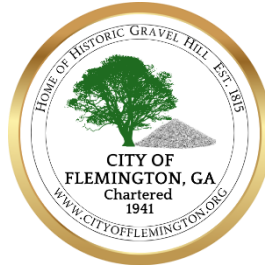


*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Paul Hawkins, MAYOR



City Hall

156 Old Sunbury Rd.
Flemington, GA 31313

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**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10TH, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL
156 OLD SUNBURY RD**

Present at City Hall: Mayor Paul Hawkins
Mayor Pro Tem David Edwards
Councilwoman Rene' Harwell
Councilman Larry Logan
Councilwoman Gail Evans
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk
Craig Stafford, City Attorney
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent: Councilman Hasit Patel

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Paul Hawkins on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 at 4:30 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 Councilman Logan and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
4. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the May 13th, 2025 minutes as written. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the May 29th, 2025 FY26 Budget Public Hearing minutes. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.
5. LT Gallob with the LCSO gave a report on law enforcement activities for the month of May 2025.
6. The Council reviewed the May 2025 General Fund check register, P&L and Balance Sheet, and the FY25 Budget vs. Actual report (through 5/31/25).
7. Mayor Hawkins signed the National Pollinator Week and World Oceans Day proclamations for Keep Liberty Beautiful.

8. Mr. Jeff Ricketson with the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission came before Council with the alcohol license request for Publix. While a business license is usually presented with an alcohol license request; Mr. Ricketson shared that the state licensing could take some time and this request would assist Publix with having store shelves stocked at the time of opening. He also reported that the property is compliant with distance requirements. *Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Publix. Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
9. The Mayor and Clerk presented the FY26 Budget for adoption. *Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to adopt the FY26 budget with the correction of removing the Patriots Trail TSPLOST project from the Special Fund Revenue and Expenditures on page 2. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. Note: 30% TSPLOST⁴ to be on the referendum in November 2025 for constructing a road in a current easement to connect Patriots Trail with E. General Stewart Way. See FY25 Adopted Budget. Project moved to the TSPLOST2 budget (pending voter approval) of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners.*
10. After receiving approval from the Coastal Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs, the Mayor and Clerk presented the FY24 Impact Fee Capital Improvement Elements ("CIE") resolution. *Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to adopt the FY24 Impact Fee CIE resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
11. Mayor Hawkins shared that Ms. Lisa Lee from Golden & Associates, CPA's completed the FY24 Audit, to be submitted to the Department of Audits & Accounts the next day. The Council requested her to present the findings at a future meeting, expressing concerns about delays in audit reporting, the impact on state funding due to delinquency, and procedural requirements.
12. The Mayor stated that the City is still in need of a company to provide sanitation services for the City beginning January 1st, 2026. The consensus of the Council was to advertise a Request for Proposals ("RFP") as soon as possible.
13. Mr. Randy Dykes, representing M.E. Sack Engineering, has provided an update on the progress of full-depth reclamation projects on Wallace Martin Drive, Joseph Martin Road, and Old Sunbury Road.

Joseph Martin Road:

- The second compaction test on Joseph Martin Road failed.
- The remedy for the contractor was to either start over, or add an additional inch of asphalt.
 - Mr. Marcus Sack approved the extra inch as acceptable, which would come at no cost to the City.

Liquidated Damages:

- Mr. Dykes stated that liquidated damages of \$300 per day will be applied if the contractor misses the project end date of June 27th, 2025.
- However, the contractor will be allowed extensions day-for-day for rain delays.

Concerns of the Council:

- The Council expressed significant worries about project quality, inconvenience to citizens, and additional costs associated with the project.

Mr. Dykes attempted to alleviate the Council's concerns by assuring them that the contractor has a good reputation and that they are engaged in a dispute regarding fault for the delays and issues with their subcontractor(s).

Mr. Dykes also reported that the HWY 84 TSPLOST sidewalk project (from the Liberty County Performing Arts Center to Liberty High School) was slated to begin work later that week pending the weather.

14. *Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of real estate. Councilwoman Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and closed session began at 5:18 pm. Open session resumed at 5:48 pm.*

*Councilwoman Harwell made a motion to approve the Resolution requesting the Liberty County Public Facilities Authority to issue a 2025 revenue bond in the amount of \$975,000 for the acquisition of real property for a new City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. **Councilwoman Smiley recused herself from the discussion and voting due to conflict of interest.*

15. Added without notice: Mayor Hawkins stated that under the law, it was within his purview to hire temporary help at City Hall, and that it could be considered discrimination and the City could be liable. The consensus of the Council, with support from the City Attorney, was that Mayor and Council work together as one unit.
16. *Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.*