

Special Council Work Session

October 21, 2025

6:00pm

Agenda

Meeting called to order 6pm.

Invocation led by Mayor J. Micheal Evans.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Edward Armijo.

Welcome Extended by Mayor J. Micheal Evans to all in attendance and on social media.

Present were Mayor J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman Edward Armijo, City Administrator Krista Bedingfield; absent from meeting City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

Mr. Miles Malak, 172 Arbor Creek, Centerville, Ga 31028, was called but absent from the meeting.

No public comments were made.

Adoption of Minutes

1. September 2, 2025; Regular Council Meeting
2. September 16, 2025; Special Call Meeting
3. September 16, 2025; Council Work Session

Approved as written.

Motion given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion Carried.
Unanimous

Old Business

Council meeting closed at 6:06pm.

Public Hearing Opened at 6:06pm.

Third Public Hearing-2025 Property Tax Millage Rate: Mayor J. Micheal Evans read press release announcing the proposed millage rate to be 8.9 mills.

Public Comments

Mr. Todd Schuler, of 110 Limestone Trail, Centerville, GA 31028, expressed his concerns that the millage rate was not high enough in order to cover what was need for the Fire and Police Department staffing. Explaining that due to the lack of higher paid wages, he believes this will result in a loss of staff in both departments. As a resident, one of his top concerns is these departments being able to stay fully staffed, especially with the growth the city is currently seeing. He expressed that these employees deserve a 10% to 20% pay increase and if having to increase taxes provides that security then he was willing to pay it.

Mayor & Council all offer appreciation to Mr. Schuler for his comments.

Public Hearing Closes at 6:09pm.

Council meeting opened at 6:09pm.

New Business

Ordinance – Adoption 2025 Millage Rate: (Ordinance 2025-4)

City Accountant Carol Harrison presented the ordinance to adopt the millage rate at 8.9 mills.

- Supporting documents: PT 32.1, five-year property tax digest/history.
- Discussion highlighted:
 - Appreciation for public comments advocating for higher rates to improve staff salaries.
 - Acknowledgement of existing efforts by council and staff to review and address compensation through strategic planning and annual budgeting.
 - Clarified: By law, council cannot set a millage rate higher than the rate publicly advertised.

Motion given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion Carried. Unanimous.

Approval Resolution 2nd Budget Amendment FY 2025: (Resolution 2025-18)

City Accountant Carol Harrison presented the following key changes.

- Police Dept. Reclassification of funds in the amount of \$71,444, for Axon Lease Agreement, from repairs & maintenance to debit service principle (\$56,591) and interest (\$14,853), as required by GASB 87 reporting; no effect on total the General Fund Budget.
- Adjusting the amounts from Confiscated Funds and Crime Stoppers:
 - Increase in supplies of \$1,100 for the purchase of police equipment to the Confiscated Funds Budget.
 - Re-classed \$1,000 in disbursements to Crime Stoppers “supplies-state” instead of “supplies-DOJ” (DOJ funds are exhausted).
- Fire Loan Interest Adjustment to the SPLOST funds: Budgeted interest is \$29,247, Actual interest is \$31,094, an increase of \$1,847.00 to reconcile the SPLOST funds.
- Total FY2025 budget increased by \$2,947, bringing it to \$17,750,381.
- All departments came in under budget for FY2025, resulting in a Net Profit of \$86,000.

Motion to approved Ordinance to amend the 2nd Budget for FY2025 given by Councilman Edward Armijo. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion Carried. Unanimous

Muscular Dystrophy Association Presentation:

Mrs. Bridgett Monroe, Account Director, Corporate Partnerships at MDA

- Shared video about a family impacted by spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).
- Outlined MDA’s 75 years of service: research, care, and advocacy for those with neuromuscular diseases.
- Noted that the Centerville Fire Department has been working alongside MDA with their “Fill the Boot” campaign participation since 2006. As well as their participation in the MDA summer camp program (serving children ages 8 to 17).
- Historical progress in treatment: from 1 FDA-approved drug 24 years ago, to nearly 30 today.
- MDA services: Access to 150 care centers, no-cost patient care, and a summer camp program (Georgia camp held in Rutledge).
- New scholarship program: 10 awarded in 2024, 16 awarded in 2025, with potential to increase as fundraising improves.
- Fundraising Recognition: Centerville Fire Department raised \$15,700 in 2024, ranking first in the state for departments serving populations 1-10,000.
- MDA Presented the Centerville Fire Department with the 2024 Golden Axe Award.

Fire Department Check Presentation (Muscular Dystrophy Association):

- Chief Jason Jones presented a check to Mrs. Bridgett Monroe, MDA, in the amount of \$16,800 for the 2025 collection year (funds from 14th annual golf tournament and boot drives). Multiple photo opportunities with fire staff, city officials, and MDA representatives.

Centerville Fire Department Firefighter of the Year - Firefighter Harvey Barr:

Chief Jason Jones announces Firefighter of the Year.

- Firefighter Harvey Barr, joined the department in the spring of 2023 and has been a valuable to the department.
- Official recognition during October (Fire Prevention Month) after initial award at Knights of Columbus luncheon.

Fire Department Promotional Pinning Ceremony - Captain Chad Kahley:

Chief Jason Jones announced the promotion Chad Kahley.

- Chad Kahley was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain, effective July 2025
- Tonight's meeting is the official pinning ceremony; Janet Kahley, spouse, present to pin new Captain's badge and collar brass on her husband.
- Captain Kahley, has been with the Centerville Fire Department since 2004, and a lieutenant since 2015; he is the lead Fire Inspector and Investigator for the department.

Fire Prevention Week Proclamation:

Chief Jason Jones read proclamation for Fire Prevention Week, as October 5-11, 2025.

- Emphasis on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries in household devices, safe charging/usage, and responsible recycling.
- Appreciation given by Mayor J. Micheal Evans to the Fire Department, for their ongoing commitment to safety education and community outreach.

Police Officer Promotions: Chief Cedric Duncan:

Chief Cedric Duncan announced the promotion of Cory Bard.

- Promotion from Corporal to Detective Sergeant of Investigations, he has been with the Police Dept. for 6yrs.
- Commended by Chief Duncan for perseverance, compliance, and dedication, with an emphasis on the importance of professional development and leadership within the department.

Ordinance Amendment – Days and Hours of Operation – Alcohol Sales: (Ordinance2025-5)

City Administrator Krista Bedingfield presents ordinance amendment to alcohol sales.

Ordinance clarifies:

- To change the hours of operation from 8am to 7am for establishments serving alcohol.
- Establishments prohibited from selling beer, wine, or distilled spirits between 2:00 am and 6:00 am.

Motion to amend the ordinance for alcohol sales as written given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion Carried. Unanimous.

Comments from Council

Post 1 –Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. acknowledged and congratulated the Fire Department, Firefighter Harvey Barr, Capt. Chad Kahley, and Detective Sgt. Cory Bard. Offered his appreciation for all the hard work put into making this year Fall Festival a success and looks forward to more events at CenterPark in the future. Reminded everyone to go vote, that early voting has begun and Election Day is November 4th.

Post 2-vacant.

Post 3- vacant.

Post 4-Councilman Edward Armijo, offered congratulations to the Fire Department for all they do, especially with MDA. Gave congratulations to Capt. Chad Kahley, Firefighter Harvey Barr and Detective Sgt. Cory Bard. Councilman Armijo gave appreciation to Mr. Schuler for speaking at tonight's meeting; he's happy to see everyone coming together tonight and recognizing our staff.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans, reiterated the importance of getting out and voting; he gave thanks for the council members' attendance at this year's Fall Festival; offered appreciation to employees for all the hard work put into making it a great event. Mayor J. Micheal Evans recognized and congratulated Detective Sgt. Cory Bard, Firefighter Harvey Barr, and Capt. Chad Kahley, and is excited for the new leadership roles they will have. Recognized the Fire Department for the funds raised for this year's MDA fundraiser. Mayor J. Micheal Evans announced the city will be showing its patriotic spirit by displaying American flags down Church Street during certain holidays (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc.). Mayor offer his thanks and appreciation to veterans, and to all city employees.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:56pm.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date