

CITY OF DALTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2026

The regular meeting for the Public Safety Commission was held today in Dalton City Hall's Council Chambers. Present were Chairman Truman Whitfield, Commissioners Alex Brown, Terry Mathis, Lane Jackson, Mayor Annalee Sams, Fire Chief Matt Daniel, Police Chief Cliff Cason, City Attorney Jonathan Bledsoe, City Administrator Andrew Parker and Assistant City Administrator Todd Pangle.

AGENDA APPROVAL

On the motion of Mayor Sams, second Commissioner Mathis, the Commission approved the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Chairman – On the motion of Commissioner Mathis, second Commissioner Brown, the Commission elected Truman Whitfield as Chairman of the Public Safety Commission.

Election of Secretary – On the motion of Mayor Sams, second Commissioner Mathis, the Commission elected Lane Jackson as Secretary of the Public Safety Commission.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Fire Department – Firefighter of the Year

Fire Chief Matt Daniel recognized Firefighter Austin Williams as the 2026 Firefighter of the Year. Over the last 9 years he has worked tirelessly to perfect his craft and become a key contributor through continued training and professional development. Chief Daniel outlined his commitment and dedication in nearing completion of all necessary training and certification to be a member of the department's Special Operation Team, along with completion of the Georgia Department of Public Safety Peer Support Program certification.

Fire Department – Certificate of Promotion

On the motion of Commissioner Mathis, second Commissioner Brown, the Commission recognized the promotion of Prevention Division Coordinator, Lieutenant Donnie Blankenship, to the rank of Captain.

On the motion of Commissioner Mathis, second Commissioner Brown, the Commission recognized the promotion of Training Division Coordinator, Lieutenant Justin Rishel, to the rank of Captain.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

The Commissioners presented written copies of the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2026. On the motion of Mayor Sams, second Commissioner Jackson, the minutes were approved with the following corrections.

- (Pg. 1) Commissioner Alex Jones changed to Alex Brown – Typo.
- (Pg. 2) Commissioner Brown changed to Commissioner Jackson – Commissioner Brown was absent.
- (Pg. 3) Commissioner Brown changed to Mayor Sams – Commissioner Brown was absent.

The vote was unanimous in favor.

ALCOHOL APPLICATION REVIEW

On the motion of Commissioner Mathis, second Mayor Sams, the Commission gave a positive recommendation to the following new alcohol application. The Mayor & Council will vote on the application at the next meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor.

1. Business Owner: Neelkanth 0612, LLC
d/b/a: Marathon (Gas Station)
Applicant: Ami Gamoth
Business Address: 2201 Chattanooga Rd.
License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store / Gas Station)
Disposition: New

On the motion of Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Jackson, the Commission gave a positive recommendation to the following new alcohol application. The Mayor & Council will vote on the application at the next meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Business Owner: El Costeno Hardware Inc.
d/b/a: El Costeno Hardware Inc.
Applicant: Rosa E. Moreno
Business Address: 1101 New Doris St. Suite 1
License Type: Package Beer (Retail Store)
Disposition: New

On the motion of Mayor Sams, second Commissioner Brown, the Commission gave a positive recommendation to the following new alcohol application. The Mayor & Council will vote on the application at the next meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Business Owner: Shakti 1, LLC
d/b/a: Dalton Food & Tobacco
Applicant: Hirenkumar B. Patel
Business Address: 601 N. Glenwood Ave
License Type: Package Beer, Wine (Retail Store)
Disposition: New

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime and Crash Statistics for January 2026

Police Chief Cliff Cason gave a written and oral summary of the Crime and Crash Statistical Reports for the month of January 2026. As noted in the written summary, Chief Cason reported there were 43 Part 1 crimes in January compared to 56 in January 2025, a decrease of approximately 23.21%. Chief Cason stated that there were 2 violent crimes YTD 2026 compared to 8 in January 2025, a decrease of approximately 75%. Chief Cason further stated Property crimes have decreased by 12.8% when compared to 2025.

Chief Cason also reported there were 88 non-private property crashes reported for the month a decrease of 24.8% when compared to December 2025.

On the motion of Commissioner Brown, second Mayor Sams, the January Crime and Crash statistic report was approved. The complete report in its entirety is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Financial Statistics for January 2026

Police Chief Cliff Cason presented the Financial Report for all divisions within the Dalton Police Department for the month of January 2026. Chief Cason reported the department has expended 10.7% of the 2026 budget. Chief Cason stated there will be sufficient funds to accomplish the department's 2026 goals.

On the motion of Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Jackson, the financial report was approved. The complete report in its entirety is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Statistical Report – January 2026

Fire Chief Matt Daniel presented the January 2026 Statistical Report to the Commission. Chief Daniel outlined details of the complete report, which included the Incident Report with 306 Total Responses, an increase from the previous month. Chief Daniel also outlined the details of Incidents by Staff hours, Incidents by Months and Stations, Average Response Time, Average Turnout Time, Average Travel Time, Injury and Property Loss, Training Division Monthly Report, and the Inspection Summary.

On the motion of Commissioner Mathis, second Commissioner Brown, the Commissioners approved the Statistical Report for the Fire Department. A copy of the report is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Monthly Financial Report – January 2026

Fire Chief Matt Daniel presented the Financial Report for the month of January 2026 to the Commission. Chief Daniel stated the department expended 6.1% of the 2026 budget, and stated they are on track to meet the department's goals.

On the motion of Commissioner Brown, second Mayor Sams, the Commissioners approved the Financial Report for the Fire Department. A copy of the report is a part of these minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, on the motion of Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Mathis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Truman Whitfield, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lane Jackson, Secretary