

**CITY OF EUHARLEE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 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, Greg Free, Jayson Frederick, City Manager James Stephens, and Community & Economic Development Director Katie Gobbi. Council Member Joe Turner was not present.

**UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Amendment to Agenda**

Council Member Greg Free motioned to amend the agenda to add the first reading of Ordinance 2026-06 Distilled Package Fee. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Presbyterian Church Use for Cartersville West Church – David Thornton**

David Thornton, a longtime Bartow County resident and former pastor of Euharlee Baptist Church, requested to rent the Presbyterian Church for his new church plant, Cartersville West Church, for 17 Sundays from September through December 2026. Mr. Thornton explained that he had coordinated with Pastor Billy Jones, the current pastor at Euharlee Baptist, and both agreed to the arrangement ensuring the new church would not negatively impact the existing one. He asked the city to consider reducing the standard \$375 Sunday rental rate to the two-day rate of \$250 due to limited resources.

City Manager James Stephens noted that the building has very few rentals, the revenue impact would be minimal, and staff preparation involves only about two hours of cleaning. He also explained that the two-day rate is lower because staff prepares the building once for consecutive-day rentals rather than twice. Council discussed the three pricing options: \$6,375 at standard rate, \$4,250 at the two-day rate, or approximately \$2,125 monthly rate, and the possibility of allowing equipment to remain in the building with a liability waiver. Mr. Thornton expressed gratitude and said the church would be cleaned weekly and vacate for other events. The council tabled the item for action at the upcoming meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 2026-04 Adopting and Enacting A New Code – Katie Gobbi**

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director, presented the first reading of Ordinance 2026-04, which adopts and enacts a new official code for the City of Euharlee, repeals ordinances not included in the codification, and establishes penalties and amendment procedures. She explained that the city has spent the past year compiling all general and permanent ordinances into a unified code, which will become available both in printed form and online through MuniCode after the second reading.

During discussion, Council Member Tim Abbott asked whether the ordinances were new or simply codified; Ms. Gobbi clarified that they were existing ordinances reviewed for alignment with state law, with no substantive policy changes. She also explained that including certain offenses—such as resisting an officer or underage alcohol possession—allows them to be handled in municipal court rather than state court. After a brief discussion, Council Member Abbott expressed concern about potential overreach, while Council Member Jayson Frederick emphasized that the ordinance simply formalizes the codification of existing laws, with any future changes to be made through later amendments. The second reading is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 2026-05 To Add Offenses Relating To Public Safety and Order - Katie Gobbi**

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director presented the first reading of Ordinance 2026-05, which readopts several public safety and order ordinances that were missing or outdated during the city's codification process. She explained that most ordinances date back to the 1970s and 1980s and were updated only for language, not substance, with one minor exception. Having these offenses as local ordinances allows cases to be handled in municipal court, giving officers more discretion and keeping fines within the city. Deputy Chief Yeager and Lieutenant Flowers assisted in addressing questions about curfew

rules for minors, disorderly conduct related to fighting, and “fighting words” that disturb the peace. They clarified that the curfew is standard practice, the ordinance targets mutual combat rather than self-defense, and verbal provocation laws mirror state standards. Lieutenant Flowers emphasized that local ordinances allow officers to issue citations instead of making arrests for state-level charges, especially helpful in juvenile cases. The second reading is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 2026-06 Distilled Package Fee - Katie Gobbi**

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director presented the first reading of Ordinance 2026-06, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Euharlee to establish the distilled spirits license package fee as referenced in Code Section 4-89-1-A-10, to provide for initial license fee and renewal fee. Ms. Gobbi explained that this matter was voted on at the previous meeting, but according to the city's alcohol ordinance, changing this fee requires an actual ordinance adoption. The ordinance establishes the initial distilled spirit package license at \$5,000, and any annual renewal at \$2,500. The second reading is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

**Police Department AXON Fleet Renewal Package – Deputy Chief Clifton Yeager**

Deputy Chief Yeager presented the renewal of the AXON contract for fleet cameras and body-worn cameras. Both technologies are already in place in Euharlee and are up for renewal. AXON offered a 10-year contract that locks in pricing, providing budget certainty. The contract covers all existing equipment with no additional equipment requested: 13 body cameras and 13 fleet vehicle cameras. One benefit is the FUSIS program (formerly called Respond), which allows supervisors to view officers' body camera and vehicle camera feeds in real time. This tool enables supervisors to monitor situations remotely, provide backup when needed, and assist when radio communications may be compromised or unsafe for the officer. The 10-year contract provides savings of just under \$102,000 over the 10-year period compared to shorter-term contracts. The annual pricing is \$50,742.33 for the first year in June 2026. The overall cost for the 10-year package is \$508,323.03.

Council Member Jayson Frederick asked about the nature of the relationship with AXON. Deputy Chief Yeager explained that the city owns the equipment. AXON provides the Technology Assurance Program (TAP), which completely replaces all equipment with the most up-to-date models every 2.5 years. Officers never use equipment older than 2.5 years. AXON also provides warranty with no-questions-asked replacement, cloud storage for video data, and technical support. AXON replaces it immediately at no additional charge. City Manager James Stephens noted the original quote was \$68,000 per year, but the chief and his staff negotiated it down to the current amount of \$50,742.33. The contract will be funded through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Mr. Stephens noted that when the city initially purchased body cameras, they were funded through SPLOST, and he recommends continuing that practice. The first year could be taken from the Blue Line fund if needed.

Council Member Greg Free asked about recent legislative changes potentially affecting Blue Line funds and whether those funds could still be used for this purchase if needed. Mr. Stephens confirmed the purchase would be compliant with either fund.

No further questions were raised.

**Euharlee Library Funding & Community Survey - Katie Gobbi**

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director, presented the results of the community survey regarding the future of Emmy Nelson Library. The survey received 441 total responses. The question "Which option do you believe best serves the community?" received the following responses:

Total respondents (441):

- Keep the library operating as it is today: 299 votes (68.26%)
- Hybrid model (maintain smaller library presence but add additional community services): 81 votes (18.49%)

Euharlee residents only (264 respondents, with 2 skipping this question):

- Keep the library operating as it is today: 165 votes (62.98%, rounded to 63%)
- Hybrid model: 56 votes (21.37%)

Ms. Gobbi noted that both sample sizes are statistically appropriate for the community.

Council discussion included:

- Regarding library usage, out of 262 respondents: 69 visits monthly, 56 visits weekly.
- Supports keeping the library open but believes the city must reconsider how it is used.
- Noted the city pays \$88,000 annually while only 69 monthly and 56 weekly visitors use the library.
- Emphasized evaluating how city assets meet community needs.
- Pointed out that although 63% of survey respondents want the library to remain as is, the survey only reflects 264 responses out of ~5,000 residents.
- Questioned whether the nearly \$100,000 annual cost is justified when only \$750 is spent on programming.
- Stressed the need to improve services rather than maintain the status quo.
- Agreed the cost is difficult to justify given low usage but does not want the library to close.
- Questioned why Euharlee's funding is dispersed across the county library system.
- Suggested exploring whether 100% of Euharlee's contribution could remain in the Euharlee branch.
- Emphasized honoring survey-identified program needs by keeping funding local.
- Survey results show residents want youth programs, senior programs, wellness programs, educational support, and meeting spaces.

City Manager James Stephens will contact the library board director to request placement on the agenda; the board needs a decision by June 30.

Mayor Craig Guyton stated he intends to offer the library an intern, with the city providing the intern and covering liability, and suggested this could be a condition for continuing current funding. Council Member Tim Abbott proposed testing changes by shifting hours—closing Mondays and opening Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00 pm to better serve families and suggested using an intern to run Saturday programs during peak seasons. He noted that if the trial proved unsuccessful, Saturday hours could be discontinued. He emphasized improving services for citizens and building a foundation future councils can strengthen, starting to enhance the library rather than being seen as someone who shut it down.

### Public Comments

Ann Walker, Euharlee resident, addressed the council. She stated that when she left the library board, the total cost to run the Euharlee Library was \$110,000. The city's \$88,000 contribution stayed in Euharlee by going into the county budget but being spent entirely on the Euharlee Library even though it went in the county bucket first. Ms. Walker confirmed that the library board previously declined the city's offer to provide an intern to run programs through the library building. She suggested sharing the information with the library director, stated that there was little visitation to the library during the fall festival and also requested signage.

Jerry Bell, Euharlee resident, addressed the council regarding potholes on the road going east across the river bridge. Mayor Guyton acknowledged the issue and stated it has already been discussed with the appropriate road and bridge authorities.

Marshall Aiken, Euharlee resident, addressed the council with two items: Regarding Ordinance 2026-05, he questioned the provision requiring people to stay 30 yards away when an officer is making an arrest especially when people are recording with video cameras. He asked whether this is state law or the city's preference. Council Member Jayson Frederick clarified that the ordinance language states individuals must maintain distance "after being warned by him or her not to do so." The requirement only applies after a warning is given. It was confirmed this matches state law. Mr. Aiken suggested that the granary building, which the Downtown Development Authority has discussed, possibly eliminating due to lack of use and reconstruction costs, could be used to store the temporary flooring system being considered for the covered bridge. This would provide storage for event equipment without requiring rental of off-site storage space or construction of a new warehouse.

### Adjournment

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 07, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Craig Guyton called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Comments – Agenda Items Only**

No public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Greg Free motioned to approved minutes for March 17, 2026, as written. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Presbyterian Church Use for Cartersville West Church – David Thorton**

Council Member Greg Free made motion to offer the Presbyterian Church rental at the reduced rate of \$250 per Sunday for 17 Sundays, totaling \$4,250. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution to Support T-Mobile Grant – Katie Gobbi**

Katie Gobbi, Community & Economic Development Director presented a resolution to support the T-Mobile Hometown Grant for the city and Downtown Development Authority. This is the city's second application and is believed to be the final cycle for this grant. The city was not awarded the grant for the first cycle. A similar resolution has also been presented to the county commissioners for their support. The grant request is for \$48,900 for lighting at the covered bridge and bench swings.

Council Member Jayson Frederick noted this application is more focused than the previous application, which was cited as a reason for the initial denial. The grant zeroes in on exactly what the funds will be used for, which he believes improves the chances of approval.

Council Member Greg Free made motion to adopt the resolution to support the T-Mobile grant. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Police Department AXON Fleet Renewal Package – Deputy Chief Clifton Yeager**

Council Member Greg Free made motion to accept the AXON fleet renewal package at \$50,742 per year for a 10-year contract. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session - Litigation**

Council Member Greg Free made motion to go into executive session for the purpose of litigation. Council Member Jayson Frederick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The council entered executive session at approximately 7:19 PM. The council returned from the executive session at 8:30 pm. There were no votes, no actions and no further discussion is needed at that meeting.

**Adjournment**

Council Member Jayson Frederick made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.