

RESOLUTION 26-10

A RESOLUTION FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE OPENING OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the City of Dalton is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution and general laws of the State of Georgia vest the City of Dalton with substantial powers to adopt such ordinances and regulations which may be necessary to maintain the health, morals, safety, security, peace, and general welfare of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dalton is presently analyzing certain code sections in order to revise and implement ordinances related to adult entertainment establishments; event centers; extended stay hotels; stores that operate coin operated amusement machines (“COAM”); pawnbrokers, pawn shops, and title pawn stores (“Pawn Businesses”); and massage parlors; (all such businesses are hereinafter referenced collectively as the “Regulated Businesses”); and

WHEREAS, the Regulated Businesses offer products and services that pose a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the community without sufficient regulation; and

WHEREAS, the location and operation of the Regulated Businesses must be consistent with the City of Dalton Joint Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Georgia law provides that a municipality may impose moratoria on a temporary basis under certain circumstances, which circumstances the Mayor and Council of the City of Dalton have determined exist with respect to Regulated Businesses in the City; and

WHEREAS, a temporary moratorium is needed to conduct a review of the Regulated Businesses and to determine where and under what terms and conditions it is most appropriate for the Regulated Businesses to operate in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community and to analyze consistency with the City of Dalton Joint Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the current temporary moratorium on certain of the Regulated Businesses expires March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City needs additional time to complete its review and finalize the most appropriate regulations for all Regulated Businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that there is a substantial likelihood of inconsistent or insufficient regulation and a danger to the public if a moratorium is not extended to preserve the status quo and temporarily halt the opening of new Regulated Businesses while the City is undergoing a comprehensive review of its code pertaining to the Regulated Businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that it is in the best interests of the residents of the City to enact an additional temporary moratorium through and including June 30, 2026, on the Regulated Businesses to ensure uniformity of regulation and that all new regulations are in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of residents of the City and consistent with the City of Dalton Joint Comprehensive Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City hereby enacts the emergency temporary moratorium on approval of any new Regulated Businesses to continue through and including June 30, 2026 unless said moratorium is repealed or extended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the moratorium neither the City nor any department or staff member shall accept applications for any new Regulated Businesses or issue licenses, permits, occupational tax certificates, or other approvals of any kind for the opening of any Regulated Businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that currently existing and approved Regulated Businesses shall not be prevented from operation or renewal as a result of this resolution, provided that such businesses do not otherwise become suspended or revoked during this moratorium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above recitals are incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof of the City of Dalton in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these Resolutions shall take effect immediately upon their adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

Mayor/Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTESTED TO:

City Clerk