getting a Historic District**
- Grant Writer Search & Design Planning for New City Park: **Council discussed the search for a grant writer. Marcus Sacks will assist with Grant opportunities.**
- Patriots Trail Paving: **Marcus Sacks**
- Community Engagement-FDDA: **Hosting and advertising events; business recruitment efforts discussed.**
- Measure Progress-Ongoing & Long-Term
 - Measure Progress and Establish Key Performance Indicators
 - Implement Phased Time Line **with specific dates short- and long-term goals.**

12. *Councilman Edwards made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of Real Estate and Personnel. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed and Executive Session began at 7:00 p.m. Open session resumed at 7:51 p.m.*

Councilman Edwards made a motion to pay Christmas Bonuses same amount as last year. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

13. *The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.*