

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Zack Thompson, Abigail Guzman, Barbara Brooks, Jon Elliott  
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Juli Hayes  
VACANT POSITION: Ward 1  
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and served as the presiding officer.

Council Member Brooks provided the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mateo Penado, 529 Ridgewood Terrace, stated she previously spoke at the February meeting and shared concerns about data and detention centers. She commented on recent occurrences regarding the proposed detention center and noted the Hall County Board of Commissioners voted for a moratorium on the detention and data centers. She felt they have set a precedence and all local cities should follow. She commented on the negative impacts the centers have on the community and asked Council to vote on a moratorium against both centers to avoid these issues.

Kathy Amos, 721 Crestview Terrace, thanked Council for doing their due diligence in the process. She shared a quote from the Salt Lake City County Mayor on the instability that detention facilities bring to surrounding communities. She commented on human rights and shared what goes on in detention facilities noting their concerns are not a political issue but are a deeply moral issue. There needs to be proactive leadership. She commented on those they have heard from that are in opposition to the facility and stated she hoped Council will also do something about it.

Arianne Mathe', PC, Flowery Branch resident, stated she had a written statement and documents available to share with the Council for their review. She indicated she along with a group of attorneys across the country are working on the Oakwood and Social Circle detention center issues and wished to work with and offer free expert assistance to municipalities/jurisdictions that are impacted by this. She commented on the data and detention centers and the negative impacts they have specifically as it relates to water and sewer resources. Felt the City should issue a moratorium and/or resolution as it relates to providing water service to the facilities. She provided handouts consisting of sample documents for the Council to review.

Alex White, Duluth resident, commented on the effects of data centers and urged Council to oppose the data and detention centers.

Vanessa Herrera, Lawrenceville resident, stated she works directly in front of an ICE detention center. She shared the negative impact this has had on their business and noted they may lose it. To move would be too costly. She strongly urged Council to consider a moratorium.

Mayor Thompson expressed appreciation to everyone that came out to speak noting participation is part of the public process.

**COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Mayor Thompson**

Commented on his editorial published on February 11<sup>th</sup> and referred anyone with questions on his stance to refer back to the article. He noted Council is taking all the comments into consideration.

**Council Member Guzman**

Thanked everyone that came out to express their concerns and noted she understands there is extreme uncertainty regarding the issues. She commented on how she felt about Gainesville, the commitment she has to the citizens, and the honor of being a representative, especially as the first elected Hispanic Council Member.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Minutes: February 12, 2026 Work Session**

**Minutes: February 17, 2026 Mayor/Council Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes accepting edits as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Guzman

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

**Votes favoring the motion: Guzman, Brooks, Elliott**

**Absent: Hayes**

**Vacant: Ward 1**

*Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).*

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Appropriation Resolution 2026-01**

**Second Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2026**

Deputy CFO - Budget & Purchasing Kevin Hutcheson presented the request to approve the budget adjustment for the second quarter. He summarized the budget adjustments and noted all adjustments are balanced and all fund budgets remain balanced.

**Motion to adopt resolution AR-2026-01 as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Guzman

Motion seconded by Council Member Elliott

**Votes favoring the motion: Guzman, Brooks, Elliott**

**Absent: Hayes**

**Vacant: Ward 1**

*Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).*

**Business Resolution 2026-09**

**Write-off of Delinquent Utilities Receivables**

Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Perry presented the request to authorize the write off of the uncollectable receivables.

**Motion to adopt resolution BR-2026-09 as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Elliott

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

**Votes favoring the motion: Guzman, Brooks, Elliott**

**Absent: Hayes**

**Vacant: Ward 1**

*Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).*

**Project Resolution 2026-02**

**Mill Area Infrastructure Improvements Project Award**

Engineering and Construction Division Manager Tracy Robar presented the request for authorization to award and execute a construction contract with Civil Construction and Utility, LLC for the Mill Area Infrastructure Improvements Project. She extended a special thanks to Neighborhood Development Manager Jessica Tullar for assistance with providing the additional funding from the One Georgia Grant. City Manager Bryan Lackey stated this is the Workforce Housing Grant awarded by the state.

**Motion to adopt resolution PR-2026-02 as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Brooks

Motion seconded by Council Member Elliott

**Votes favoring the motion: Guzman, Brooks, Elliott**

**Absent: Hayes**

**Vacant: Ward 1**

*Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).*

**ADJOURNMENT:** 5:57 PM

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Zack Thompson, Mayor

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Alisa Grayson, City Clerk