

City of Plains

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19, 2026

Location: Plains City Hall – Council Chamber

I. Call to Order

Mayor Joey Recker called the regular meeting of the Plains City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

- **Invocation:** Councilor Eugene Edge
 - **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Joey Recker
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II. Roll Call

City Clerk Cindy Bagwell conducted roll call.

Present:

- Mayor Joey Recker
 - Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Harris
 - Councilor Eugene Edge
 - Councilor Amy Wise
 - Councilor Andrea Oates
 - Councilor Terry Westbury
 - Councilor A B Jackson
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III. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the February 19, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. All approved (6-0). Motion carried.

IV. Briefing from Sumter EMC Representative: Carla Penny

Ms Penny wanted to let us know what is available to us through Sumter EMC.

- \$5000 Foundation Grant – cities may apply annually

- Free design/marketing services via ChooseGeorgia.org: graphic design, drone footage, demographic report, GIS/interactive maps. 3D modeling
- Youth leadership programs information included in packet. Design work free; printing/publishing costs responsibility of city
- Grants and services aimed at community/economic development

V. Brief Committee Reports

Public Safety (Councilors Westbury & Edge)

- Chief Johnson presented his report; 3 Alarms, 4 Traffic Citations; 9 Traffic Warnings; 7 Agency Assist; 2 Welfare Checks; 1 Motorist Assist; 2 Miscellaneous
- Emphasis on community patrol and engagement
- Reminder to public about spring-break safety (lock cars, etc)
- New patrol vehicle functioning well; radar wiring damaged (repair estimate much lower than new radar)
- No further report from Councilor Edge.

Subdivision & Streets (Councilors Edge & Wise)

- Bushes need to be cut at the Alford Building
- 2 STOP signs need to be put up

Water & Sewerage (Councilors Oates & Westbury)

- Main well motor/pump failure; only small well available temporarily, producing sand/mud in distribution
- Large well pumps greater than 400 gpm; small well approximately 70 gpm- demonstrates large capacity gap
- Tower depth pressure fact: each foot of water tower depth is approximately 3 psi; low level reduced pressure to approximately 30 psi (normally 65-70 psi). Low pressure affects firefighting and allows sediment intrusion
- Hydrant flusing performed; sediment settling/ stir-up causes temporary discoloration
- Recommendation; pursue grant funding for a second/backup well (Justification: public safety, reliability, ability to rotate wells for maintenance)
- Distinction Clarified: water tests that failed were from the well fill process only; those waters were not introduced into the distribution/tower until test was passed
- Daily water testing and EPD compliance confirmed; routine notifications required if the thresholds exceeded
- The town really came together to get through this situation (about 3 ½ weeks)
- Councilor Westbury to check with Jerry Harmon about county testing hydrants
- Councilor Westbury will speak with Mr. Grant Richardson about a water grant of some type for a new well.

- Charles Smith will let us know if anything needs to be sent out concerning water issues.
- GA Public Registry is turned back over to City Staff

Personnel (Councilors Wise & Harris)

- Staff preparing for Georgia Cities Week
- Personnel meeting planning requested for a later date
- Executive session planned for end of meeting

Hospitality & Public Relations (Councilors Oates & Wise)

- Items have been ordered for GMA/Georgia Cities Week (banner, pens, etc)
- Notification system credits were purchased (\$500 for approximately 10,000 credits)
- Clerk is comfortable with the notification system
- Training on system will continue
- Updates on the Website are being made
- Discuss at April meeting hosting a ribbon cutting for restrooms
- Possibly Keys to the City for the Carter Foundation & SEMC
- GA Cities Week information

Industry, Trade & Tourism (Councilors Jackson & Harris)

- Councilor Jackson and Mayor Pro Tem Harris met with several others to begin planning for former President Carter's birthday recognition. (October event). It was decided to give tours using the Trolley, if approved by council. Mayor Pro Tem Harris will guide the tours. This committee will meet again in May.
- Get word out to the community to write positive letter or provide artifacts for the time capsule project.
- The Boys and Girls Club has about 15 members. Hoping to increase by the summer. Reaching out to Preston and Americus. They will pick up and drop off if they can get at least 10 from each city. Mayor Recker is planning an activity with the Club for GA Cities Week.
- A new playground and shelter should be in place by May
- Steak and Hamburger dinner. Will vote of purchase of ticket later in the meeting.

Finance (Councilors Jackson & Wise)

- Council reviewed the Cash Balance Report.
- No further report.

V. Other Business for Approval / Discussion

Vote Item #1: Use of Trolley for President Carter Day

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve up to \$300 for the use of the Trolley for President Carter Day. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.

Vote Item #2: Vote on Georgia Cities Week Resolution

Mayor Recker reported on activities planned for this week. See attached flyer for information. Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to allow Mayor Recker to sign the Resolution. Council Jackson seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.

Vote Item #3: Report and vote on cost of well repair

Mayor Recker reported that the cost of materials for the repair of the well was \$85,898. The bill for labor has not yet been received. Funding will be found in SPLOST Funds. Mayor Pro Tem Harris made the motion to pay this bill. Councilor Wise seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.

Vote Item #4: Purchase of ad in NAACP Banquet Program

Councilor Oates made a motion to purchase a full page ad in the NAACP Banquet Program. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried. We will use the same picture as last year.

Vote Item #5: Ratify purchase of YSI Pro 20i Dissolved Oxygen Meter

The WasterWater plant needed a new oxygen meter probe. Mr. Smith was given permission to order one at a cost of \$1,167. Mayor Recker authorized him to purchase this device. Mayor asked for ratification of this purchase. Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to ratify the purchase of a YSI Pro20i dissolved oxygen meter. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. Councilors, Harris, Westbury, Edge, Wise and Jackson voted in favor of ratifying this purchase. Councilor Oates voted against. The vote was 5-1. Motion carried.

Vote Item #6: Permission for David White to sell produce/baked goods in park

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made the motion to approve David White selling produce/baked goods in the park. Councilor Wise seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.

VI. Mayor's Notes

- **Hometown Heroes Banner Program**
Mayor Recker presented flyers to be given out to those wishing to purchase a banner for a family member at the cost of \$120. No cost to the city. First one up by July 4th celebration. Councilor Jackson made a motion to move forward with this program. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried. Councilor Westbury is in contact with GA Power about putting banners on their poles.
Councilor Oates mentioned the city purchase a banner for President Carter. Councilor Oates made a motion to honor President Carter by purchasing a Hometown Hero banner for him. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.
- Councilor Jackson made a motion to support the Boys and Girls Club Steak and Hamburger Supper with a \$300 purchase of 2 tickets. Councilor Oates seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried. Mayor Recker will attend if at all possible.
- City Clerk gave a report that the first late tax notice would be sent out on April 1, 2026, and the second one on April 17, 2026.
- Reminder of Easter Egg Hunt in Reese Park on April 4th. Sponsored by Plains Baptist Church and Boys and Girls Club
- Kim Fuller has retired from Friends of Jimmy Carter. Wish her well when you see her.
- Ellen Harris will be the manager of the Inn, Mall, Community Center, and Buffalo Café.
- Rosalyn Butterfly Trail wants us to partner with them for flower bed restoration and pollinator plantings. This will help to beautify our town. The city will need to provide water access and minor repairs (board replacement, sprinkler verification). The Rosalyn Butterfly Trail will maintain specified beds and will give our workers lessons on how to care for the rest of the flower beds. Plan Community work days.
- **Former Election Precinct Building:** County Board of Elections removed county equipment and will no longer use city-owned building as voting precinct; future Plains voting planned at Community Center (contract with Community Center pending). We will place signage/redirect voters to correct precinct; post notices linking to Sumter County elections updates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried. Entered Executive Session at 8:34 PM. Councilor Westbury made a motion to enter regular council session. Councilor Jackson

seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried. Entered back into Regular Session at 8:45 PM.

Adjournment

Mayor Recker adjourned the regular meeting of the Plains City Council at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Bagwell
City Clerk, City of Plains

COMMITTEES REPORT:

DR. ANDREA OATES

NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS

- 2/19 – ATTEMPTED SWT CONTACT TO DETERMINE RGB FOR GMA MEETING BAGS
- 2/22 – PUBLISHED REQUESTED EVENT DELETION TO WEBSITE
- 2/24 – SUPPORTED CITY CLERK WITH SCHEDULING DMC NOTIFICATION MESSAGE
- 2/24 – COMPLETED DMC CREDITS PURCHASE PER MAYOR'S DIRECTION
- 2/26 – SUBMITTED MARCH NEWSLETTER ON REQUESTED DATE
- 3/6 – ATTEMPTED SECOND CONTACT WITH SWT REGARDING GMA MEETING BAGS
- 3/6 – REPIED TO MAYOR'S EMAIL REGARDING FY2026 CPF OPPORTUNITIES
- 3/9 – COMMUNICATED REGARDING WATER SAMPLING NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
- 3/12 – PRESENTED MAYOR WITH BANNER AND PEN OPTIONS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
- 3/12 – ASSISTED CITY CLERK WITH PROCURING GMA MEETING PENS
- 3/13 – SCHEDULED DMC NOTIFICATION TO CITIZENS ON WELL RESTORATION
- 3/13 – PROVIDED DMC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM VIDEO TRAINING SUPPLEMENT TO STAFF
- 3/17 – ASSISTED CITY CLERK WITH PROCURING GMA MEETING WELCOME BANNER
- 3/19 – TRANSITIONED GEORGIA PURCHASING REGISTRY APO ROLE TO CITY CLERK
- 3/19 – PUBLISHED MEETING AGENDA, MINUTES AND NEWSLETTER TO WEBSITE