

City of Plains – Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: December 18, 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 Carla Banks conducted roll call. The following officials were present:

- Mayor Joey Recker
- Councilor Eugene Edge
- Councilor Ellen Harris
- Councilor Amy Wise
- Mayor Pro Tem Jackson
- Councilor Westbury

Absent:

- Councilor Andrea Oates
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III. Approval of Minutes

Councilor Harris made the motion to approve the November minutes. Councilor Wise seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (5-0)

IV. Committee Reports

Public Safety (Councilors Westbury & Edge)

- Chief Johnson presented his report. A copy is attached.
- Chief reported that he had gotten a good many calls about cats and dogs.
- Chief reported that the new car should be ready before Christmas or shortly after.

Subdivision & Streets (Councilors Edge & Wise)

- Councilor Edge brought up about the bushes and limbs on Main Street that need to be cut.
- Councilor Wise wanted to know what might could be done about trash in front of Dollar General.

Water & Sewerage (Councilors Oates & Westbury)

- Councilor Westbury reported there are 6 fire hydrants out of order. Chris Wooten is getting with someone to get them serviced after the first of the year.

Personnel (Councilors Wise & Harris)

- No Report

Hospitality & Public Relations (Councilors Oates & Wise)

- No Report

Industry, Trade & Tourism (Councilors Jackson & Harris)

Councilor Jackson asked about getting the Boys and Girls to clean up in front of Dollar General.

Finance (Councilors Jackson & Wise)

- Councilor Jackson passed out the audit booklets. She asked that council members look over and will discuss at next meeting, if there are questions or concerns.
- Councilor Harris and Councilor Jackson reported on their meeting with the RVRC about the CHIP grant. Councilor Jackson has contacted several people about bringing pictures of their needs.

V. Vote Items

- **Vote Item #1:** Vote to cancel moratorium on the wording of zoning ordinance concerning rehab centers
Councilor Harris made the motion to cancel the moratorium and Council Wise seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) all approved
- **Vote Item #2:** Ratify approval for purchase of a new folding machine for city hall.
Councilor Harris made the motion to ratify the purchase of anew folding machine. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) all approved. This can be paid with SPLOST funds
- **Vote Item #3:** Repair of 2013 Ford 150 Truck

Councilor Westbury made the motion to approve the repair on the 2013 Truck. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) all approved

- **Vote Item #4:** Vote on tag reader for new police car
Chief stated that the cost is around \$20,000 but can be paid for in quarterly installments over a period of 5 years. Councilor Westbury made the motion to approve the purchase of a tag reader for the police car. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. Motion Carried (5-0) all approved.
 - **Vote Item #5:** Ratify decision on chlorine pump
There was leakage of gases at the Water Plant. The decision was made, after consultation with Charles Smith to continue with the chlorine pump. It produces better and safer results. Councilor Harris made the motion to ratify the decision on the chlorine pump. Councilor Edge seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) all approved.
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VI. Mayor's Notes

- Mayor Recker informed the council of two large water bill we had from Sowega Chlorinator
- Mayor Recker mentioned Major's Electric bill for work at the water plant.
- The old Christmas lights will be taken off the buildings and given to Friends of Jimmy Carter so they can use the bulbs. Councilor Westbury will purchase new lights on sale after Christmas.
- The council was informed of the water main break by the pharmacy and H2O did the repair work
- Mayor's motorcade was a success. Mayor Recker, Rhonda Recker, and Chief delivered the donated items. It was mentioned that we should do something here in Plains for the residents of Sumter Retirement and Lillian Carter.
- City received \$50,000 from Carter Family for use on the bathroom renovations.
- Called meeting on January 13, 2026 about insurance.
- Mayor briefed on the E-911 emergency issue. (notes attached)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Jackson made the motion to convene in Executive Session. Councilor Westbury seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) All approved. Council convened in Executive Session at 7:58 pm

Councilor Westbury made the motion to reconvene in regular session. Councilor Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0) All approved. Council reconvened in regular session at 8:33 pm

Back in regular session, Councilor Harris made the motion to give Quan Davis a \$0.50 raise per hour to take effect beginning the next pay period Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. Motion Carried (5-0) all approved.

Mayor Recker adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Bagwell, City Clerk

Plains Police Department

5 - Traffic Citations

1 – Theft By Taking

2 – Mis. Investigations

8 – Traffic Warnings

7 – Assist Agency Calls

3 – Welfare Checks

4 – Alarm Calls

Open Meeting Notes:

Mayor's Briefing to Council

1. Purpose of Executive Session

"I want to brief Council on a legal dispute involving Sumter County and the Middle Flint Regional E-911 Authority, explain the letter the County has sent, outline why the County's position is vulnerable under Georgia law—particularly Service Delivery Strategy requirements—and inform you of a meeting we will request with Sumter County leadership."

2. Summary of the County's Letter (Plain English)

"Sumter County has formally demanded that the E-911 Authority stop providing what the County calls 'non-emergency dispatch services' to Plains, Americus, and Leslie within 90 days unless the cities agree to pay additional money.

The County claims these services are outside normal 911 operations and argues continuing them may violate the Georgia Constitution's gratuities clause. They are attempting to force either a shutdown of services or a new payment agreement."

3. Why This Matters to Plains

“If the County were successful, it would disrupt routine police operations and public safety. More importantly, it would set a precedent allowing the County to unilaterally withdraw services that are already addressed in our Service Delivery Strategy.”

KEY LEGAL FRAMEWORK – SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY (SDS)

What SDS Is (In Simple Terms)

“Georgia law requires counties and cities to adopt a Service Delivery Strategy—called an SDS—that clearly assigns which local government provides which services, and how they are funded. Once adopted and approved by the State, an SDS is binding on all parties.”

4. Why Sumter County Is Vulnerable Under SDS

A. Counties Cannot Unilaterally Stop an SDS-Covered Service

- If dispatch or public safety communications are included—directly or indirectly—in the County’s SDS, the County cannot just decide to stop them.
- Changes must be:
 - - Negotiated, and

- Formally amended to the SDS, and
 - Approved by all affected governments and the State.
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“Threatening to terminate service to force payment is exactly what SDS law is designed to prevent.”

B. No Double Taxation

- Cities already contribute to 911 funding through:
 - - 911 fees paid by residents and businesses, and
 - Countywide taxes paid by city residents.
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- Charging cities again for the same service is double taxation, which SDS law prohibits.

“You can’t collect the tax, collect the fee, and then bill again for the same service.”

C. ‘Non-Emergency Dispatch’ is a False Distinction

- Georgia law and practice recognize 911 and non-emergency dispatch as integrated public safety communications.
- Dispatchers must be available regardless of whether a call comes in on 911 or a non-emergency line.