

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
June 2nd, 2025

Present at the council meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Gary Crisp, Stephanie Nicholson, Karissa Noland, and Jean Swank, City Clerk Robin Cochran, and City Attorney Debra Golymbieske.

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson followed with the invocation.

Mayor Powell started with the review and approval of the agenda for the meeting and began with emergency procurement for the tree in front of city hall after the tornado from the previous weekend split the tree completely in half causing immediate hazards. Powell stated that Woodpeckers Tree Service, who had the best pricing at \$3,800.00 came to remove the tree on Friday May 30th, 2025, and will come back to grind the stump. Powell recommended striking the topic off the agenda for the meeting and opened the floor for council discussion.

Councilmember Nicholson stated that it was the best option for the city as she saw the damage to the tree after the tornado passed through the city and it was in the best interest of the city and for the safety of the citizens to take the tree down immediately. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to take the tree in front of city hall off the agenda. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the minutes from the May meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. No discussion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments; none were heard and Powell closed the floor and moved to announcements and reports. City Clerk, Robin Cochran, addressed the council to give her report on business at city hall.

- Cochran gave an update on the 2024 audit stating it was 99% complete.

- Cochran informed the council of the new water billing system utilized for the current month's billing, boasting about the improvements this new system brings. Also, the bills will be mailed straight from the post office so citizens will get their bill quicker.

Debra Golymbieske and Mayor Powell discussed a letter signed by Brandon Bowen for our auditor. Golymbieske stated the he would be in the office at the end of the week and she would get him to sign.

Police Chief, Brad Loyd addressed the council to give his monthly stats from the police department.

- 119 traffic stops
- 3 accidents
- 186 calls for service
- 439 citizen contacts
- 124 business escorts
- 3 arrests
- 321 business checks
- 78 citations
- 89 warnings

Public Work's Superintendent Shawn Chastain addressed the council to give an update from his department.

- Woodpecker's Tree Service will be out Friday, June 6th, 2025, to grind the stump in front of city hall. He also added they would grind the stump at the shop for \$1,100.
- Chastain got a quote from Prater Ford for a 2026 dump truck priced at \$93,397.00.
- Chastain stated he got several quotes for a mini excavator from Bobcat for \$80,880.45, John Deer at \$89,259.70, and JCB for \$82,023.21.
- Chastain continued by going over the quote from Ferguson for a sewer camera priced at \$8,317.31 and for a locator priced at \$3,400.00.
- Mayor Powell asked Chastain to get a couple more quotes.

There was some discussion amongst the council and Chastain and Councilmember Nicholson suggested Chastain get a quote from Southern Pipe. Chastain stated he would reach out to them as well as a couple other places.

Mayor Powell moved to unfinished business and started with Mission Communications who is the vendor for the city's water and sewer system monitoring stations.

- Chastain stated that the system would be obsolete by the end of 2025.
- Powell informed the council that Mission Communications has had issues with getting back to the city in a timely manner regarding concerns as well as not being able to get broken parts fixed or replaced and stated that even with the new quote from them, it did not include any type of service/maintenance plan.
- Powell stated that JK Duren, located out of Roswell gave a higher quote than Mission Communications, but it included a maintenance plan, and they would be who he recommends.
- Chastain went on to explain the importance of a good working system and expressed the challenges he has faced since he started in 2024 with the notifications from the current system.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to purchase JK Duren's monitoring system and to use the short-lived asset fund to cover the cost. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell and Chastain talked about well #5.

- John Sweitzer stated the big issue was Turbidity, all the counts during testing were good.

Mayor Powell moved to new business and began speaking on the sewer service area map adjustment discussed in the work session on Thursday.

- Bartow County requested that the city give up some of its service area to accommodate the Aubrey corporation development.
- John Sweitzer addressed the council to talk about the development and stated that Bartow County project will increase the amount of treatment, and the city can't handle it.
- Bartow County requested that the city give up the service area on the east side of 411 and all of Stamp Creek Rd.
- Bartow County also requested the sewer pump station at Aubrey Lake. Their intention was to take over and expand on it and Sweitzer stated that the city was obligated to respond to their requests.

- Sweitzer stated that the pump station needed maintenance work done and whether Bartow took it over or the city held on to the development.
- Mayor Powell admitted it would be a huge undertaking to allow the county to take the properties over but suggested keeping in mind the USDA loan and how much the city still owed.
- Sweitzer stated the City of White should heavily consider this option as the city would need to prefinance a lot of money to even begin maintenance and that the city of Cartersville would need to be involved as well.
- Councilmember Crisp asked if the city would still pay the city of Cartersville or Bartow County if they decided to hand it over, Sweitzer stated, “yes” for the maintenance, electricity and treatment fee.

Mayor Powell opened the floor council discussion and there was some discussion amongst the council about upgrades needed before anything was done.

Councilmember Swank made a motion to table until more information was gathered on the subject. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Shawn Chastain addressed the council to speak on the pumps at the Aubrey lift station and at TOYO tires.

- Chastain got a quote from Pro Pump for the pump they took out at Aubrey Lake and stated they could rebuild the pump in about 4 months for \$48,593.00 and a new pump would take about 6 weeks to get for \$38,700.00.
- At the TOYO lift station, Chastain got quoted \$26,205.00 for a new pump that would take about 6 weeks to obtain, and \$28,788.00 to rebuild the pump with an approximate turnaround time of 4 months.

There was some discussion amongst Chastain and the council about whether the new pumps would meet all expectations as all three pumps need to be the same.

- Sweitzer explained the challenges faced with replacing or repairing the pumps as they were completely submerged in water and had to be out of the water to be worked on.
- Sweitzer went on to explain how specific the new pump would need to be to match the current curves and stated ideally the city would get three new pumps.
- Councilmember Swank verified there were two pumps at each lift station and asked if a third pump would need to be purchased immediately afterwards.

- Sweitzer stated how each pump operated; the first pump being the main, the second pump would kick on during peak conditions, and the third pump would be a backup.
- Mayor Powell asked Sweitzer how long it would take to get a contingency plan, Sweitzer did not know and said he had been working on it for a couple of weeks and asked for a couple more weeks for answers.
- Sweitzer said he reached out to the manufacturer that built the current pumps, and he was waiting on pricing.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to table until Sweitzer got more answers. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to mayor and council comments.

- Powell got an update from GMA on PFAS and PFOA and stated the Trump Administration had potential changes to dates that would extend compliance deadline.
- Powell continued by informing the council of the new outreach program guidelines that should be voted on next year and anticipated moving the deadline for compliance to 2031.
- Powell stated the EPA had done great things to help small communities taking the matter seriously and assisting in getting things back on track.
- Powell recommended a compliance test to be done between now and 2027.
- Councilmember Nicholson reminded the council and citizens that the city's water contaminants had not gotten worse, but that the federal standards had lowered which brought the city out of compliance.
- Councilmember Swank reminded the council that when the PFAS testing is done, there are a lot of variables to consider that would alter the test results such as not wearing 100% cotton or not having two people involved in a single test.

Councilmember Crisp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Noland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robin Cochran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Powell", with a stylized, cursive script.

Curtis Powell, Mayor