

City of Plains – Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: October 16, 2025

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. The following members were present:

- Mayor Joey Recker
- Councilor Eugene Edge
- Councilor Ellen Harris
- Councilor Amy Wise
- Councilor Andrea Oates
- Councilor Terry Westbury

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem A.B. Jackson

III. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Recker requested that the phrase “*the motion died for a lack of second*” be changed to “*failed due to the lack of a second.*”

Councilor Oates asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that she did not oppose the hiring but abstained because she was not involved in the interviews.

Councilor Harris made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Councilor Wise seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5–0).

IV. Attorney Tommy Coleman – E-911 Issue

Mayor Recker welcomed all citizens in attendance and introduced Mr. Tommy Coleman, providing a brief overview of the E-911 issue. He noted that Mr. Coleman would refrain from discussing any details that might jeopardize the case.

About a year ago, the City of Plains received a bill from Sumter County for non-emergency services provided by the E-911 Center. On the advice of the city attorney, the city did not pay the bill, and Mayor Recker notified the County Commissioners. He explained that residents within the city limits already pay both city and county taxes, and paying this additional fee would amount to double taxation.

Furthermore, there is no clear definition of “non-emergency service.” Sumter County has filed a lawsuit against the regional E-911 Center to stop providing non-emergency services to Plains since the bill was not paid. Although the City of Plains is not a direct party to the lawsuit, it is considered an indispensable party.

Mr. Coleman explained that while Plains residents sometimes make calls considered “non-emergency,” there is a long-standing contract—over 20 years old—between the involved parties, including Sumter County. He noted that mediation may be a possible next step.

Several citizens voiced concerns about potential double taxation.

V. Committee Reports

Public Safety (Councilors Westbury & Edge)

- Chief Johnson reported: 2 welfare checks, 1 warrant, 8 traffic warnings, 2 citations, and 5 alarm calls.
- Citizens are reminded to keep vehicles locked, as there have been several recent vehicle entries.
- Chief Johnson is checking the city’s security lights.
- The new police car is awaiting markings and equipment installation, expected to begin within two weeks.
- Councilor Harris requested increased patrols through church properties during services.

Subdivision & Streets (Councilors Edge & Wise)

- A damaged pole has not been repaired by Georgia Power
- The new street signs have been installed and look good.

Water & Sewerage (Councilors Oates & Westbury)

- Notification notices have been sent regarding service line replacements.
- Service line replacements have begun, with no complaints received so far.
- Mayor Recker signed one change order.

- Laura Jones's lines have been replaced, though she was scheduled for later in the project; no complaints were reported.
- Turnipseed Engineering is updating system data.

Personnel (Councilors Wise & Harris)

- No report.

Hospitality & Public Relations (Councilors Oates & Wise)

- Councilor Wise shared two notices from First Baptist Church in Americus regarding available grief counseling during the holidays.
- Councilor Oates suggested that the city purchase President Carter postage stamps for official mailings. The City Clerk will request them when purchasing the next batch of stamps.

Industry, Trade & Tourism (Councilors Jackson & Harris)

- **Trunk or Treat:** October 25th – City participation confirmed.
- **Dearing Train:** Ongoing.
- **Park Maintenance:** The eagle statue in the park will be cleaned.
- **Christmas Lighting:** Scheduled for November 29th.
- Councilor Harris made a motion to order portable restrooms for the November 29th event. Councilor Westbury seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5–0).

Finance (Councilors Jackson & Wise)

- Refer to the Cash Balance Report.

VI. Other Business

- Councilor Harris made a motion to give Christmas bonuses: \$400 for full-time employees and \$200 for part-time employees, and to discontinue "Turkey Checks" for council members this year. Councilor Wise seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).
- Councilor Harris made a motion to carry insurance on the new trailer for at least one year. Councilor Wise seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).
- Councilor Harris made a motion for the City of Plains to participate in the Mayor's Motorcade for West Central Georgia. Councilor Westbury seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5–0). Councilor Westbury will coordinate with the Friends of Jimmy Carter for participation from citizens on the November 29th train.
- Councilor Harris made a motion for the City of Plains to participate in the Veterans Day Parade in Americus on November 11th. Councilor Edge seconded. The motion passed (4–0), with one member abstaining. Councilor Harris will oversee decorating the city truck.

VII. Executive Session

- Councilor Harris made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. Councilor Wise seconded. Motion carried (5–0).
- Councilor Harris made a motion to return to regular session at 8:38 p.m. Councilor Edge seconded. Motion carried (5–0).

Action Taken in Regular Session:

- Councilor Harris made a motion to give Chris George a \$0.50 raise at his three-month mark, with a review at six months. Councilor Westbury seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).

VIII. Adjournment

Mayor Recker adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Bagwell
City Clerk