



# City Council Special Called Meeting MARCH 23, 2026

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

### Office of the City Clerk

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:00 PM

#### OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Gilvin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

- **Council Members**

- Mayor Jim Gilvin
- Mayor Pro Tem Dan Merkel (arrived after Roll Call)
- T. Kirk Driskell
- Katie Reeves
- Douglas J. DeRito (arrived after Roll Call)
- John Hipes
- Fergal M. Brady

- **Staff**

- Chris Lagerbloom, City Administrator
- John Robison, Assistant City Administrator
- Molly Esswein, City Attorney
- Grace Orehosky, Municipal Records Officer
- Trent Lindgren, Chief of Police
- Pete Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works

- Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- Adam Montgomery, Director of Information Technology
- Deanna McKay, Public Communication & Engagement Coordinator
- Michael Woodman, Planning and Development Services Manager
- Bret Schroder, Code Enforcement Manager

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

### 4. WORK SESSION

#### A. Text Amendment Discussion: Chapter 30, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, and Chapter 10, Businesses and Business Regulations

*Discussion regarding text amendments to Chapter 30, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, and Chapter 10, Businesses and Business Regulations, of the Code of the City of Alpharetta.*

- Chief of Police, Trent Lindgren, came forward to present the proposed amendments and additions to Chapters 30 and 10 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta. Chief Lindgren stated that it has been quite some time since the ordinances were updated, and with the opening of the new Jail – the intent of the new ordinances is to give more control to the local police in terms of discouraging undesirable behaviors without giving someone a permanent criminal record. The new ordinances will allow the City to maintain local control to address these behaviors at the municipal level.
- **Proposed Revisions:**
  - Sec. 30-5 Firearms
  - Sec. 30-7 Urban Camping and Improper Use of Property
  - Sec. 30-85 Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in the Solicitation of Sex Acts
- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, discussed the suggested amendments to the sections on Firearms, Urban Camping and Improper Use of Property, and Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in the Solicitation of Sex Acts. The purpose of the amendments is to clean up the language for consistency between ordinances and for enforcement purposes.

#### CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- Council Member Reeves commented that there are still some properties of significant size in Alpharetta, and asked if it would be worthwhile to put restrictions on the use of bows and crossbows, but not to require a permit to fire bows or crossbows.
  - Chief Lindgren responded that he has no objection to either process. The goal in implementing the ordinance is to ensure safety and provide authority for the Police Department to address certain behaviors.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein, responded to Council Member Reeves' inquiry regarding permitting. Currently, with the permitting process, if someone violates that code section, they would not be eligible for a permit to discharge a bow or crossbow within the City for a period of five years. If the permit process is removed, then the only recourse could be a citation with punishment, but they would continue to be able to discharge a bow.
- Mayor Gilvin commented that the reason for permitting is if you have a bad actor and they don't have a permit, then you don't know who that bad actor may be. If there are a limited number of people that are permitted, then that would be a starting place if a complaint were received.
- Council Member DeRito asked to confirm that the purpose of these ordinances is to provide the Police Department with more authority to enforce the laws and to adjudicate at the local level versus a state charge.
  - Chief Lindgren confirmed that this is the purpose.
- Council Member Hipes asked about the proposed revisions to Sec. 30-7 Urban Camping and Improper Use of Property, and if it addressed lying down.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein, responded that lying down is addressed in the section for ingress and egress from buildings, driveways, streets, alleys, or any other real property.
- **Proposed New:**
  - Sec. 30-9 Discharge of Bows or Crossbows
  - Sec. 30-10 Interference of a City Officer

- Sec. 30-11 False Representations to Police or to any City Department, Employee, or Agent
- Sec. 30-13 Loitering or Prowling
- Sec. 30-14 Petty Trespass
- Sec. 30-15 Street Racing and Reckless Driving Exhibitions
- Sec. 30-16 Vandalism
- Sec. 30-17 Aggressive Panhandling
- Sec. 30-19 Public Drunkenness
- Sec. 30-21 Avoiding a Traffic Sign, Signal, or Light
- Sec. 30-23 Public Urination or Defecation
- Sec. 30-24 Creating a Disturbance at Schools
- Sec. 30-86 Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in Drug-Related Activity
- Sec. 10-450 Temporary Sales
- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, discussed the proposed new ordinances, which will provide the Police Department with authority to write local ordinance citations instead of state criminal citations.

**CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

- Council Member Brady asked about adding a provision regarding noise to the proposed Sec. 30-15 Street Racing and Reckless Driving Exhibitions.
  - Chief Lindgren responded that there are state laws that address the noise of the mufflers, but that the goal with this ordinance is to eliminate the audience by making it a violation of the ordinance to be a participant, which will in turn eliminate the noise because the revving is done for the audience.
- Council Member Hipes asked about an electric bike ordinance and why that wouldn't be a part of this set of revisions and additions.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein, responded that e-bikes are already addressed in the Parks and Recreation portion of the Code, and rather than creating a new

ordinance within Chapter 30, the already existing Parks and Recreation ordinance will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

- Council Member Hipes asked about the addition of a golf cart ordinance to the Streets and Sidewalks chapter.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein, responded that a golf cart ordinance is part of the discussion related to e-bikes and will be addressed in a later round of revisions.
  - Council Member Reeves asked what the City can do to increase training for the kids who are riding an e-bike/motorcycle and to provide the public with information on what's expected.
- Council Member DeRito asked if a situation where someone is sitting in an inside ATM while another person is trying to use the ATM would fall under the loitering ordinance or the aggressive pan handling ordinance.
  - Chief Lindgren responded that that particular situation would fall under the aggressive pan handling ordinance due to the proximity to the ATM. The aggressive pan handling ordinance will provide the authority for the Police Department to address that specific situation.
- Council Member Hipes asked about the definition of "drunkenness," and if it would be tied to a blood alcohol content or just behavior. Mr. Hipes also asked how erratic behavior would be tied to intoxication.
  - Chief Lindgren responded that it would just be the observation of behavior. Erratic behavior would be tied to intoxication based upon the odor of alcoholic beverages or a call from a complainant. No field sobriety tests would be conducted – it would be based upon the knowledge and experience of the officer.
- Council Member DeRito asked about considering not only drunkenness, but other types of impairment.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein responded that state law only provides the authority for a municipality to adopt an ordinance as it relates to public drunkenness and disorderly conduct. If someone were not under the influence of alcohol and were

behaving erratically, the Police Department would likely look at the disorderly conduct provisions.

- Council Member Hipes asked if the City wanted a permit process or not for temporary sales.
  - City Attorney, Molly Esswein, responded that at this time we are not wanting to implement a permitting process because staff would be inundated. Additionally, there are other ordinance provisions already in place to prevent this issue, so rather than adding this section to the Businesses chapter, it can be addressed there.

## 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

- ❖ Council Member DeRito offered a motion to recess the meeting.
  - Council Member Driskell seconded the motion.
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- Mayor Gilvin recessed the meeting at 5:46 p.m. for the purposes of litigation.
- ❖ Council Member DeRito offered a motion to reconvene the meeting.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Merkel seconded the motion.
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- Mayor Gilvin reconvened the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Merkel seconded the motion.
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- With there being no further items to consider or discuss, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Orehosky, Acting City Clerk