

Dublin City Hall
May 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12:09 p.m.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, Sara Kolbie, Brandon Chain, Chris Smith, and Bill Brown were present. Council member Paul Griggs was absent.

The invocation was given by City Clerk Dorothy Rozier, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gavin Martin of Troop 65 of the Boy's Scouts of America.

Mayor Kight recognized Gavin Martin from Troop 65 of the Boy Scouts of America, who was attending the meeting as part of earning his Citizenship and Community Service Badge. Mayor Kight invited Mr. Martin to come forward and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Mayor Kight thanked Mr. Martin and the Boy Scouts in attendance for participating in the City Council meeting and commended their commitment to community involvement and good citizenship as part of their citizenship program.

The mayor introduced the first item of business, which was the approval of the minutes from the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting. He asked if there were any questions for staff regarding the minutes; none were raised.

APPROVAL OF May 5, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council person Kolbie and seconded by Councilman Smith. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

The Council reviewed the bills over \$15,000, as included in the meeting packet. Mayor Kight called for a motion to approve payment of the bills.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Council person Godfrey. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

Date	Amount	Type	Description
05/13/2026	72,194.00	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
05/13/2026	41,570.81	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
05/13/2026	21,290.16	Bank Draft	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
05/13/2026	16,884.16	Bank Draft	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
05/13/2026	123,524.41	Check	CITY OF DUBLIN-SELF INSURANCE FUND
05/11/2026	41,426.03	Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT
05/10/2026	19,257.00	Bank Draft	EMPLOYEE BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC
05/07/2026	18,433.43	Bank Draft	ONE AMERICA
05/07/2026	49,934.44	Check	VISIT DUBLIN GA
05/07/2026	18,315.00	Check	TEEN CHALLENGE SOUTHEAST REGION - DUBLIN MEN'S
05/07/2026	36,880.00	Check	RYLAND OIL COMPANY
05/07/2026	22,365.50	Check	LAURENS COUNTY LIBRARY
05/07/2026	49,934.44	Check	DUBLIN-LAURENS CO. RECREATION
05/07/2026	866,261.56	Check	DUBLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
05/07/2026	24,967.25	Check	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
05/07/2026	30,000.00	Check	ABS, INC.
05/05/2026	47,101.39	Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT
05/05/2026	17,128.81	Bank Draft	CITY OF DUBLIN-WELLS FARGO CLAIMS ACCOUNT
05/04/2026	51,546.29	Bank Draft	STRATEGIC BENEFIT RESOURCES LLC
05/01/2026	102,493.00	Check	TOTAL EARTH SERVICES LLC
05/01/2026	66,418.41	Check	THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING CO
05/01/2026	108,573.70	Check	REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
05/01/2026	18,000.00	Check	PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE UNITED INC.
05/01/2026	38,419.00	Check	DUBLIN CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
05/01/2026	39,442.46	Check	CSLRA
04/30/2026	168,073.59	Bank Draft	GMEBS-RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
	2,110,434.84		

APPROVAL OF PUCHASES OVER \$15, 000

Earlwood Storm Drain Replacement (Engineering)

City Manager Powell explains that we have inspected the line located near 203 Earlwood Dr after a sinkhole formed in our easement area. You may recall that a few years back a section of this line of pipe was replaced. Now, the section between the previous replacement and the street needs replacing. We requested quotes and Land Care Services was the low quote to replace roughly 185 linear feet of corrugated metal pipe with heavy duty HDP storm pipe. The total is \$32,173.43 and we recommend approving the purchase of these services from them as they were the lowest qualified firm to submit a quote. This quote includes replacement of the pipe, removing trees/underbrush on site, and two loads of topsoil and grass seeds. This was not budgeted particularly but is going to be paid for with '24 SPLOST funds earmarked for stormwater

projects. This will be paid for from Account #322-4250-541425 - Infrastructure - Earlwood Drive Storm Drain Project. Staff recommends you approve the purchase of these services.

A motion was made by Council person Kolbie and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

Mayor Kight then announced the first reading and public hearing of the FY27 Budget. He explained that the budget process differs from the standard ordinance process. Typically, ordinances receive a first reading followed by a public hearing at the second reading; however, because the budget is a public financial document, the City provides additional opportunities for citizen input and transparency. Mayor Kight stated that the proposed budget has been made available for public review and that two public hearings would be held - one during the current meeting and another at the next scheduled meeting - to allow for public input regarding how the City collects and expends funds.

Mayor Kight then recognized Mr. Powell and requested that he proceed with the first reading of the ordinance.

City Manager Powell explained the budget ordinance is comprised of six sections as followed:

Section 1 adopts and incorporates the FY'27 Budget, which is attached in the materials, into the budget ordinance and establishes the fiscal year as being July 1, 2026 through June 30th, 2027.

Section 2 adopts the income figures and appropriates the expenditures or expenses and uses of cash to the departments named in each fund.

Section 3 adopts the updated personnel classification and compensation schedule, which has been updated based on the general wage adjustment provided by the council in the budget and any other adjustments recommended by the Human Resources Office,

Section 4 sets the criteria for the annual retention incentive,

Section 5 adopts the capital improvement plan, and

Section 6 sets an effective date for the ordinance, which, per City Charter, is at noon on the fifth day after adoption, unless vetoed by the mayor.

The expense budget for FY '27 is \$89,101,101.

Total Revenues budget for FY '27 is \$71,284,915. (includes transfers and total service funds)

Fund balance appropriate for FY '27 is \$17,816,186.

The budget includes continued investment in our city parks, traffic calming, other road improvements, facility renovations, utility infrastructure improvements, and a wage adjustment for personnel. The Budget Ordinance and attachments include the

Ordinance, the Budget Worksheet and Budget in Brief showing totals at the department level, the legal level of control, and then the salary schedule for FY'27 and the Capital Improvement Plan. We also include in your materials, although not a part of the budget ordinance, a detailed by account summary. We are making this first reading in conjunction with an initial public hearing to remain compliant with state law on adoption of the budget. This is the first reading of the ordinance; we need to have a public hearing with it. We will also need to have a second reading and additional public hearing on Thursday, June 4th at 5:30pm.

Mayor Kight closed the regular City Council meeting and opened the public hearing for the proposed FY27 budget ordinance. He stated that the public hearing provided an opportunity for citizens to make comments or provide feedback regarding the proposed budget.

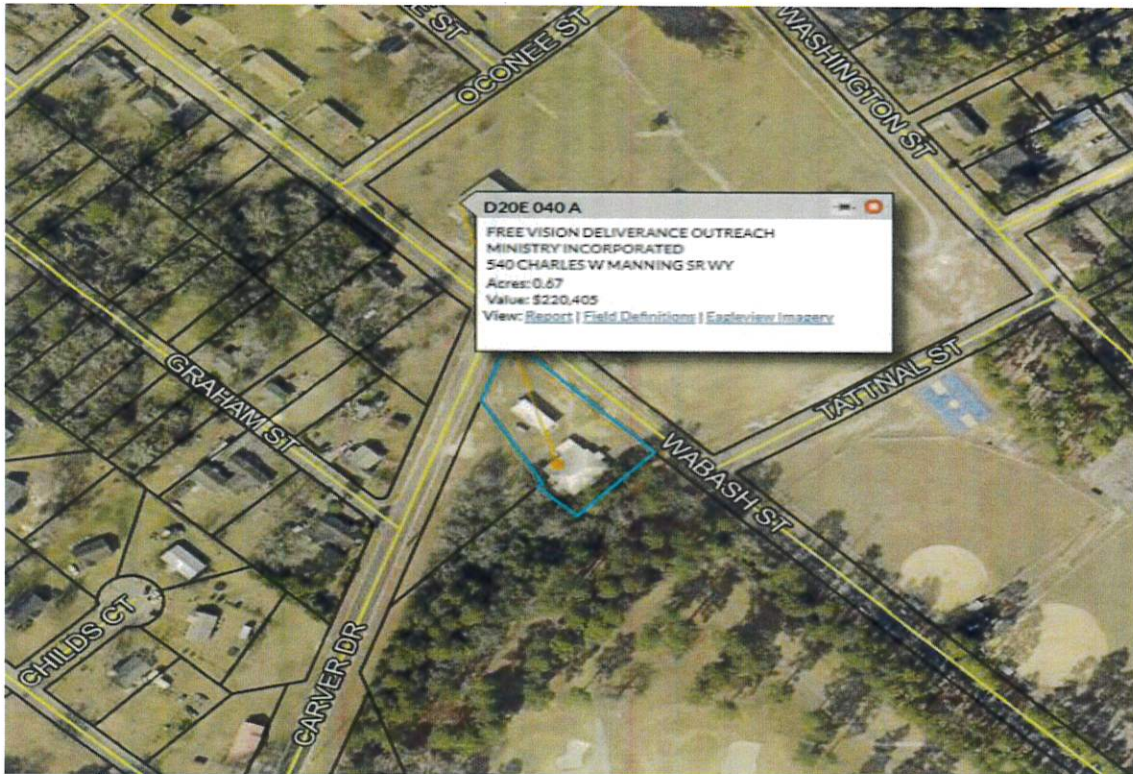
Mayor Kight asked if anyone wished to come forward to speak regarding the budget. No comments were made by the public.

With no public comments received, Mayor Kight closed the public hearing. He informed those present that the next City Council meeting would be held as an evening meeting on June 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. He explained that the city schedules one lunchtime meeting and one evening meeting each month in order to provide greater opportunities for citizens to attend and participate in Council meetings.

Mayor Kight also announced that the second reading of the budget ordinance and a second public hearing on the proposed budget would be held at the June 4, 2026 meeting.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE #26-04 TO REZONE D20E 040A FROM R-1 (Single Family Residential) TO R-2 (Single Family Residential)

City Manager explained that this property is located directly across from the Oconee Gymnasium and the purpose of the rezoning is to allow for after school and daycare activities. The applicant is Mary Austin and she has indicated her primary focus is children ages 5-13. The property owner is Free Vision Deliverance Outreach Ministry. The property is currently zoned R-1, which does not allow childcare facilities. There is a detailed staff report in your materials that we encourage you to review. The Planning Commission has reviewed this request and recommends that the council approve it. See below image.



Mayor Kight stated that the property subject to the rezoning request was located at the corner of Wabash Street and Carver Street, across from the Oconee Gym. He noted that the property owner was Free Vision Deliverance Outreach Ministry. Mayor Kight also stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Mayor Kight closed the regular City Council meeting and opened the public hearing on the proposed rezoning ordinance. He invited anyone wishing to speak for or against the rezoning, particularly residents in the surrounding area who may be affected, to come forward and address the Council.

No one came forward to speak regarding the matter. Mayor Kight then closed the public hearing and returned the matter to Council for consideration.

A motion to approve the rezoning request was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Council person Godfrey. Mayor Kight called for discussion, and no discussion was offered.

Because the matter involved a rezoning, Mayor Kight requested that Ms. Rozier conduct a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Councilman Bill Brown voted, Yes

Councilman Bennie Jones voted, Yes

Council person Tess Godfrey votes, Yes

Council person Sara Kolbie voted, Yes

Councilman Chris Smith voted, Yes

Councilman Brandon Chain voted, Yes

Mayor Kight invited Council person Sara Kolbie to share information on childcare credit. She shared information regarding state and federal childcare tax credit opportunities available to employers who help cover licensed childcare costs for employees, including daycare and after-school programs. He explained that employers may receive tax credits for contributions made directly to childcare providers on behalf of employees.

Mayor Kight noted that several local employers, including Fairview Park Hospital and Morris Bank, participate in similar programs. He encouraged employers and employees to speak with tax professionals about the available childcare tax credit opportunities and stated that the program benefits employers, employees, and childcare providers alike.

Mayor Kight introduced Item Number Six, an ordinance to amend the subdivision and variance fees ordinance to allow such fees to be established by resolution.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE #26-06 TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE FOR SUBDIVISION AND VARIANCE FEES BY RESOLUTIONS

City Manager Powel explained, as you know, we removed all of the fees from within our ordinances and compiled them all into a fee schedule. When we have been reviewing the authorization of language fees, we did not find any that would cover variance application fees or subdivision plan review fees. Therefore, we have drafted the proposed ordinance which will add this language to the respective locations in our code for those provisions.

Mayor Kight explained that the proposed ordinance amendment was primarily a technical change intended to place subdivision and variance fees within the section of the Code where other City fees are located for improved transparency and easier public access.

Mayor Kight then closed the regular City Council meeting and opened a public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed ordinance amendment. He invited anyone wishing to comment on the matter to come forward. No comments were made by the public.

Mayor Kight closed the public hearing and returned the matter to Council for consideration. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Council person Kolbie. With no discussion offered, Mayor Kight requested that the City Clerk Dorothy Rozier conduct a roll call vote on the ordinance.

Councilman Bill Brown voted, Yes

Councilman Bennie Jones voted, Yes

Council person Tess Godfrey votes, Yes

Council person Sara Kolbie voted, Yes

Councilman Chris Smith voted, Yes

Councilman Brandon Chain voted, Yes

Mayor Kight then moved to Item Number Seven, a resolution to authorize a contract for wastewater treatment services.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-22 TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH ABS, INC. FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICES

City Manager Powell explains that we've utilized ABS, Inc. (Advanced Biofermentation Services) for the biological products that are utilized in our wastewater treatment processes for a number of years now. These are, without being too graphic, the live bugs that eat the solids out of the wastewater during treatment. This reduces the number of solids that have to be hauled to the landfill and also makes the treatment process easier. They have had great success, and we find their product beneficial for our plant overall. The monthly cost is \$15,500, which is \$186,000 per year. This is a 12-month contract that will begin on July 1st and we are negotiating the final terms now. The contract also contemplates them utilizing a building located at the wastewater treatment plant, which we receive credit for in the agreement. The resolution in your materials will authorize the city manager to approve an agreement for the mayor to execute. We are budgeting for this purchase in the FY'27 budget request. The total annual amount we will budget for this is \$186,000 in the Technical Services account, which is where this is paid. Account #505-4335-521300.

Mayor Kight invited comments or questions regarding the proposed resolution for wastewater treatment services.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Council person Kolbie. Mayor Kight opened the floor for discussion on the motion. Council person Kolbie noted that the contract was necessary to ensure the City remains in compliance with applicable rules, regulations, and standards related to wastewater treatment and water quality requirements for discharge into the river.

With no further discussion, Mayor Kight called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously (6, 0)

Mayor Kight introduced Item Number Eight, a discussion on a resolution for an agreement with State Broadcasting Corporation for advertising.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-28 AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH STATE BROADCASTING CORPORATION FOR ADVERTISING

City Manager explained that in our continued efforts to keep the public informed of our activities and issues critical for their information; we present to you a contract with State Broadcasting for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2026-June 2027) for advertising segments that include, "Shamrock Moments", ads

for Dublin Natural Gas and Riverview Golf Course, and other miscellaneous messaging that may be necessary throughout the year. There are four stations involved in this contract, and all are local stations (WQZY [Y-96]; WDBN [107.9]; WQIL [101.3]; WMCG [104.9]). These thirty-second clips will run throughout the day during the times provided on the State Broadcasting Sales Order Form shown below. The total annual cost is \$16,000 and we have money budgeted for this purpose in the proposed FY'27 Budget. Staff recommend you approve the resolution to authorize the contract with State Broadcasting for this service.

A motion was made by Councilman Chain and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

Mayor Kight introduced Item Number Nine, a discussion on a resolution for an application for the Georgia Historical Society Marker Review for Emery Thomas Auditorium.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-29 TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MARKER REVIEW FOR EMERY THOMAS AUDITORIUM

City Manager explained that we are working on the application for a State of Georgia historical marker to be placed at the Emery Thomas Auditorium to document the historic significance of the facility. To apply, the city must commit to providing the funding and allow for the space for a marker to be placed on an easement at the site. This easement will be recorded in the records of the property clerk. Staff recommends you approve the resolution to authorize us to apply for the marker.

Council person Sara Kolbie discussed the item, noting potential benefits for community visibility, increased tourism, and improved access to information about local historical markers and significant sites. Members also referenced how the agreement could help promote awareness of recently renovated community locations and support both visitors and residents in learning more about local history.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Council person Godfrey. With no further discussion, Mayor Kight called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously (6.0)

Mayor Kight introduced Item Number Ten, a discussion on a resolution to adopt the SS4A (Safety Action Plan)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #26-30 TO ADOPT THE SS4A (SAFE STREETS FOR ALL) SAFETY ACTION PLAN

After months of work and community outreach and staff time, we have a proposed initial Safety Action Plan that has been developed by the Foresite Group ready for adoption by the council. The plan outlines the safety issues specific to roadways in our community and has a lot of statistical data for your (and the public) review. The plan also includes recommended measures we can take going forward to improve the

safety for our citizens and visitors. These include policy and ordinance changes, construction of safety measures through things like traffic calming measures, and marketing campaigns to encourage safe driving by everyone. We will take this plan and use it to apply for implementation funding as early as the week after adoption as the timing of this has worked out nicely for that with a notice of funding opportunity being advertised now. Staff recommend you approve the Resolution to adopt the plan.

Councilperson Kolbie highlighted findings from a traffic safety study, noting that a significant number of high-injury and fatal crashes were angle crashes, which roundabouts are designed to reduce. She emphasized the importance of expanding roundabouts in the community to help improve roadway safety.

She also pointed out that over one-third of serious crashes involved young drivers and stressed the importance of driver education, parental involvement, and ensuring proper training, especially for those who obtained licenses during the COVID-19 period. Additionally, she noted that distracted driving remains a major contributing factor in crashes.

Councilperson Kolbie further referenced concerns about DOT truck routes and expressed hope that future traffic patterns would divert large commercial vehicles away from pedestrian-heavy areas such as downtown.

Mr. Powell explained that Claxton Dairy Road was chosen as the first project because it is a city street and not a state route, making it more eligible for federal funding. He noted that other corridors are state-maintained and may qualify for GDOT funding or improvements separately, so starting with Claxton Dairy Road allows the city to move forward efficiently with available funding.

A motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Council person Godfrey. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

Mayor Kight introduced Item Number Eleven, a discussion on a resolution for the declaration of Surplus.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DECLARATION OF SURPLUS

City Manager explained that the following vehicles, equipment, and items are being submitted to Mayor and Council for the surplus declaration:

1. Unit #702 2010 Dodge Dakota (Meter Reader)

VIN#: 1D7RW3BK8AS233786

2. Lot of Cargo Pallets (Police)
3. Lot of Shipping Containers (Police)

The cost of repair and maintenance on these items outweighs their value. Upon declaration, items will be sold on GovDeals or sold for scraps.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Kight noted that the City Council appoints four members to the Laurens County Library Board in recognition of the City of Dublin's annual contribution to the library and its central role in the community.

He stated that the terms of Pam McCarn and Marie Hooks were expiring and recommended their reappointment to the board.

A motion to approve the reappointments was made by Council person Kolbie and seconded by Councilperson Godfrey. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously, (6,0)

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none

STAFF COMMENTS

City Treasurer Blake Daniels: No Comment

City Clerk Dorothy Rozier: No Comment

City Attorney Duke Groover: Absent

Substitute Attorney Chris Gordon: No Comment

Council Comments

Councilman Brandon Chain

No comments

Councilman Chris Smith: Thanked everyone for being here and enjoy your weekend.

Council person Sara Kolbie

Councilmember Sara Kolbie congratulated organizers and volunteers for the success of the Wheels and Wings event and encouraged community members to get involved in local volunteer opportunities, highlighting organizations such as Kids Cup This and its children's closet program.

She also praised the Crawfish Festival for its strong attendance and positive impact, noting that events like these help showcase the community, bring in visitors, and generate additional revenue. She commended the DDA, Visit Dublin, and all involved in the successful events.

Council person Tess Godfrey

Councilmember Tess Godfrey thanked attendees for coming and expressed appreciation for Renia Cook, recognizing her hard work and dedication during the recent weekend event.

She also encouraged the community to stay safe during the Memorial Day weekend, urging residents to slow down, avoid violence, and "put the guns down" while still enjoying the holiday responsibly.

Additionally, she highlighted a local art initiative, thanking their brother-in-law, Troy Anthony, for displaying artwork in downtown Dublin with the support of community members including Buffy Walker, Moses Ocosta, and Eugene Smith. They noted the importance of public art and appreciated the opportunity to showcase it in the community.

Councilman Bennie Jones

Councilman Bennie Jones encouraged residents to attend upcoming community events, including a June 6 comedy show in Dublin and the Southside Reunion, highlighting opportunities for family-friendly activities and community engagement. He also reminded everyone to keep families in mind during Memorial Day weekend and took time to honor and remember those who gave their lives in service. He encouraged the community to reflect during the holiday while also staying safe, enjoying time together, and participating in positive local events.

Councilman Bill Brown

Councilman Bill Brown echoed previous comments and encouraged everyone to have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Councilman Paul Griggs

Absent

City Manager Josh Powell

Josh Powell announced that a movie night will be held at Pritchett Street Park on Friday, May 22 at 5:30 p.m. as part of the City's efforts to activate and promote recently renovated parks. He encouraged families to attend, noting that concessions will be provided, and a Disney movie will be shown.

He also expressed condolences regarding a recent fatal vehicle accident in front of City Hall, extending thoughts and prayers to the victim's family and all those affected. He commended City staff, first responders, police, fire, and community members for their quick response and assistance at the scene.

Powell further noted that the Southside community event has been permitted at the Oconee Gym and Roscoe Brower field for its 10-year celebration and encouraged the public to attend. He concluded by highlighting a positive moment from the previous day involving the raising of the flag at City Hall and thanked the Fire Department for helping make it possible.

Mayor Joshua Kight

Mayor Joshua Kight stated that the city recently held a proclamation recognizing Dublin's participation in America's 250th anniversary celebration, commemorating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. He noted that the celebration officially began with the proclamation ahead of Memorial Day and will continue through at least July, culminating on Independence Day on July 4th.


He highlighted the display of the American flag at City Hall as a symbol of patriotism and community pride, emphasizing values such as liberty, opportunity, the pursuit of happiness, and self-governance. Mayor Kight thanked City staff and the Fire Department for their efforts in installing the flag display.

He also recognized Visit Dublin and Renia Cook for installing a selfie station in front of City Hall, allowing residents and visitors to take photographs with the flag as part of the celebration. Mayor Kight concluded by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable weekend.

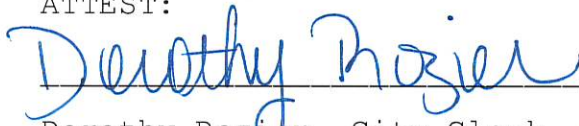
With no further business, the mayor adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Kight adjourned the Council meeting at 12:44 p.m.



Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dorothy Rozier, City Clerk

