

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 12:10 p.m.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order with Council members Bill Brown, Paul Griggs, Chris Smith, Bennie Jones, and Brandon Chain present. Councilpersons Sara Kolbie and Tess Godfrey were absent. The invocation was delivered by City Manager Josh Powell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kight noted that the agenda was brief and that the Council would proceed directly to business. Councilman Bennie Jones made a motion to add Resolution 26-14 to the agenda regarding a contract with Thomas & Hutton. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously (5-0).

The mayor then proceeded to the agenda items. The first item was the approval of the March 5, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

Approval of March 5, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Smith and seconded by Councilman Paul Griggs to approve the March 5, 2026, City Council meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

The mayor made mention that the minutes were excellent and comprehensive. He thanked the City Clerk, Dorothy Rozier.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

A motion was made by Councilman Paul Griggs and was seconded by Councilman Bennie Jones to approve payment of the following bills. The motion carried 5/0.

Date	Amount	Type	Description	Payable Information
03/09/26	30,666.08	Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT	Self-Insurance Claims
03/06/26	32,636.29	Check	VISIT DUBLIN GA	Feb 2026 Hotel-Motel Distribution
03/06/26	32,636.29	Check	DUBLIN-LAURENS CO. RECREATION	Feb 2026 Hotel-Motel Distribution
03/06/26	5,530,427.81	Check	DUBLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION	Feb 2026 School Tax Distribution
03/06/26	16,318.20	Check	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	Feb 2026 Hotel-Motel Distribution
03/06/26	61,113.39	Check	THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING CO	Engineering Services for multiple projects
03/06/26	18,274.43	Check	T. LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN	Landscaping Services
03/06/26	26,430.66	Check	RYLAND OIL COMPANY	Restock Fuel and Oil
03/06/26	22,365.50	Check	LAURENS COUNTY LIBRARY	Annual Appropriation
03/06/26	107,604.25	Check	GMA WORKER'S COMPENSATION SELF	Worker's Compensation Premium
03/06/26	15,000.00	Check	ABS, INC.	Program for Trickling Filters
03/04/26	69,581.78	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes

03/04/26	Bank	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes
	39,295.71 Draft		
03/04/26	Bank	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	Payroll Taxes
	20,332.56 Draft		
03/04/26	Bank	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes
	16,273.24 Draft		
03/04/26	Check	CITY OF DUBLIN-SELF INSURANCE FUND	Self-Insurance Contribution
	120,957.12		
03/03/26	Bank	EMPLOYEE BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC	Insurance Premiums
	19,257.00 Draft		
03/03/26	Bank	STRATEGIC BENEFIT RESOURCES LLC	Insurance Premiums
	50,848.85 Draft		
03/02/26	Bank	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT	Self-Insurance Claims
	16,087.11 Draft		
02/27/26	Bank	GMEBS-RETIREMENT TRUST FUND	Retirement Contributions
	168,073.59 Draft		
02/27/26	Check	SOUTHERN FLOW, INC.	Electronic Measuring Devices for Chemical Tanks
	19,860.79		
02/27/26	Check	PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE UNITED INC.	CHIP Grant Renovations
	19,580.00		
02/27/26	Check	DIXIE LAWN AND LANDSCAPING INC.	Landscaping Services for Parks
	25,002.00		
\$6,478,622.65			

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER \$15,000

a. HACH 1720E Turbidimeters Replacement-Water Plant

City Manager Josh Powell explained that these devices continuously monitor the quality of the water at our surface water plant and are located in the pipe gallery (basement) of the plant. The purchase request is for four Hach TU5300sc Low Range Laser Turbidimeters to replace ones that have expired in their useful life and are difficult to find parts to repair/maintain. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division requires us to continually monitor the water for each filter at the plant. The purchase was not particularly budgeted but will be covered by unused budgeted funds in the "Plant Maintenance" account (#505-4430-522209) for the water plant. The purchase is from DWL Instrument Services, LLC for \$26,027.50 and will be capitalized to Account 505-117500.

A motion was made by Councilman Brown to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously, 5-0.

PRESENTATION ON FY'27 CITY AND COUNTY BUDGET REQUEST GIVEN BY BEVERLY BROWN WITH THE LIBRARY BOARD

Ms. Beverly Brown presented an overview of the Dublin-Laurens County Library's programs, services, and impact on the community, followed by the FY2027 budget request. She emphasized

the library's role in supporting early literacy, student learning, digital access, and lifelong education.

Key programs include the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative, which encourages early childhood reading and family engagement, and the PLAY (Pines Library Access for Youth) Card, which provides students access to digital learning tools, language programs, and library materials without requiring a physical card.

The library also offers digital literacy classes, primarily serving older adults, covering computer basics, internet safety, and email use. In addition, patrons benefit from innovative services such as 3D printing, which allows users to create physical objects from digital designs, and Financial Fit, a resource that provides short, accessible lessons on personal finance topics like budgeting, credit, and fraud prevention.

Ms. Brown noted that the library will continue evaluating and expanding programs to meet community needs as staffing allows.

FY2027 Budget Request Breakdown

- City of Dublin Request: \$278,299.78
 - Increase: \$9,914.52
- Laurens County Request: \$519,350.39
 - Increase: \$19,829.04

Total Purpose of Increase:

- Health Insurance Cost Increase: \$15,444
 - Employer contribution increased from \$1,885 to \$2,028 per employee/month
- Employee Pay Raises: \$14,299.56
 - \$1 raise for 9 full-time and 5 part-time employees
 - Includes associated benefits (Social Security, Medicare, TRS)

Ms. Brown expressed appreciation for the Mayor and Council's continued support and emphasized that the requested funding is essential to maintaining services and supporting staff.

Mayor Kight acknowledged the city's budget process, stating that the City Treasurer will review the library's request alongside staff and the finance committee. The council will then discuss the budget during upcoming workshops before making a final decision, which is expected within the next couple of months.

Mayor Kight also emphasized the City's continued support of the library, highlighting that additional funding was provided in the previous year to assist with healthcare and wage increases. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the library and reaffirming that the council is supportive of its mission.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE #26-03 TO AMEND THE FY' 26 BUDGET

City Manager Powell read Ordinance 26-03.

He explained that the purpose of this amendment is to ensure budgetary compliance and provide greater transparency of the city's fiscal operations. As described in Note 2 of the Financial Statements, Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability, each fund's appropriate budget is prepared on a department level. Revenues are budgeted by source. Expenditures are budgeted by departments, which constitutes the legal level of control. Expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the department level. All budget revisions at this level are subject to final review by the city council. The primary factors for this budget adjustment are attributable to additional year-to-date revenues recognized in the General Fund through Local Option Sales Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, Franchise Tax-Electric, HEAT Grant, and Interest Income. Likewise, actual expenditures of the General Fund vary from budgeted amounts due to payroll savings realized through position vacancies, the LMIG activity reclassification, and costs associated with the completion of the Oconee Gym Project. Adjustments to Special Revenue Funds are primarily attributable to grant related activities, the addition of a separate fund to account for monies related to LMIG, and the completion of the Madison Street Project. The changes to Capital Project Funds are due to project cost variations since the original budget was adopted, as well as new projects added during the current fiscal year. Enterprise Fund adjustments include year-to-date revenues compared to budgeted amounts recognized through rate increases in the Water and Sewer Fund. Expense fluctuations are mainly due to payroll savings in vacant positions along with timing differences between budgeted and actual project costs. Finally, that portion of committed fund balance reserved for encumbrances at the end of FY2025 is included in the budget adjustment for each fund, if applicable. This is the second reading and public hearing for this ordinance, and if council desires to take action on it, a motion, second, and roll call vote is required.

Mayor Kight opened a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed budget amendment, explaining that the city adjusts its budget during the year to reflect actual revenues and expenses. He noted that revenues may be higher and costs lower than originally projected, making the amendment necessary to align the budget with current financial conditions.

After calling for public comments and receiving none, Mayor Kight closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the Council, requesting a motion and second for consideration.

Councilman Smith asked for clarification regarding the two-million-dollar adjustment in the budget, specifically whether it referred to situations where revenues and expenditures were expected to occur within the same fiscal year but instead occurred in different periods.

City Treasurer Blake Daniels confirmed this understanding, indicating that timing differences can cause funds to be received or spent in a different fiscal year than originally anticipated.

A motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Smith

Mayor Kight called for a roll call vote,

Roll Call vote was given by City Clerk, Dorothy Rozier:

Councilman Bill Brown voted, Yes

Councilman Bennie Jones voted, Yes

Councilperson Tess Godfrey, absent

Councilperson Sara Kolbie, absent

Councilman Paul Griggs voted, Yes

Councilman Chris Smith voted, Yes

Councilman Brandon Chain voted, Yes

Following the roll call vote, the motion passed, and the ordinance was approved. (5,0)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-14 TO ACCEPT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS WITH THOMAS AND HUTTON FOR CEI SERVICES FOR THE CLAXTON DAIRY/WOODLAWN ROUNDABOUT

City Manager explained that the TIA Board's approved budget for our project includes Construction Engineering and Inspection up to \$457,500. This is 100% paid by the T-SPLIST funds at the regional level (not our local 25% discretionary funds) and Thomas and Hutton has provided a proposal for these construction observation services based on a 10-month construction period in the amount of the budgeted amount. The services will include project management services and construction observation services as are outlined in the proposal in your materials. Our engineering staff will still be heavily involved in the project, but oversight of the construction to ensure it aligns with the engineering plans will be primarily the responsibility of the representative from Thomas and Hutton who will be working 20 hours per week at our direction and coordination. This will be paid from Account #335-4221-541426 (Infrastructure - Claxton Dairy Roundabout Project - TSPLIST).

The City Manager further explained that the resolution provides flexibility for both himself and the mayor to work with the staff attorney to finalize contract language in coordination with the engineering firm.

He noted that construction for the roundabout project has already been awarded to the contractor, who is prepared to begin work but must first order materials that have lead times. The engineering firm will review and approve these materials to ensure they meet project specifications before ordering.

The City Manager requested Council approval of the resolution so the language can be finalized and the contract executed, allowing the project to move forward without delay.

Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution, contingent upon finalizing and clarifying specific contract language discussed during the pre-council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jacqueline Wright 500 section of South Church Street

Ms. Wright expressed strong concern and frustration regarding ongoing safety and quality-of-life issues in her neighborhood, particularly near South Church Street and Telfair, across from the Church of Nazarene. She described problems involving an individual on the corner who she believes is not maintaining the property properly and may be attracting increased foot traffic and disruptive activity.

She shared that she has made significant personal investments in home security after experiencing theft and ongoing disturbances. Ms. Wright also noted frequent calls to law enforcement and communication with city staff in an effort to address the situation.

Additionally, she raised concerns about increased activity in the area, especially with the approaching summer months, and its potential impact on neighborhood safety. She urged the City to take stronger action, improve reporting systems for residents, and work collaboratively with the community to address these concerns and improve overall conditions in the area.

Al Tillmon introduced himself as a resident of Macon, Georgia, and a former county commissioner with 15 years of service. He explained that he recently stepped away from that role to work with the mayor's office and was visiting Dublin to tour local facilities, including the Dublin Theatre, to explore potential opportunities.

He stated that he represents an entertainment agency and T Entertainment and expressed interest in continuing and expanding entertainment efforts in the city, building prior work by others. He noted connections within the community, including local contacts and family ties, and shared that he had been encouraged to visit Dublin to pursue business opportunities.

Mr. Tillmon expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet city officials and conveyed his interest in developing a working relationship with the city moving forward.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Treasurer Blake Daniels: No Comment

City Clerk Dorothy Rozier: No comment

City Attorney Duke Groover: Absent

Council Comments

Councilman Brandon Chain

Councilman Chain had no comments.

Councilman Chris Smith

Councilman Chris Smith thanked the library representative for the presentation and expressed appreciation for the ongoing updates, noting that he continues to learn more about the library each year. He mentioned that his family, including his son, looks forward to participating in summer activities.

He also addressed Ms. Wright, expressing empathy for her concerns and acknowledging the issues she raised. He stated that the city can work toward addressing the situation to improve safety in the area.

Councilman Smith concluded by wishing everyone a good weekend.

Councilman Paul Griggs

Councilman Griggs stated that he concurred with the comments made by Councilman Chris Smith and had nothing additional to add.

Councilman Bennie Jones

Councilman Jones expressed appreciation for the library and its partnership with the city, particularly highlighting the summer reading program that incentivizes participation by offering children free water park passes. He encouraged families to sign up and participate in the program.

He also shared empathy with a resident who raised safety concerns, noting he understands her frustration due to his own recent experience with nearby gunshots. He acknowledged the challenges faced by law enforcement and emphasized the importance of providing them with adequate resources while recognizing ongoing community safety concerns.

Councilman Jones additionally suggested that certain properties or situations referenced by the resident may need further review and cleanup by the City. He concluded by sharing a brief personal update about a recent trip to Washington, D.C. and ended with general well wishes for public safety.

Councilman Bill Brown

Councilman Bill Brown thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for the continued work on the budget process. He acknowledged Ms. Wright's concerns, stating that the City empathizes with her situation and will continue to do what it can to help address such issues.

He also recognized the importance of the library to the Dublin-Laurens County community, noting its long-standing role in serving residents and expressing support for its continued accessibility and services. He concluded by thanking Ms. Brown for her presentation.

City Manager Josh Powell

Josh Powell thanked city staff for their efforts in supporting the Super Saturday events and the preparations leading up to them. He specifically recognized Glenda Berry and Nicole from the DDA for their partnership and contributions to the success of the events, noting that favorable weather helped make the festival a success.

He also thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation and expressed appreciation for the library's assistance, mentioning that his office had recently worked with library staff on a research request.

Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the community for its ongoing support, involvement, and willingness to contribute when needed.

Mayor Joshua Kight

Mayor Kight shared a personal reflection on his childhood experiences at the library, explaining that he spent significant time there after school reading and learning, which influenced his academic path and appreciation for history. He emphasized the library's importance as a transformative community resource that expands opportunities and learning for residents.

He expressed concern regarding community safety and referenced comments made by Ms. Wright, noting that every child should have the ability to safely walk to places like the library, as he once did. He spoke broadly about changes in social responsibility and the increasing strain placed on local government to address issues that individuals and communities once managed more directly.

Mayor Kight highlighted the City's ongoing efforts to improve public safety, including investments in law enforcement tools and programs such as gunshot detection technology, flock cameras, body cameras, additional training, and coordination with regional and federal partners. He noted that while crime has decreased in some areas and progress has been made, challenges remain and continued effort is necessary.

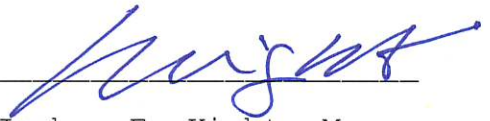
He also addressed concerns related to nuisance issues such as property upkeep and quality-of-life concerns, emphasizing the importance of strengthening code enforcement. He stated that the City Council should ensure staff have adequate resources, and that ordinances should be reviewed and updated as needed to better address these issues.

Mayor Kight concluded by emphasizing the importance of listening to residents' concerns to guide ongoing improvements and reaffirmed the City's commitment to enhancing safety and quality of life for the community.

Adjournment

There being no further business; Mayor Kight adjourned the Council meeting at 12:48 p.m.




Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dorothy Rozier, City Clerk