

*"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
JUNE 9TH, 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
Craig Stafford, City Attorney
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent:

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Byler on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, at 4:31 p.m. 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 led by Councilman H Patel and recited in unison.
3. Mayor Byler requested approval of the agenda with the adjustment an amendment to move Item 9 (New Business – Liberty Consolidated Plan and Commission) to the top of the agenda, ahead of the financial update, to accommodate the city engineer who was double-booked.

Councilwoman Smiley made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

4. **Public Comments-** No Public Comments received.
5. *Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the May 12th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as written and Councilwoman Smiley seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*
6. **Chick-fil-A Site: Right-of-Way Dedication & Sidewalk Easement-Presentation by LCPC**
Mardee Sanchez, representing the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC), gave a presentation was given regarding the Chick-fil-A development on Flemington Village Boulevard (across from Publix). Chick-fil-A will construct a right-turn lane into their property and install partial sidewalk along Flemington Village Boulevard. A portion of the sidewalk encroaches onto their property; they are granting the city a sidewalk easement. Two plats require recording: approximately 13-foot right-of-way

dedication and a 2-foot sidewalk easement strip. Marcus Sacks (City Engineer) stated the GDOT permit was received. Construction is expected to begin in 15–30 days, with Chick-fil-A building out their full site after initial infrastructure work. No complaints were received from Flemington Village residents. The site features a double drive-through lane with substantial vehicle stacking capacity, exceeding the unified development ordinance requirements. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to accept the right-of-way dedication and sidewalk easement and authorize the Mayor to sign the document once finalized and approved. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

7. LT Gallob gave the LEO report for May 2026 May call volume increased from approximately 96 to 119 calls — primarily alarms, non-emergency calls, and domestic disputes. Minor increase in traffic crashes. Increase attributed to typical summer call patterns; no significant concerns were raised.

8. Special Needs Library-Councilwoman Smiley

A proposal was presented to sponsor a special needs/autism-focused little free library box to be installed on city property. Books are specifically curated for children with special needs (e.g., autism), allowing them to see themselves represented. Walter Hill and Prospero have already erected similar libraries at their city halls. Council discussed sponsorship levels: "Impact Sponsor" level allows the city to select the library's location, preferred for placement near Tranquil/Gravel Hill subdivisions and the city hall porch area. A second regular community library (through Rotary) was suggested as a future addition. Council directed staff to reach out to Roderick for a proposal. A second location at Flemington Village Park was noted as a future consideration. *Councilman Martin made a motion to approve the Impact Sponsor. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

9. Sleep in Heavenly Peace-Councilwoman Smiley

A presentation was made regarding the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" program, which builds and delivers beds for children without them. The program was introduced to the community approximately 3–4 years ago through Roger Hutchison. Over 110 beds have been built and given away; 20–30 more are ready for delivery Cost is \$250 per bed; materials are supplied through a national partnership with Lowe's. Bed builds operate like assembly lines and are coordinated through Rotary; at least one Rotarian is required at each station. The Connection Center (inside Flemington city limits) is the primary build site. Council discussed partnering with The Watchmen (a local men's group) to have enough volunteers for a dedicated build. Community volunteers can be recruited via Facebook and other platforms. All participants must sign a waiver (due to use of saws and power tools). No formal vote taken. Mayor offered to coordinate with Terry (program contact), Roger, and Leah, and to engage with The Watchmen to plan a build. Council authorized the Mayor to gather information and return with a firm proposal.

10. Financial Reports given by Kim McGlothlin FY2026

Revenue collected: \$1 million (approximately 94% of budgeted revenue). Expenditures: \$825,000 (approximately 75% of budget). Current net income: \$203,000. Fire Services Issue: \$81,000 previously paid applied to FY2025. Full FY2026 fire services obligation is \$332,558 (billed monthly by Hinesville going forward). City will accrue the expense and make split payments, likely half in June and the remainder in August/September. Root cause: billing was quarterly and behind; new arrangement is monthly billing (November–June of each fiscal year cycle). Council directed staff to audit the original fire services agreement to determine remaining credit years. Fire Chief has indicated the city is nearing the end of its impact fee credits and recommends identifying a location for a fire substation on the Flemington side to improve response times and support annexation. TSPLOST/SPLOST Updates: District 6 has approximately \$568,000 unobligated in Sales Tax 7. A concern was raised about a TSPLOST project that came in under budget, with the overage potentially being reallocated without city input. Mayor will follow up. A potential discrepancy in the TSPLOST district fund spreadsheet was noted; staff to follow up with Miss Samantha.

FY2025 Budget Amendment:

An amendment to the FY2025 budget is necessary (previously adopted entity-wide rather than by fund) for audit purposes. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to adopt and accept the Amended FY2025 General Fund Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

FY2027 Budget Adoption:

Proposed revenues: ~\$1.25 million (up from ~\$1.1 million). Property tax projected to increase by over \$100,000 — expected to barely cover the increase in fire services costs. Proposed expenditures up ~\$156,000 (~14%) over current year. Fire services budgeted at \$360,000 (estimated). Public safety (fire + law enforcement) represents the majority of expenditures. Council and Finance Director discussed the need to change the city's fiscal year to align with the property tax digest timeline, allowing for more accurate budgeting. Auditor concurred; a short-year transition would be required. Council directed staff to obtain estimates for governmental accounting software (purchasable via SLOS as a capital item) and report back by end of June. **Budget Resolution read for the record:** *"Whereas the administrative staff of the City of Flemington has prepared and submitted to the governing authority an annual general operations budget for the year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027; whereas the City Council has studied and reviewed the prepared budget, it is resolved by the Flemington City Council that the annual budget is approved."*

Councilman Logan made a motion to approve and adopt the FY2027 Budget. Councilman H Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Capital Improvement Element (CIE) – 2025 Annual Update

The CIE 2025 Annual Update Draft, previously submitted to the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia and DCA, met state standards for approval. The CIE Impact Fee Resolution for FY25 was presented.

Councilman H Patel made a motion to adopt the FY2025 CIE Resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Status Updates**Flemington Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Report: Mayor Pro Tem Harwell**

The first DDA meeting was held the previous day with six of seven members present. Reverend Mendez resigned due to relocation; replaced by Nick Westbrook (incoming Chick-fil-A owner/operator). Bylaws and MOU are being tweaked; will be brought back for re-adoption at the next meeting. Mayor presented the downtown vision to the DDA; members expressed enthusiasm. Next DDA meeting: July 15 at 10:00 a.m. DDA members are tasked with developing architectural and design standards (colors, structures, general aesthetics) ahead of continued development.

ON THE HORIZON

- **June 14:** Liberty County 250th Anniversary Celebration Parade – 9:00 AM. Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Harwell participating.
- **June 19:** City Hall closed in observance of Juneteenth.
- **June 26–30:** GMA Annual Convention, Savannah, GA.
- **July 3:** City Hall closed in observance of Independence Day.
- **July 14:** Next City Council Meeting.

Continued Updates

Name Tags: White name tags have been ordered. Design finalized after multiple iterations with vendor (Lillian). Council requested future input on design decisions.

Peddler License: Vendor "Jellyman" paid for the month and is operating as normal while the peddler license framework is being finalized. Audit work temporarily delayed this process.

11. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to adjourn. Council Martin seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.*