

City of Plains

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Plains City Hall – Council Chamber

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Harris called the regular meeting of the Plains City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

- **Invocation:** Councilor Eugene Edge
 - **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Harris
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II. Roll Call

City Clerk Cindy Bagwell conducted roll call.

Present:

- Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Harris
- Councilor Eugene Edge
- Councilor Amy Wise
- Councilor A.B. Jackson

Absent:

- Mayor Joey Recker
 - Councilor Andrea Oates
 - Councilor Terry Westbury (phoned in for meeting)
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III. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

IV. Briefings

Matt Berry – Sumter County Farm Bureau

Mr. Berry discussed plans for a 5K Run and Burger Cook-Off to be held in Plains on October 17, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event would serve as an agricultural benefit fundraiser for Sumter County youth. Mr. Berry stated that he would gather additional information regarding entry fees, permits, and other event requirements and provide those details to the City. Council advised that a \$10 fee would be charged if water and/or electricity services were utilized.

Cuilquense Restaurant

Representatives requested permission to operate a Mexican food truck in Plains during lunchtime on selected days. They indicated that the operation would not be daily and that expansion may occur in the future. Council advised that staff would need to review applicable ordinances regarding food trucks. Representatives stated they would provide additional information as plans develop.

V. Committee Reports

Public Safety (Councilors Westbury & Edge)

Chief Johnson presented the Police Department report:

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

Additional discussion included:

- School will soon be out for summer; residents were reminded of the 10:00 p.m. curfew.
- Citizens were encouraged to keep vehicle doors locked.
- Two dog complaints had been received, but the animals could not be located.
- Loud music complaints should be reported to the Sheriff's Office when a Plains police officer is not on duty.

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 is due by June 15, 2026.

Water & Sewerage (Councilors Oates & Westbury)

No report.

Personnel (Councilors Wise & Harris)

No report. An Executive Session was scheduled later in the meeting.

Hospitality & Public Relations (Councilors Oates & Wise)

- Councilor Wise suggested that the Police Department and Utility Department contact numbers be added to the City's website.
- Chief Johnson advised that citizens should call 911 first in emergency situations, followed by notification of the Chief and/or Utility Supervisor as appropriate.

Industry, Trade & Tourism (Councilors Jackson & Harris)

- Councilor Jackson reported that the Boys & Girls Club had added 12 new members.
- Discussion followed regarding continued support from the Albany office for the Plains branch of the Boys & Girls Club.

Finance (Councilors Jackson & Wise)

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

Vote Item #1 – Street Closure for Plains, Trains & Fireworks

Councilor Wise made a motion to approve the street closure request for Plains, Trains & Fireworks. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Vote Item #2 – Camera Installation at Maxine Reese Park Bathrooms

Councilor Jackson made a motion to approve the bid from Fuller Communications in the amount of \$1,355.00 for the installation of cameras outside the Maxine Reese Park bathrooms. Councilor Wise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Vote Item #3 – Keys to the City Plaques

Councilor Edge made a motion to award Key to the City plaques to Sumter EMC, the Carter Family Foundation, and John Murphy. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Vote Item #4 – Property Tax Vendor Beginning Second Half of 2026

Councilor Wise made a motion to contact Gregg Reese regarding assuming responsibility for the City's property tax program beginning with the second half of 2026 and continuing thereafter. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Vote Item #5 – MissionSquare 457(b) Retirement Plan Services

Councilor Jackson made a motion authorizing Mayor Recker to execute the necessary documents with MissionSquare to provide 457(b) retirement plan services to interested City employees. Councilor Edge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Vote Item #6 – Pre-Dedication Reception for June 4 Event

Council discussed a proposed pre-dedication reception for representatives of Sumter EMC and the Carter Family Foundation prior to the Maxine Reese Park Bathroom Dedication Ceremony.

A motion was made to forgo the reception and instead provide bottled water for attendees. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

VII. Mayor's Notes

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

- Promote Plains, Trains & Fireworks through the City's website and newsletter.
- Continue efforts to hire a contracted Water/Sewer Operator; council members were asked to review Mr. Moore's résumé included in the meeting packet.
- Hometown Hero Banners have been proofed and ordered. They are expected to arrive by June 8, with installation beginning June 15. Banners will remain displayed until approximately July 13. Future banner orders will cost \$185 each, with a minimum order of ten banners required.
- The Maxine Reese Park Bathroom Dedication Ceremony will be held on June 4 at 4:30 p.m. in the park.
- HUD Grant ceremonial check presentation: Council was reminded that these funds are not for City use and are committed through a partnership with the Friends of Jimmy Carter.
- Discussion regarding ideas for a John Murphy Heroism Award.
- Mayor Recker will attend the GMA Annual Convention in Savannah from June 26–30.
- City Hall will be closed for Memorial Day. Flags will be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon.

- Mayor Recker will be out of town from May 15 through May 22 but will remain available for emergency communications.
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VIII. Executive Session

Councilor Wise made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (4-0). Council entered Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Councilor Wise later made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (4-0). Council reconvened in Regular Session at 8:33 p.m.

Following Executive Session, Councilor Wise made a motion to terminate Quan Davis from his position as Utility Worker. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 3-1, with Councilor Edge voting against the motion.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Bagwell
City Clerk