

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall on Thursday, April 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, and Sara Kolbie were present. Absent were Councilman Chris Smith, Brandon Chain, and Paul Griggs. The invocation was given by Councilman Bill Brown, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Dublin City Council meeting began with a special presentation. Mayor Joshua Kight turned the meeting over to City Manager Josh Powell for the presentation.

Mr. Powell announced that Ms. Velinda Chapman was selected as the City's Employee of the First Quarter for 2026 and invited her forward.

Ms. Chapman began her employment with the City of Dublin on September 16, 1994, as a police clerk. She was promoted three times during her tenure with the police department, ultimately serving as a municipal clerk for over 20 years. In July 2014, she became the Human Resources Coordinator.

Mr. Powell briefly highlighted that Ms. Chapman plays a key role in the hiring process, often serving as the first point of contact for applicants. He noted her professionalism, friendly demeanor, and dedication to assisting both applicants and employees. He also recognized her as a strong advocate for employees and a valuable contributor to the City's positive work environment.

Mr. Powell stated that Ms. Chapman exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding employee and is deserving the recognition.

The mayor then proceeded to the agenda items. The first item was the approval of the March 19, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

Approval of March 5, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Bennie Jones and seconded by Councilperson Tess Godfrey to approve the March 19, 2026, City Council meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

A motion was made by Councilperson Sara Kolbie and was seconded by Councilperson Tess Godfrey to approve payment of the following bills. The motion carried 4/0.

Date	Amount	Type	Description	Payable Information
04/06/2026	20,554.59	Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT	Self-Insurance Claims
04/02/2026	52,264.37	Bank Draft	STRATEGIC BENEFIT RESOURCES LLC	Insurance Premiums

04/02/2026	43,149.99	Check	RYLAND OIL COMPANY	Restock Fuel
04/02/2026	22,365.50	Check	LAURENS COUNTY LIBRARY	Annual Appropriation
04/01/2026	72,092.80	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes
04/01/2026	41,226.42	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes
04/01/2026	21,260.21	Bank Draft	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	Payroll Taxes
04/01/2026	16,860.46	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	Payroll Taxes
04/01/2026		Check	CITY OF DUBLIN-SELF INSURANCE FUND	Insurance Contributions
	122,326.15			
03/31/2026		Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT	Self-Insurance Claims
	107,646.10			
03/27/2026		Check	THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING CO	Engineering Services for Multiple Projects
	28,921.00			
03/27/2026	27,900.01	Check	RYLAND OIL COMPANY	Restock Fuel
03/27/2026		Check	DIXIE LAWN AND LANDSCAPING INC.	Landscaping Services for Parks
	25,002.00			
03/27/2026		Check	DETECTACHEM, INC.	Apex7 Raman Drug Spectrometer
	27,950.00			
03/27/2026		Check	C.E. GARBUTT CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.	Riverview Maintenance Shop Repairs
	46,213.20			

675,732.80

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER \$15,000

There were no purchases over \$15,000.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE DOWNTOWN DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

This presentation was deferred to the next Council meeting being held on April 16, 2026.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE DUBLIN-LAURENS LAND BANK AUTHORITY

This presentation was deferred to the next Council Meeting being held April 16, 2026.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE DUBLIN-LAURENS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Kight invited representatives from the Dublin-Laurens County Economic Development Authority to present an update to the Council.

Mr. Mitch Griggs, President of the Development Authority, introduced Chairman Roger Folsom and Operations Manager Brooke Reagan and thanked the Council for the opportunity to present.

Mr. Griggs reported that, despite a slowdown in the state and national economy, the Authority continues to see strong activity, with 32 active projects in the pipeline, including 27 new business prospects and 5 expansions. These projects span multiple sectors and include several international prospects. He noted a trend toward fewer but more capital-intensive projects and emphasized the competitive nature of economic development efforts. He expressed appreciation to City staff for their responsiveness in supporting project inquiries.

Mr. Griggs highlighted several key projects:

- The Hwashin, Georgia project, a \$175 million investment expected to create 473 jobs, with infrastructure nearing completion and phased hiring underway.
- The expansion of YKK, a \$50 million project, is designed to modernize its facility.
- A new small business park distribution project is expected to create 50 jobs.
- The sale of land to Dublin Eye Clinic for expansion.
- Sun Element, a solar panel manufacturer, is now operational and expected to employ up to 190 workers at full capacity.

He also discussed ongoing efforts to enhance development-ready sites, including clearing and improving multiple properties totaling over 600 acres. Additional grant funding and state support are being used to further develop the Highway 257 industrial site.

Mr. Griggs outlined marketing efforts, including promoting available industrial buildings and sites, partnering on the Heart of Georgia Mega Site, and updating the Authority's website and GIS tools.

He concluded by noting several collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening economic development capacity, including participation in retail recruitment programs, housing and workforce studies, environmental assessments, and regional transportation planning efforts. He welcomed any questions from Council.

Mayor Kight thanked the Dublin-Laurens County Economic Development Authority for their presentation. He explained for the benefit of the public that organizations and authorities funded by the City of Dublin are required to present annually to provide an overview of their activities and anticipated funding needs. He noted that this information will be reviewed by the Finance Committee as part of the budget development process, before being presented to the full Council for consideration and approval.

Mayor Kight then transitioned the meeting to the next agenda item, introducing a resolution to provide local government support for a grant application submitted by Women in Need of God's Shelter (WINGS) through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). He then recognized Mr. Powell to present the details of the resolution.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-18 TO PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO WINGS (WOMEN IN NEED OF GOD'S SHELTER) FOR A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH DCA

City Manager Powell explained that each year we provide the required local government support to Wings for their grant application for the DCA's Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG). This year Wings is applying for an \$80,000 grant. The

resolution indicates the City supports Wings in their application, but in no way obligates the city to perform in kind or financially under the terms of the grant. DCA requires proof of local government support for their grant. Staff recommend you approve the Resolution to provide this support.

Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-19 TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT TO UTILITY SOLUTIONS OF AMERICA AND TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT FOR THE SAME

City Manager Powell explained that We solicited proposals for our fourth round of water meter replacements from the old manual read meters to radio read meters by Neptune. You have previously approved the purchase of the needed meters for this round of replacements which is 762 meters of varying sizes with the bulk of them (720) being ¾" residential meters. We budgeted \$82,676 for this service and Utility Solutions of America submitted a proposal for the work and is qualified and recommended by the selection committee for a total cost of \$78,600. The work is expected to take approximately 3 months to complete and is only for the cost of labor to install the meters we have previously purchased. This will be paid for out of Account #507-4440-521300 - Water R&E Technical Services.

Mayor Kight inquired with City Manager Powell regarding the ongoing water meter replacement project. Mr. Powell explained that many of the City's existing water meters are outdated and may not be accurately capturing water usage, potentially resulting in lost revenue.

He noted that the new radio-read meters provide more precise data and improved efficiency in collecting usage information compared to older models. Additionally, the upgraded system offers more detailed reporting capabilities.

Mr. Powell further stated that the transition to radio-read meters is expected to reduce the amount of labor required for meter reading over time, although some staff will still be necessary. He added that the city is replacing approximately 10% of its meters annually and, following the current phase, about 20% of the City's roughly 8,000 meters will have been upgraded.

Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-20 TO AMEND THE PERMIT FEES AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FEES FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Mayor Kight introduced Item #9 on the agenda, noting that it was anticipated the Council would consider a motion to table the item. He explained that the item was a resolution proposing a reduction in building permit fees and other associated fees for single-family home construction within the City of Dublin.

He summarized that, following a discussion during pre-council, the current proposal reflected approximately a 50% reduction in single-family home permit fees; however, Council expressed interest in exploring a more substantial reduction to further encourage and stimulate single-family housing development in the city. He noted that staff had been asked to review the matter further and evaluate the extent to which fees could be reduced.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilperson Kolbie to table the item until the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously, (4, 0) and the matter was tabled for consideration at a future meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Johnny Hightower, 105 Hampton Court, East Dublin Georgia 31021

Mr. Hightower, a resident of East Dublin and local music professional, addressed the Council to request consideration of a one-hour extension to the current Saturday alcohol service and closing timeline for establishments. He explained that he has experience booking local entertainment and working with downtown venues and events, and he is interested in helping develop and expand local musical talent within the community.

He stated that the current Saturday closing and last call times limit opportunities for musicians to collaborate, form groups, and participate in informal networking and "open jam" style sessions. He emphasized that such opportunities were important in his own development as a musician and could help foster a stronger local arts scene in Dublin.

Mr. Hightower expressed that his request was specifically for Saturday nights, proposing that establishments remain open approximately one additional hour, with all patrons exiting by 1:00 a.m. He noted the intent would be to create structured opportunities for local artists to connect and collaborate, with the possibility of expanding similar programming to other days in the future.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Treasurer Blake Daniels: No Comment

City Clerk Dorothy Rozier: No comment

City Attorney Duke Groover: No comment

Council Comments

Councilman Bennie Jones

Councilman Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated Ms. Chapman on being named Employee of the Quarter. He also acknowledged the Economic Development Authority presentation. He encouraged the community to remain safe during Resurrection weekend and to reflect on the meaning of the holiday. Additionally, he announced a Mother's Day cabaret event at the theater in Dublin, noting that tickets are available in advance for \$20 and inviting the public to attend and support the event.

Councilman Bill Brown

Councilman Brown congratulated Verlinda Chapman on being named Employee of the Quarter. He thanked representatives from the Dublin-Laurens County Economic Development Authority, including Mitch Griggs, Roger Folsom, and Brooke, for their presentation. He concluded by wishing everyone a happy Easter.

Council person Tess Godfrey

Tess Godfrey thanked the Employee of the Quarter Verlinda Chapman and expressed appreciation to the Development Authority for its presentation. She reminded the public about the Great American Cleanup taking place April 4-11, encouraged community participation and team involvement to help reduce the burden on the city's sanitation department, and noted that residents could contact her or Elaine Berry for more information. She concluded by wishing everyone a happy Easter.

Council person Sara Kolbie

Sara Kolbie expressed appreciation to community members who brought concerns forward and thanked the Economic Development Authority for its ongoing efforts to attract and retain industry and quality jobs in the community. She shared updates on local and upcoming activities, including Holy Week services, downtown events, and the opening of the farmer's market. She also acknowledged the recent visit from Dublin's sister city representatives and YKK's continued expansion, praised improvements at Riverview Golf Course, and thanked the streets and roads department for their work during events such as the Irish Ramble. She closed by recognizing city employees' efforts to keep the community clean and vibrant and wished everyone a happy Easter.

Councilman Brandon Chain

Absent

Councilman Chris Smith

Absent

Councilman Paul Griggs

Absent

City Manager Josh Powell

City Manager Powell announced that City Hall would be closed the following day and happy Easter to everyone.

Mayor Joshua Kight

Mayor Kight publicly recognized and thanked City Manager Powell for his exceptional dedication and responsiveness, noting that he is consistently "always on duty" and readily responds to calls and messages at all hours. He highlighted examples of Powell quickly addressing citizen concerns raised at a City Council meeting—resulting in city action and resolution of a neighborhood nuisance—and promptly responding to a separate

park-related issue that was addressed the following day. The mayor emphasized that Powell handles both small and large matters with urgency and reliability and expressed appreciation for his ongoing commitment and service to the city.

Adjournment

There being no further business; Mayor Kight adjourned the Council meeting at 6:07 p.m.



Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dorothy Rozier, City Clerk