

City of Plains

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Plains Community Center

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
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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 A.B. Jackson
 - Councilor Andrea Oates
 - Councilor Terry Westbury
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III. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the May 21, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Hero Recognition

Mayor Recker recognized three individuals for their heroic actions following a serious automobile accident. John Murphy and Jayden Tyson rescued a young woman from a vehicle and carried her to safety, while Sergeant Jacob Howell was the first officer on the scene and assisted in providing aid and coordinating emergency response efforts.

The City of Plains officially established the **John Murphy Heroism Award** to honor future acts of exceptional courage and selfless service. Mr. Murphy was presented with a copy of the proclamation creating the award. All three honorees were also presented with a Key to the City. Mr. Murphy accepted his award in person, Ms. Sharayba Perry accepted on behalf of Jayden Tyson, and Chief David Johnson accepted on behalf of Sergeant Jacob Howell.

Water/Wastewater Introduction: Charles Smith; Robert Moore

Mr. Smith currently serves as the City of Plains' Water and Wastewater Operator and is responsible for all correspondence with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD). His duties include collecting and submitting required water and wastewater samples for testing and evaluation. He also provides coverage for operational responsibilities when other personnel are unavailable.

Mayor Recker introduced Mr. Robert Moore, a licensed water and wastewater operator, to the Council. Mr. Smith has recommended Mr. Moore as a potential successor upon his retirement at the end of December. Mayor Recker noted that Mr. Moore is highly qualified for the position. The introduction provided Council members with an opportunity to meet Mr. Moore and ask any questions regarding his experience and qualifications.

Briefings from Concerned Citizens:

There were no briefings from Concerned Citizens

V. Committee Reports

Public Safety (Councilors Westbury & Edge)

Chief Johnson presented the Police Department report:

- 6 Traffic Citations
- 11 Traffic Warnings
- 3 Welfare Checks
- 8 Agency Assists
- 1 Warrant Served

- 4 Miscellaneous Investigations
- 1 Criminal Trespass
- 1 Suspicious Person Call
- 3 Alarm Calls

Additional discussion included:

- Kids are out of school; things are looking good right now
- Chief Johnson has been talking directly with the youth and has built a good relationship with them
- Sgt. Howell requested that some personal information be redacted from the April meeting minutes. Mr. Skipper, city attorney, said that council should make a motion to redact the information from the minutes by blacking out this information with a black marker. Councilor Westbury made the motion to redact the information from the printed and online minutes. Councilor Wise seconded the motion. All approved (6-0) motion carried.
- Councilor Jackson spoke with the Chief about “racing” in the MLK Subdivision. Chief said he was aware.

Councilor Edge had no additional report.

Subdivision & Streets (Councilors Edge & Wise)

- Councilor Edge reported that city streets are looking good.
- Councilor Wise reported that the LMIG application has been submitted.
- Councilor Edge said there was a tire in the ditch that needed to be removed.

Water & Sewerage (Councilors Oates & Westbury)

Councilor Oates presented options to the Council for addressing the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) requirements related to the City's 372 water service line connections. She noted that compliance is required by November 2027.

Councilor Oates outlined several potential approaches for completing the project, including utilizing the Mayor and City staff, contracting directly with a vendor, hiring a consultant in conjunction with a vendor, or taking no action and documenting the justification. She recommended that the City consider hiring a consultant to manage the project and assist with compliance requirements.

She further reported that no grant funding opportunities through the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) are currently available for this project. As a result, the City may need to obtain financing to complete the required work. Councilor Oates requested that the Council explore both consulting services and potential loan options.

Councilor Oates stated that she had contacted several vendors to obtain cost estimates but had not yet received responses. Based on preliminary information provided by Turnipseed Engineers, she advised that the overall project cost could be significant.

Councilor Westbury reported that the County Fire Department recently inspected fire hydrants throughout the city. During the inspection, it was discovered that water pressure was lower in certain areas possibly due to valves not being fully open. Two of the affected locations have already been corrected, resulting in improved water pressure in those areas.

Personnel (Councilors Wise & Harris)

No report.

Hospitality & Public Relations (Councilors Oates & Wise)

- Councilor Wise had nothing to report
- Councilor Oates asked that council refer to the committee report in their folders

Industry, Trade & Tourism (Councilors Jackson & Harris)

- Councilor Jackson reported that she is still working with the Boys & Girls club. Counselor Westbury is helping with them as well. Chief Harmon is coming and bringing his robot to show the children. Councilor Jackson reported that 13 new children had been added.
- Councilor Jackson also commended Mayor Recker on the beautiful hero recognition program. Mayor Recker commented that it was done with council support.

Finance (Councilors Jackson & Wise)

- Council reviewed the Cash Balance Report.
 - No further report.
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VI. Other Business

Vote Item #1 – Ratification of Votes from the May Meeting

City Attorney Jimmy Skipper advised that a quorum consists of four members physically present at a meeting. While a council member participating by telephone may vote, that member does not count toward establishing a quorum. Because votes were taken at the May meeting with only

three members physically present and one member participating by telephone, Mr. Skipper advised that all actions taken at that meeting should be ratified.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to ratify all votes taken during the May meeting, as read aloud by Mayor Recker. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Vote Item #2 – Support for Friends of Jimmy Carter Events

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion for the City to support events sponsored by the Friends of Jimmy Carter (FOJC). The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Following the vote, Mayor Recker expressed his disappointment that the motion did not receive sufficient support to move forward.

Vote Item #3 – Application for Permit to Hold a Special Activity in Maxine Reese Park

Corcynthia Monts submitted an application requesting permission to hold a family gathering at Maxine Reese Park on July 4, 2026.

Councilor Wise made a motion to approve the application. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Vote Item #4 – Employee Memorandum Regarding Compensatory Time and Overtime

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion authorizing the Mayor to issue a memorandum to all City employees regarding compensatory time and overtime policies. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Vote Item #5 – Retain Turnipseed for Consulting Services Related to LCRI Efforts

Councilor Oates made a motion to retain Turnipseed as a consultant solely for work associated with the Lead and Copper Rule Inventory (LCRI) project. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion.

The vote resulted in a tie, with Councilors Oates, Jackson, and Wise voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Harris and Councilors Edge and Westbury voting against. Mayor Recker cast the deciding vote against the motion, resulting in its failure.

Mayor Recker stated that he would discuss the matter further with Turnipseed during the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Convention at the end of June.

Vote Item #6 – Apply for GEFA Loan for Connector Identification

Councilor Oates made a motion to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan to fund consultant services for identifying water service line connectors. The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.

VII. Mayor's Notes

The following items were included in the Mayor's Notes:

- Update on bathrooms and camera installation
- HUD Grant for FOJC
- Mayor Recker signed the 457 (B) paperwork for interested employees
- The emails from the possible tax transition was not included in folder as they should have been. City Clerk will email to each council member after the meeting.
- Start conversation about selecting new City Attorney. Mayor Recker has talked with Mr. Tommy Coleman, and if selected, he would gladly take over. There would be no time needed for transition
- Friends of Jimmy Carter material in manilla folder
- Remember called meeting on June 23, 2026 about budget
- Hometown Hero banner update- most have been hung just waiting on more pins for brackets
- Give Chief material to run background checks on applicants for Utility Worker

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Recker adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Bagwell
City Clerk