

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2026

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Whigham City Hall with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. and Robert Porter opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Joel Singletary and Robert Porter. Staff present: Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Police Chief Tony Black, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson. Members of the public present: Jane Trulock. Chau Nguyen and Cathy Johnson from the Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) Analytical Team were also in attendance of the meeting.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter to adopt the agenda. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the minutes from the February meeting. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Rate Analysis Discussion: Cathy Johnson with ECG thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing them to speak at the meeting. Johnson stated that the electric rate analysis and cost of service study was a 12 month study of expenses vs. revenues. Overall, there was a situation deficit, and ECG had gathered information and presented a 3% increase to make up for the difference. The numbers predicted that if there was no change in rates, the City would not be in a good financial spot in less than 5 years. The Council thanked Mrs. Cathy and Mr. Chau for presenting the information and for their work on the study. Mayor Gainous asked if the Council wanted to discuss the information or do some research and come back to the topic. **Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers made a motion to take the ECG recommendation of the rate increase of 3% effective on the next billing cycle, which would be March 28 bills. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Reports

CH: City Clerk Jenson let the Council know a Community Project Funding Grant had been applied for through Congressman Bishop's office again and she would let them know the status once updated. Jenson also reminded the Council there was SWOT meeting with the Regional Commission on Friday March 13 at 10:00 at the Community Club.

PD: Police Chief Black stated he had a personnel item to discuss with the Council if they would allow him to before the meeting was adjourned.

Utilities: Utilities Director Ausburn updated the Council on new equipment that had been installed at Advantage Steel Erectors (Skeeter Buckins' shop on Hwy 84) for upgrades. Ausburn also told the Council that he had planned to have a meeting at the Nursing Home about completing their upgrades ASAP.

Mayor: Mayor Gainous told the Council that decisions on what route to take for sewer would have to be made soon.

WVCC: Mrs. Jane Trulock updated the Council that the WVCC wanted to do something to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. They were wanting to do flags on Hwy 84 between light poles and banners on 179 and had been talking to a vendor about getting that accomplished. Trulock also informed the Council that the WVCC had given \$3,000 to the city for downtown beautification efforts.

Regional Commission Update: Mayor Pro Tem Sellers told the Council that at the monthly meeting, the representatives had been discussing grants available for communities through the Georgia Dept of Agriculture. Sellers said that there were grants that could be utilized, potentially, for projects in Whigham and he would get more information on these.

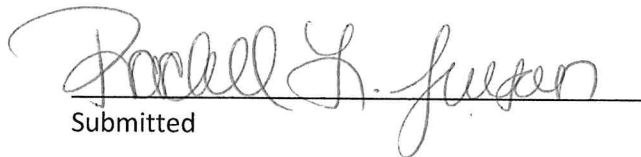
DDA: Sellers expressed that the DDA board members need to get training done as soon as possible, or they would not be able to vote in open meetings. Sellers did say they had inquired about getting a trainer come to Whigham, which would cost about \$4,000 or they could train individuals. The courses may be offered online. The courses are 6 hours total. We could potentially partner with other communities to help share the cost. Mayor Gainous said he would reach out to Linda or Amanda in Cairo to see if their new board would need training.

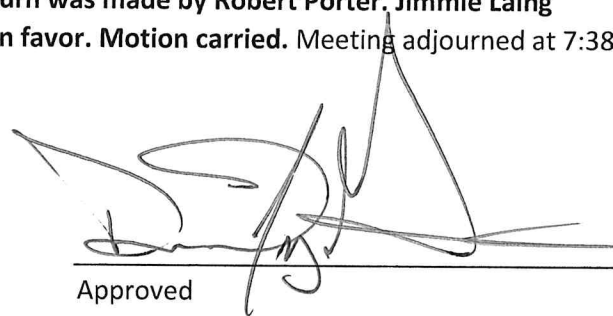
With a need to discuss personnel, a motion was made to go into executive session. Robert Porter made the motion to enter executive session. Jim Sellers seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Executive session was entered into at 7:13 PM.

A motion to exit executive session and enter back into the regular meeting was made by Jimmie Laing. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Exited executive session and entered back into regular meeting at 7:25 PM.

Chief Black wanted to ask the Council if they would consider allowing him to change the crossing guard pay it make it to be paid year-round. Chief Black explained this would open more possibilities for applicants.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Porter. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.


Submitted


Approved