

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

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

The following were present: Mayor Craig Guyton, Council Members Tim Abbott, and Jayson Frederick, City Manager James Stephens, and Community & Economic Development Director Katie Gobbi. Council Members Greg Free and Joe Turner were not present.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

US House of Representative Candidate Introduction – Mayor Craig Guyton

John Cowan, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, was given time to introduce himself to citizens. He spoke about his background as a neurosurgeon who grew up on a cattle farm in Bartow County, Euharlee, GA, and his commitment to serve with integrity.

DDA Board Update – DDA Board Members

DDA Chairman Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Kimberly, and Mr. Tyree presented updates on three main items: Summer Kickoff Festival - "Carnival by the Creek" scheduled for May 30th, designed as a free event for children with activities like bouncy houses, chalk areas, and talent shows. The DDA is willing to invest up to \$8,000 if needed but hopes to cover costs through vendor fees.

Winter Festival - Long-term planning for an outdoor skating rink and parade in conjunction with Festival of Trees to bring more visitors during the off-season.

Granary and Library Recommendations - The DDA recommended tearing down the granary to create open lots for new businesses. They recommended keeping the library operational for now, noting the city's growth and potential for increased programming.

Discussion ensued about the historical significance of these buildings and the challenges of making decisions about aging infrastructure while respecting the city's heritage.

The DDA also reported that their T-Mobile grant application was not approved but they plan to reapply with refined focus on lighting improvements. It was shared Food Truck Friday is scheduled to begin May 8th. The strategic plan will be shared with the city council for review prior to presenting at a meeting.

2026 Fines and Fees – Katie Gobbi

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director, presented the comprehensive 16 to 17-page schedule of fines and fees, explaining this would now be reviewed annually as part of the codification process. Council Member Jayson Frederick raised concerns about several items:

- The \$5,000 distilled spirits package license fee seems excessive compared to criminal fines.
- Shoplifting fines structure and thresholds.
- BB gun discharge prohibition in city limits.
- Fine for refusal to sign a citation.
- Crossing Covered Bridge Road with alcohol restrictions.

Discussion focused on balancing support for small businesses with appropriate regulatory oversight. The distilled spirits license fee was noted to be in line with neighboring cities but creates a significant burden for businesses with low profit margins.

Food Truck Policy – Katie Gobbi

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director presented the food truck policy for city-owned properties, primarily Osborne Park, with operating hours from 7 am to 10 pm and quarterly scheduling. Key discussion points included:

- Limiting vendors to food trucks and trailers due to health department inspection requirements.
- Exception for local Euharlee restaurants.

- Limiting to 1-3 vendors despite having 5 electrical pedestals available.
- Concerns about liability and health inspections for non-truck vendors.
- Balancing support for food trucks with protection of existing restaurants.

Council Member Tim Abbott advocated for more flexibility to include vendors like Italian ice carts that are not traditional food trucks but provide legitimate services. He also mentioned proof of liability certificate of insurance.

Manager's Report - James Stephens

City Manager James Stephens reported favorable financial results through January 31, 2026.

- General fund revenue variance: \$121,121- Favorable
- Expenditure variance: \$23,434 - Favorable
- Fund balance variance: \$(144,555) – Favorable
- Budget is not equal throughout the year with expenditures and revenue, but off to a good start.
- Cash on hand: \$597,410
- SPLOST balance: \$641,802- \$500,000 committed for grant matching.
- Monthly SPLOST revenue 2026: \$140,220
- Campground profit for January: \$4,500

Public Comments

Euharlee resident Ron Hartman asked about the DDA master plan status and expressed strong opposition to demolishing the granary, citing its historic significance. He suggested the Historic Preservation Commission should review any demolition proposal and recommended converting the library to a civic service center while using the granary as a partial museum.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned for an 8-minute recess before the City Council meeting at 7:15pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Craig Guyton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Public Comments – Agenda Items Only

No public comments were made regarding agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Jayson Frederick motioned to approve the minutes as written for the Work Session and City Council Meeting for February 3, 2026. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition - GAM Emerging Museum Professional Award Recipient – Katie Gobbi

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director presented and recognized Dana Rieske, Welcome Center and History Museum Manager, who received the 2026 Emerging Museum Professional Award from the Georgia Association of Museums. The presentation highlighted Dana's contributions over 2+ years of employment and 5-6 years as a volunteer, including revitalizing exhibits, expanding the gift shop, creating a year-round farmers market, and securing grant funding for a traveling art exhibition. This achievement not only elevated the museum but also brought state-level and statewide recognition to our city. Ms. Rieske’s work is deeply rooted in collaboration, creativity, and commitment to the community.

She has a natural ability to bring people together, and her passion inspires both colleagues and community members. Her leadership and initiative have strengthened our cultural programming and enhanced our museum in ways that it benefits the entire community. Her dedication and vision allow us to reach new heights and continue to accomplish even greater things in the years to come with the city of Euharlee. The Historical Society volunteers Patty Ward and Jeannie Certain submitted the nomination.

2026 Fines and Fees – Katie Gobbi

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director, recommended approval for the 2026 fines and fees as presented, stating the fines and fees will be reviewed annually, and can be altered as needed throughout the year. Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to pass the 2026 fines and fees as presented. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Food Truck Policy

The city council continued the discussion about the language clarifications regarding vendor requirements, the 1-3 vendor limitation despite having 5 available spaces, and concerns were raised about the protection of existing brick-and-mortar restaurants while providing flexibility for legitimate food vendors.

Council Member Jayson Frederick moved to table the food truck policy until further discussion. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Tim Abbott requested that the city manager note the need to revisit the alcohol crossing ordinance and consider installing a safe crossing with flashers similar to Cartersville's system.

Adjournment

Council Member Jayson Frederick motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.