

City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chambers
January 6, 2026
6:00 PM – Work Session / 7:00 PM – Council Meeting

WORK SESSION

Mayor Matthew J. Santini opened the Work Session at 6:00 PM. Council Members discussed each item on the agenda with the corresponding staff members.

Mayor Santini closed the Work Session at 6:32 PM

OPENING MEETING

Mayor Santini called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation by Council Member Cooley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Roth.

The City Council met in a Regular Session with Matthew J. Santini, Mayor, presiding, and the following present: Kari Hodge, Council Member Ward One; Jayce Stepp, Council Member Ward Two; Cary Roth, Council Member Ward Three; Calvin Cooley, Council Member Ward Four; Gary Fox, Council Member Ward Five; Alyssa Cordell, Council Member Ward Six; Dan Porta, City Manager; Julia Drake, City Clerk; and Keith Lovell, City Attorney.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. December 18, 2025

Council Member Cordell made a motion to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2025. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Council Member Hodge made a motion to add three (3) items to the agenda. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

APPOINTMENTS

2. Planning Commission Appointment

Randy Mannino, Planning and Development Director, stated Don Jackson is recommended for appointment to the Planning Commission to replace Greg Culverhouse, whose term expires January 31, 2026. If approved, Mr. Jackson's term will expire on January 31, 2030.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Appointment. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

3. Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment

Mr. Mannino stated Thomas Tucker is recommended for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Linda Brunt. Ms. Brunt's term is set to expire on June 1, 2027. If approved, Mr. Tucker will serve the remainder of the unexpired term, ending June 1, 2027.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

4. Recognition and Swearing-In of Elected Officials

Julia Drake, City Clerk, stated the City of Cartersville conducted its municipal election on November 4, 2025. The following individuals were duly elected to serve in their respective offices and are presented for official recognition and appointment:

- Matthew J. Santini, Mayor
- Gary Fox, Councilmember – Ward 5
- Kari Hodge, Councilmember – Ward 1
- Cary Roth, Councilmember – Ward 3

Julia Drake, City Clerk, swore in the Mayor and Council Members.

5. Appointment and Swearing-In of Municipal Court Judges

Keith Lovell, City Attorney, stated it was recommended to approve the appointment for Municipal Court Judges Harry B. White and Harold J. Choate, III, in accordance with applicable law and City requirements.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Municipal Court Judges Appointment. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Mrs. Drake swore in Mr. White and Mr. Choate.

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

6. Municipal Court Judges Contract

Mr. Lovell stated it was recommended to approve the renewal of the Municipal Court Judges contract (Harry B. White and Harold J. Choate, III) for providing services to the Cartersville Municipal Court.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Municipal Court Judges Contract. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

7. City Manager Agreement

Mr. Lovell stated the new City Manager Agreement was presented for review and approval. If approved this contract would be effective until January 6, 2028.

Mayor Santini took a moment to thank Mr. Porta for his energy and dedication to serving the City of Cartersville.

Council Member Cordell made a motion to approve the City Managers Agreement. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

ADDED ITEM

8. Public IP Address Space

Steven Grier, FiberCom Director, stated FiberCom is requesting approval to pay Brander Group Inc. \$12,288.00 for a block of 512 IP addresses. These IP addresses will be assigned to future FiberCom customers for delivery of internet services. This is to supplement our current block of IP addresses that are nearing depletion. This is not a budgeted item, but funds are available.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Public IP Address Space. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

PUBLIC HEARING - 2nd READING OF ZONING/ANNEXATION REQUESTS

9. AZ25-04: Parcel ID 0077-0673-001

Mr. Mannino stated this is an annexation and zoning request of Tax Parcel ID 0077-0673-001, lying in Land Lots 624 and 673 of the 4th District, 3rd Section. Total acreage proposed for annexation is 19.06 +/- acres. Current zoning is County I-1 (Industrial). The proposed zoning is L-I, Light Industrial. The proposed use is a parking lot for truck trailers. Planning Commission recommended approval of annexation and zoning, 4-0.

Mayor Santini opened the public hearing for the zoning portion of the application.

Howard Smith, 150 Cherokee Cir., came forward to represent the application and shared a presentation to give more detail to the application.

James Foster, 112 Old Mill, came forward and stated that he and Mr. Billy Wright had been in discussion pertaining to a potential equestrian event center and the proposed use of the parcel being discussed would hinder their plans. Mr. Foster opposed the zoning.

William (Billy) Wright, 180 Old Mill Farm Rd., came forward in opposition to the application.

Mr. Smith returned and stated that if he were to remain in Bartow County jurisdiction, he would be able to do what he is proposing to the City of Cartersville under the current Bartow County zoning.

With no one else to come forward to speak for or against the zoning portion, the public hearing was closed

Mayor Santini opened the public hearing for the annexation portion of the application and stated that all previous comments made for the zoning portion from the first reading and the zoning public hearing would be reflected in the annexation portion.

Mr. Smith stated he had no further comments.

Mr. Wright returned and stated his opposition.

With no one else to come forward to speak for or against the annexation portion, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the annexation portion of AZ25-04. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the zoning portion of AZ25-04. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Reference Ordinance # 01-26 and 02-26

RESOLUTIONS

10. Annual Update Adoption of CIE & CWP

Mr. Mannino stated Cartersville adopted Impact Fees in the last quarter of 2006. Said fees became effective starting in January of 2007. In accordance with the Development Impact Fee Regulations as outlined by the State, we are required to file an annual update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan because we collect said impact fees and/or have an adopted impact fee ordinance. As you are aware, we held the required public hearing for the updated information on November 20, 2025, and Council also approved a resolution allowing this item to be transmitted to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for their review and approval. They have approved the document, and we are required to formally adopt it. Staff recommend that Council approve this resolution adopting the Annual Update.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Annual Update Adoption of CIE & CWP. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Reference Resolution # 01-26

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

11. Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2026

Dan Porta, City Manager, stated this was the second reading of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Cartersville Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, to finance additions, extensions, and improvements to the City's water and sewer system.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 Ordinance, as amended. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Reference Ordinance # 03-26

BID AWARD/PURCHASES

12. 2026 City Calendar Printing and Mailing Services

Logan Bagley, Public Relations and Communications Manager, stated this request is for approval of an updated cost for the City Calendar mailing due to changes in the distribution address list. Since the original list was generated, several new housing developments have been completed and address changes have occurred, requiring the mailing directory to be updated to ensure accurate citywide delivery. The updated address list increased the total quantity by approximately 4,000 calendars.

The original amount approved was \$15,882.41, and the revised total cost reflecting the expanded mailing list is \$25,071.48.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the 2026 City Calendar Printing and Mailing Services. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

ADD ON ITEMS

13. Ordinance Amending Parking Prohibitions on Unnamed Street off Zena Drive

Mr. Lovell stated that consideration of an ordinance to amend the City of Cartersville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article XI (Traffic Schedules), Section 12-1005 (Parking Prohibited), to add an unnamed street located on the north side of Zena Drive, approximately 230 feet east of the U.S. 41 right-of-way, as a no-parking area.

During Work Session, it was discussed to consider this ordinance as an emergency ordinance reading to allow enforcement to happen immediately.

Council Member Stepp made a motion to approve the Emergency Ordinance to Amend Parking Prohibitions on Unnamed Street off Zena Dr. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

Reference Ordinance # 04-26

14. Property Purchase – Fire Training Facility

Mr. Lovell stated this item is to approve the Purchase Agreements for the following addresses. This property will be purchased for the future homesite of the Fire Training Facility next to the existing Public Safety Headquarters.

207 Cassville Rd.
209 Cassville Rd.
215 Cassville Rd.
217 Cassville Rd.
12 Harris St.
14 Harris St.
16 Harris St.
Unaddressed lot off Harris St.

Council Member Cordell made a motion to approve the Property Purchase. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0

OTHER

- The next scheduled Council Meeting will take place on the fourth (4th) Thursday, opposed to the normal third (3rd) Thursday, which is on January 22, 2026.
- All City offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Council Member Stepp made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 PM

/s/ _____
Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Julia Drake
City Clerk