

Regular Council Meeting

February 3, 2026

Meeting began at 6:00pm.

Invocation by Major Michael Farar, Chaplain with the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Cammi Sanchez, Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Present were Mayor J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman Justin Wright, Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe, Councilman Edward Armijo, City Attorney Rebecca Tydings, and City Administrator Krista Bedingfield.

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

Mayor's Moment

None.

Public Comments

No public comments made.

Adoption of Minutes

1. January 6, 2026; Regular Council Meeting
2. January 20, 2026; Council Work Session

Motion was given to approve collectively the minutes as written by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Point of Information- 2026 CenterPark Events Calendar: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield presented to the Governing Authority the proposed 2026 CenterPark Events Calendar. Special mention provided regarding new events added and the return of previous events: Movie Nights, Veterans Day, Music/Arts Festival and more day-time activities at the Lighted Christmas Parade. Noting that the calendar is provisional; adjustments may occur as year progresses.

Discussion regarding name change for fall festival event; from Harvest Melody Arts and Music Fall Festival to Harvest Melody Arts and Music Festival; all agreed to name change.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans acknowledged America's 250th year celebration and how the city is excited to celebrate this throughout the year. And that the city is actively seeking sponsorships with businesses for the upcoming Independence Day Event.

Motion to approve the 2026 CenterPark Events Calendar, with name change to fall festival event given by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval Resolution 1st Budget Amendment FY 2026: City Accountant Carol Harrison presented a resolution to amend the Repairs & Maintenance budget for the Fire Department, with an increase of \$47,451.00 for repairs related to storm damage back in May 2025, and are set to be completed in this fiscal year. This request is the 1st Budget Amendment for FY 2026. (Resolution No. 2026-1).

Motion to approve Resolution 1st Budget Amendment FY2026 given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilman Justin Wright. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval Resolution-Amendment Comprehensive Plan-Community Work Program Update: Mayor J. Micheal Evans recognized Mr. Greg Boike, Director of Planning and Public Administration, with the Middle Georgia RC (Regional Commission) and staff present Mr. Alex Smith and Ms. Cammi Sanchez.

Mr. Alex Smith presented slide deck for the Governing Authority to review during this public hearing and a resolution with minor amendments to Centerville's current comprehensive plan, specifically to maintain compliance with Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). (Resolution NO. 2026-2)

Process Overview:

- Every 5 years, comprehensive plan must be updated (last update: Feb 2022; next due: Feb 2027)
- Maintains Qualified Local Government Status and ensures eligibility for grants, competitive loans, and guides long-term community growth and development.
- Essential elements: Community goals (vision), needs & opportunities, short-term work program (actionable projects).
- Additional topics: Housing, Transportation, Land Use, Economic Development, Capital Improvements (optional or integrated).
- Public input: Previous town hall (Jan 20, Houston County Annex), upcoming public participation events, and an online survey (QR code provided during meeting).
- Housing data update necessary; code enforcement has made some updates, but a larger review may be warranted.

Timeline provided:

- By April-June drafting of the comprehensive plan.
- August focused on working on items of community work program
- Then by October-December, putting forth the final hearing to allow this to go to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to be adopted.

Motion to approve Resolution-Amendment Comprehensive Plan-Community Work Program Update given by Councilman Edward Armijo. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval to Authorized and Add Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe, Post 3 as an Authorized Signor on all City Bank Accounts: City Accountant Carol Harrison seeking approval to add Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe as a signor for all city bank accounts at Colony Bank (SPLOST, MDA) and Synovus Bank (summary provide listing all accounts)-Councilwoman Lowe has completed the required online paperwork.

Motion to approve signor for all bank accounts given by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Comments from Council

Post 1: Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. mentioned supporting documents on Facebook link, excited about the market day coming back on Fridays and is looking forward to the Independence Day Events.

Post2: Councilman Justin Wright reminded everyone of the upcoming run-off election for State Senate in the 18th District, with Early Voting beginning February 7th and Election Day February 17th.

Post3: Councilwoman Velicia Lowe is excited about all the upcoming calendar events, especially the Farm to Table events.

Post4: Councilman Edward Armijo recognized and offered thanks to Middle GA Regional Commission for coming out and noted the importance this has on the community. Offered thanks to all those in attendance tonight and online.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans mentioned America celebrating 250years and all the exciting things the city will be doing to celebrate this throughout the year. Additional mentions to come out and vote in the State Senate run-off election, and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming CenterPark events. Special note of appreciation for everyone working together and the importance of providing excellence customer service.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:41pm.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date