Dublin City Hall
October 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall, on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 12:09 PM.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, Sara Kolbie, Paul Griggs, Chris Smith, and Richard Mascaro were present. The invocation was given by Bill Brown followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

City Manager Josh Powell presented the Employees of the 2nd and the 3rd Quarter.

Employee of the 2nd quarter, Regina McDaniel, has been employed at the City for a total of 19 ½ years. She was hired as a Police Clerk and later became a Municipal Court Clerk. Regina also volunteers as a leader of the City of Dublin Youth Council and sits on the Adult Youth Council Commission. Regina is a great asset to the Municipal Court as well as the city as a whole.

Employee of the 3rd quarter, Jacob Bond, began his employment with the Dublin Fire Department as a National Professional Qualified Firefighter 1. Since, Jacob has improved his knowledge and proficiency in fire service by achieving the rank of National Professional Qualified Firefighter 2, and performs more complex tasks as well as leads fireground operations. Jacob consistently demonstrates calmness, dependability, honesty, pride, and unwavering work ethic. He is is a true backbone of the firefighting team.

The final presentation was presented by Nicole Graham of the Gas Authority of Georgia. This presentation included the national American Public Gas Association's Communication & Marketing Award video featuring the City. Mayor Pro Tem, Sara Kolbie, accepted this award on the behalf of the City of Dublin.

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Smith and seconded by Councilman Paul Griggs to approve both the October 1st, 2025 Special Called meeting minutes as well as the October 2nd, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes. The motion carried 7/0.

Mayor Kight made brief announcement concerning inappropriate use of funds by the former City Clerk was made. To date, no loss of funds have been discovered by the City.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER $15,000

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Brown and was seconded by Council member Tess Godfrey to approve the following bills. The motion carried 7/0.

CHECK#	DATE	PAYMENT TO	PURCHASE	AMOUNT
DFT0003307	10/09/2025	Georgia Environmental Facilities Auth	GEFA Payments	36,769.43
OneAmerica	10/07/2025	OneAmerica	Life Insurance	16,358.14
46389	10/03/2025	Georgia Interlocal Risk Management	GMA Property & Liability	176,044.25
46382	10/03/2025	Ga Power Co	FY 26 Electricity	108,049.37
46427	10/03/2025	Paul S. Akins Company	Renovation for the Sanitation & Water Const.	175,309.26
DFT0003296	10/03/2025	Strategic Benefit Resources LLC	Stop-Loss Admin Fees	54,695.79
46397	10/03/2025	Interceptor Public Safety Products	Upfitting 2025 Chevrolet Silverado	46,308.28
46442	10/03/2025	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	Park & Round About Improvements	131,360.52
46424	10/03/2025	Nichols, Cauley & Associates	Financial & Compliance Audit FY 06/2026	17,500.00
46439	10/03/2025	T Lake Environmental Design	Landscaping Services	18,274.44
46411	10/03/2025	Laurens County Library	Annual Appropriation Laurens Co Library	22,365.50
46423	10/03/2025	Natural Gas Trade.com	Regulator & Meter VA Meter	32,218.80
DFT0003293	10/01/2025	Department of Revenue	State W/H	20,420.32
DFT0003295	10/01/2025	Internal Revenue Service	Social Security	69,051.64
DFT0003294	10/01/2025	Internal Revenue Service	Federal W/H	41,809.09
DFT0003292	10/01/2025	Internal Revenue Service	Medicare	16,149.26
46345	10/01/2025	City of Dublin-Self Insurance Fund	Self Insured Health Insurance	96,247.97
RetirementSept	09/30/2025	GMEBS-Retirement Trust Fund	Sept 25 Admin Fees	168,073.59
46281	09/26/2025	C.E. Garbutt Construction Co	Oconee Gym Renovation	206,835.35
46323	09/26/2025	MES Service Company LLC	Rescue Tools for Fire Truck	34,090.14
46297	09/26/2025	Dublin-Laurens Land Bank	Annual Appropriation Land Bank	25,000.00
46269	09/26/2025	120 Water Audit Inc	120 Water Services	18,434.58
46294	09/26/2025	Dixie Lawn and Landscaping	Landscaping & Lawncare for Parks	25,002.00
46287	09/26/2025	Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co	Supplies for Restock for Shop	19,773.30

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER $15,000

There was one purchase for council consideration:

Tire Balancing Machine - City Shop
City Manager Powell expressed that due to an unexpected and unrepairable issue with our current tire balancing machine, there is an immediate requirement for a new machine. Staff recommends approval of a purchase from Lewis Tool & Equipment, LLC out of Baxley, Georgia in the amount of $16,860.33. This purchase was not budgeted, but foregoing the purchase of a large tire changing machine that was budgeted will accommodate this more pressing need. This purchase will be paid out of Account #100-4900-542100. Staff recommends approval of the purchase.

Councilman Paul Griggs made a motion to approve the purchase seconded by Councilman Bennie Jones. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #25-16 TO AMEND THE ZONING CODE REGARDING BUFFER ZONES; PARKING LOT REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS; AND FENCE REQUIREMENTS

City Manager, Josh Powell, read Ordinance #25-16. The proposed ordinance will strengthen buffer requirements to ensure a proper buffer among abutting land uses and in accordance with the landscape. The minimum buffer will be 10 feet and up to a maximum of 50 feet and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the desired use and the adjacent properties. The ordinance encourages use of existing vegetation to meet the buffer requirement. This ordinance will require a site plan to be submitted for review and approval. An additional change is made to minimum parking requirements for public housing projects, to allow for lower minimum parking spaces required, but not to be lower than DCA requirements. For fences, the ordinance will require the issuance of a permit before installation. This ordinance caps the height of fences to 6 feet and excludes landscaping style fences from requiring a permit. This is a first reading. The second reading and public hearing will be at the November 6th city council meeting at 5:30pm.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #25-49 TO AUTHORIZE A CONTACT WITH CARTER AND SLOOPE ENGINEERING FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AND GRANT APPLICATION SERVICES FOR THE ONE GEORGIA AUTHORITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

City Manager Powell read resolution #25-49 to authorize a contact with Carter and Sloope Engineering for engineering services and grant application services for the OneGeorgia Authority Infrastructure Grant. The Ferry Branch sewer line is a section of sewer that follows the Ferry Branch drainage basin and begins in the area of Stubbs Park and continues easterly into the Alabama Pump Station near the Oconee River at the end of Alabama Street. The sewer line is a clay (terra cotta) pipe and has caused many problems in the past. A short section of this pipe was replaced due to overflow of a manhole on North Church Street found behind homes fronting Prince Street. The City earmarked 2024 SPLOST funds for this project later in the life of the SPLOST, but in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the OneGeorgia Authority has announced a funding opportunity through a Hurricane Disaster Relief Grant and offers an opportunity to replace a section of Ferry Branch sewer line. The funding award is competitive and is available for infrastructure improvements needed for this line. Staff recommend engaging Carter and Sloope Engineering to develop a grant application and the necessary preliminary engineering report in support of such application. This work also includes engaging a separate subcontractor to camera and clean the line to document the current condition of the line in support of the grant application. The expected cost of these services is $24,138. This is not budgeted and will be paid from Account #505-4331-521200. We are early in the fiscal year to know if this would result in us dipping into reserves based on performance through the rest of the fiscal year, but there are sufficient water fund reserves to cover this expense.

Councilman Bennie Jones made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Bill Brown. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #25-50 TO AUTHORIZE THE 2026 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS PACKAGE

City Manager Powell read the resolution #25-50 to authorize the 2026 employee health insurance benefit package. GMA issued a renewal at a 27.44% increase over the prior year's premium for a total projected cost of $3,310,307. The City's expected net spend under the chosen self-insurance model was $2,514,528, which represented only a 1.09% increase. With three months remaining in the current plan year, the City estimates a net spend of $2,120,858, but this total depends on claims. City claims are higher for the current year, but there are significant savings regarding prescription drugs. The renewal with EBMS as the TPA, Cigna Network Provider, Veracity for Pharmacy, and Skyward Specialty Insurance for Stop-Loss Insurance is an expected net spend of $3,117,882 in 2026. The City's maximum out of pocket spend within the plan year is $3,272,167, which would be a 29.30% increase. This year was budgeted for a 3.6% increase based on the information provided during budget meetings, and an adjustment will be made via budget amendment. These estimates and costs are based on a 3.71% increase in administrative costs, a decline of 7.24% in stop-loss insurance, and two claimants with identified laser liabilities, resulting in a $550,000 potential obligation. Staff recommends dental, vision, life and disability coverage, supplemental benefits, and flexible spending accounts remain the accordance with the current plan year with no change in rate or plan. Open Enrollment is scheduled for October 29th through the 31st for all elected officials and city employees. Staff does not recommend changes to employee contributions.
Staff's recommendation is to approve the resolution.

Council member Sara Kolbie made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Council member Tess Godfrey. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #25-51 TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH LORD AECK SARGENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE GROUND WATER PLANT FACILITY ON MADISON STREET

City Manager Powell read the resolution #25-51 to authorize a contract with Lord Aeck Sargent for architectural and engineering services for the Ground Water Plant facility on Madison Street. Council previously approved an assessment be conducted by Lord Aeck Sargent Architectural Firm of the Ground Water Plant facility on Madison Street in April 2025. Such assessment has been completed and a proposal for the next phase of work, including schematic design, construction documents, and construction administration, has been submitted. The total for these services is $142,040.00. There are sufficient funds in the

2018 SPLOST to cover this expense and costs will be paid from account #320-4430-541314. Staff recommends approval of the proposal and contract negotiation.

Councilman Paul Griggs made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Bennie Jones. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Joshua Kight announced the resignation of Guy Cochran from the Economic Development Authority Board. The Laurens County Board of Commissioners has nominated and approved Michael Maffett with Curry-Maffett Insurance as the joint nominee. Mr. Maffett currently serves on numerous boards for the city.

Councilman Richard Mascaro made a motion to approve the appointment and seconded by Councilman Bill Brown. The motion carried 6/1 with Councilman Bennie Jones opposed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jacqueline Denise Jaudon Wright made comments on voting in the City Council election as well as the Dublin City School seating crisis. She has concerns on ESPLOST on the November ballot.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Attorney Groover had no comments.

City Treasurer Daniels had no comments.

Councilman Brown thanked everyone for coming.

Councilman Jones congratulates Ms. McDaniel and Mr. Bond for the Employee of the Quarter awards. He thanks all other staff and the hard work everyone does for the City of Dublin, specifically citing the overtime work of Water Construction on his street. Councilman Jones notes City workers are doing their part and wants the public to make sure to do their part too. He encourages the citizens to protect what the City has done in these neighborhoods and to report any misdeeds.

Council member Godfrey thanks Ms. Regina for everything she does as well as Mr. Bond for his hard work. Further thanks are extended to Mr. Bradshaw and Michael Clay for their work with the Gas Authority. Council member Godfrey encourages citizens to vote. She also invites and welcomes volunteers to help clean Mr. and Mrs. Rae Helen Washington's yard this afternoon and tomorrow.

Council Member Kolbie shares her excitement of a new grandbaby.

Councilman Griggs thanks everyone for coming and offers congratulations to those who received employee awards.

Councilman Smith congratulates Ms. McDaniel and Mr. Bond for what they do and announces the Telfair Park Community reunion starting at 12:00pm-6:00pm to be held at Pritchett Street Park.

Councilman Mascaro congratulates Ms. McDaniel and Mr. Bond for what they do. He also shows appreciation to Matthew Bradshaw and Michael Clay.

City Manager Powell states that Pritchett Park is almost complete and reminds everyone about the Telfair Park Community reunion event occurring this weekend. He further states that an official Ribbon Cutting event for the opening for Pritchett Park will be held as a separate event once all work is complete. In addition, weightroom equipment for the Oconee Gymnasium is set to arrive this week. City Manager Powell continues to discuss Dublin's hosting of the Camellia Chapter District of the Georgia Garden Club, and sends a special thanks to the Garden Club and Melodie Smith for their continuous work in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kight adjourned the council meeting at 12:50pm.

Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF DUBLIN SEAL STATE OF GEORGIA

R. Blake Daniels, Interim City Clerk