



Special Called City Council Meeting & Public Hearing JUNE 15, 2026

OFFICIAL MINUTES Office of the City Clerk

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 11:30 AM

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 11:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- Council Members

- Mayor Jim Gilvin
- Mayor Pro Tem Dan Merkel
- T. Kirk Driskell
- Katie Reeves
- Douglas J. DeRito
- John Hipes
- Fergal M. Brady

- Staff

- Chris Lagerbloom, City Administrator
- John Robison, Assistant City Administrator
- Molly Esswein, City Attorney
- Grace Orehosky, Municipal Records Officer
- Adam Montgomery, Director of Information Technology

- Tom Harris, Director of Finance
- Pete Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works
- Charlie Jewell, Director of Economic Development
- Trent Lindgren, Chief of Police
- Cris Randall, Director of Human Resources
- Adam Montgomery, Director of Information Technology
- Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- Deanna McKay, Public Communication & Engagement Coordinator
- Shawn Mitchell, Budget & Procurement Manager
- Bret Shroeder, Code Enforcement Manager
- Christine Young, Senior Operations Manager Recreation Parks & Cultural Services

3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Announcement of Public Hearing Procedures

- City Attorney, Molly Esswein, read the public hearing procedures aloud.

B. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Millage Rate Levy

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comment on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Millage Rate Levy. This is public hearing #2 of 3.

- Director of Finance, Tom Harris, came forward to present this item.
- The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget was distributed electronically to the City Council on April 29, 2026, and is available on the City's website as a downloadable pdf and available for filtering/analysis through the City's financial transparency sites powered by ClearGov (FY 2027 budget as well as historical budget/actual revenue/expenditure trend data) and OpenGov (FY 2027 budget line-item detail).
- City Council Budget Workshops were held on May 4, 2026, and May 18, 2026.
- A Public Hearing on the budget and millage rate levy was held on June 1, 2026.

- The 1st reading of the adopting ordinances for the Budget and Millage Rate levy were approved on June 1, 2026.
- There have been no changes to the FY 2027 Budget since the 1st reading of the budget ordinance on June 1, 2026.
- There were changes made to the future planning years of the CIP (2028-2031) to reflect the final approved TSPLOST 3 project list (approved on June 1, 2026). These changes have no effect on the FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget.
- This morning is the second of three public hearings on the FY 2027 Budget and Millage Rate Levy with the adoption schedule as follows:
 - June 1, 2026: Public Hearing & City Council Meeting. 1st reading of the Budget Ordinance & Millage Ordinance.
 - June 15, 2026 (11:30 am): Public Hearing
 - June 15, 2026 (6:30 pm): Public Hearing & City Council Meeting. 2nd reading of the Budget Ordinance & Millage Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no public comments.
- ❖ No formal action was taken on this item.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nauti Dog, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta – Alcohol License Violation Decision Appeal Hearing

Hearing of an appeal of the Hearing Officer's Decision by Nauti Dog, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta.

- Municipal Records Officer, Grace Orehosky, came forward to present this item.
- This matter came before the City Clerk on the administrative action for violations of the City of Alpharetta ("City") Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance by Nauti Dog Grill, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta ("Licensee"). The City Council appointed Judge Jamie Bendall as the Hearing Officer for the purpose of hearing the matter. An evidentiary hearing occurred before Hearing Officer Bendall on March 23, 2026, and it was conducted pursuant to Alpharetta City Code Section 4-29 and applicable law. The Licensee

appeared in person pro-se for the hearing, and the City, represented by City Solicitor Kelsie Mattox, presented evidence through witness testimony, documents, and other materials. Per Code Section 4-28(c), prior to the start of the hearing, City Solicitor Mattox approached the Licensee to present an offer to accept a voluntary offer of a civil monetary penalty in lieu of proceeding with the hearing. The Licensee declined the offer and opted to proceed with the hearing, acknowledging the risk of suspension and revocation of the license.

- The Licensee holds a valid City of Alpharetta alcohol license authorizing the sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits on the premises located at 10 North Broad Street, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. The Licensee applied for and renewed an alcohol license, acknowledging on both the initial application and renewal application that it had read and understood the City's Alcohol Beverage Ordinance, found in Chapter 4 of the City's Code of Ordinances, and that each of its employees is familiar with Chapter 4. [Section 4-6(1)]. The Licensee understood that it was required by City Ordinance to be prepared to serve food during every hour an establishment is open. [Section 4-47(a)(1)]. The Licensee further understood that it was required by City Ordinance to collect excise taxes on the sale of drinks and remit the correct amount of excise tax due. [Section 4-15].
- The two violations of the City's Alcohol Beverage Ordinance are as follows:
 1. From September 2025 through January 2026, the Licensee failed to timely file an alcohol verification of compliance form, for the preceding calendar month, the exact quantities of distilled spirits sold, by the drink, and remit the amount of excise tax due, as required by City Code Section 4-15.
 2. On or about February 7, 2026, shortly after 9 p.m. the Code Enforcement Manager was told over the phone by an employee of the Licensee that they were uncertain whether the kitchen was still serving food. After consulting with a person identified as an authority figure, the employee told the Code Enforcement Manager that the kitchen would be closing by 10 p.m. Later that same night, Lieutenant Jason Carter, who was inside the Licensee's establishment while his body camera was active, captured a darkened kitchen without any apparent kitchen employees present while the business was open and operating.

Indicating that Licensee failed to be prepared to serve food during every hour the establishment was open, as required by City Code Section 4-47.

- The Licensee did present mitigating evidence, including creating and publishing a “Late Night Menu” on their website and social media after receiving notice of violation. Additionally, the Licensee provided evidence admitted at the hearing, Ex. D1, emails regarding Licensee's request for documentation related to the observation that Licensee was not prepared to serve food every hour they were open.
- On April 21, 2026, after considering the evidence, testimony, and the entire record, the Hearing Officer determined that the penalty for late payment of excise taxes, as prescribed in Code Section 4-15, had already been paid in the form of penalty and interest at the time payment of the late excise taxes was remitted by the Licensee. As a result, no additional penalty was found to be warranted. Additionally, the Hearing Officer rendered a final decision of a three day suspension for the violation of Code Section 4-47 to be served after the expiration of the ten-day appeal period.
- The Licensee timely filed an appeal of the Hearing Officer's decision on May 1, 2026, prior to the expiration of the ten-day appeal period. This appeal is before the City Council to sustain, overrule, or modify the order of the Hearing Officer based upon the evidence before you.
- Kyle Paske, Briskin, Cross & Sanford, LLC came forward to present oral argument on behalf of Nauti Dog, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta’s appeal.
- A Final Order of the City Council is attached hereto.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- A discussion occurred.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no public comments.
- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Merkel offered a motion to overrule the Hearing Officer’s Order and uphold the appeal.
- Council Member Hipes seconded the motion.
- A discussion occurred during the motion.

- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

- ❖ Council Member Hipes 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 11:55 a.m. for the purposes of litigation and real estate.
- ❖ Council Member Reeves offered a motion to reconvene the meeting.
 - Council Member Brady seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- Mayor Gilvin reconvened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Council Member Driskell offered a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Council Member Reeves 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 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Orehosky, Acting City Clerk

CITY OF ALPHARETTA
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Nauti Dog Grill, LLC d/b/a
Sunset Alpharetta

License Holder: Michael J. Doyle,
Michelle Doyle & Daniel Mosera

Alcohol License No.: AL250002

City Account No.: 20129

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City Hearing No.: 2026-001

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the City Council of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, on June 15, 2026, pursuant to the timely-filed appeal of Nauti Dog, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta, challenging the Final Decision issued by the Hearing Officer in City Hearing No. 2026-001 on April 21, 2026.

After full consideration of the evidence and argument presented, and based upon review of the Hearing Officer's decision and the record on appeal, the City Council finds sufficient grounds to overrule the Hearing Officer's Final Decision and uphold the appeal.

This decision was by unanimous vote (7-0) of the City Council of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, on June 15, 2026.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Hearing Officer's Final Decision in City Hearing No. 2026-001 is OVERRULED.
2. The appeal of Nauti Dog, LLC d/b/a Sunset Alpharetta is hereby UPHELD.

SO ORDERED, this 15th day of June, 2026.

CITY OF ALPHARETTA

By: 

Jim Gilvin, Mayor