

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 04, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Craig Guyton called the meeting to order, the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present: Mayor Craig Guyton, Council Members Joe Turner, Tim Abbott, Greg Free, and Jayson Frederick, City Manager James Stephens, and Community & Economic Development Director Katie Gobbi.

Betty Jane Tilley wife of the late Joe Tilley and a resident of the city of Euharlee, said thank you from the Tilley family to the Mayor and City Council for the donation to start the Joe Tilley Scholarship in honor of her husband through the Etowah Foundation. He would be pleased to help students go to college or to a technical school. She also thanked the city staff, and Euharlee Police and Fire Department for their services to the family. There is no other place better to live than Euharlee.

Public Comments - Agenda Items Only

There were no public comments for agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Greg Free motioned to approve the minutes from the City Council Meeting, February 04, 2025 and City Council Work Session, February 18, 2025. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & NEW BUSINESS

Health Insurance Renewal - Parnick Jennings

Parnick Jennings, representative for NFP insurance agency presented the annual health insurance renewal options for city employees. He explained that Anthem, the current provider, proposed a 29.5% increase. United Healthcare offered three plan options with varying levels of coverage and costs. After discussion, the council agreed to select the third option presented which offers the most comprehensive coverage for employees. Council Member Jayson Frederick motioned to approve the United Healthcare plan option \$2,500/\$70/\$5,000 DY8W Plan. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance No. 2025-03 - Golf Cart Ordinance - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-03 regarding golf cart usage within city limits. After much discussion and research, the ordinance had been vetted by the city attorney and complies with state code. The police chief and the city manager is comfortable with the ordinance and the adoption. Council Member Greg Free motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-03 regulating golf cart usage within city limits. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Advocates for Children – CASA Funding - Chief Jody Matthews

Jody Matthews, Euharlee Police Chief presented a funding request from Advocates for Children for their CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program that was previously discussed in the work session. The organization requested \$5,000 to help offset a deficit in federal funding. After discussion about the organization's budget and the city's ability to contribute, the council agreed to provide the requested funding as a one-time donation.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to approve a one-time donation of \$5,000 to Advocates for Children for their CASA program. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lease Agreement - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented a lease agreement for 110 Covered Bridge Road. The agreement incorporates the council's position on pricing and regulation of open hours and has been vetted by the city attorney for the process and the wording of the document. Mr. Stephens recommended for adoption. After discussion, the council agreed to move forward with the lease between Nicko's Pizza and the City of Euharlee. Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adopt the lease agreement for 110 Covered Bridge Road as written. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Project Manager Update - John Winnenberg

John Winnenberg, Project Manager provided updates on ongoing city projects:

- Osborne Park construction is progressing with increased resources on site.
- Army Corp of Engineers approval is expected by the end of March.
- Sewer tie-in for three buildings in the downtown area is near completion.
- Presented a preliminary estimate of \$50,000-\$60,000 for connecting the History Center to the sewer line.

Public Comments

Resident Ron Hartman, asked for clarification on the status of the Etowah Bend rezoning issue, (still open), the monthly rental amount for the newly approved lease, (\$2,400), the speed limits for ATVs and UTVs in residential areas, (25 mph) and the budget for the amphitheater sound system RFP and technical support (capital item to be funded from SPLOST).

Chief Matthews stated the police department normally presents the Officer of the Quarter at the council meetings, but it was presented at the department's awards banquet. The Officer for the 4th Quarter was Lieutenant Flowers, and Officer of the Year for 2024 was Deputy Chief Yeager.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate matters at 8:20 pm. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The council returned from Executive Session at 8:58 pm. Mayor Craig Guyton stated there were no votes or actions taken during the Executive Session and to his knowledge, there was nothing else to be discussed or any votes or actions to be taken in public.

Adjournment

Council Member Greg Free motioned to adjourn. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.