

Council Work Session

April 21, 2026

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Invocation by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Edward Armijo.

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

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

Public Comments

No public comments made.

Old Business

No old business.

Agenda Amendment

Request made to add an item to New Business-changing the day the city observes the 2026 Independence Day from July 3rd to July 6th.

Motion to add an item to New Business was given by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

New Business

Resolution Declare 2011 Ford Ranger as Surplus Property- Utilities Department: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield and Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman presented a resolution to declare a 2011 Ford Ranger from the Utility Department as surplus, so it can be listed on GovDeals, with a reserve price of \$1,000. The vehicle is no longer needed due to vehicle upgrades within the department, offering a benefit to other users.

Motion to approve the Resolution was given by Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous. (Resolution 2026-3).

Ordinance Amendment-Water/Sewer and Tap-on Fees: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield and Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman presented the following amendment to adjust the water/sewer, stormwater, and tap-on fees. New upgrades to the county water system require the city to make adjustments to share in the increased costs. Mrs. Bedingfield explains they are seeking immediate approval, effective April 21, 2026. Councilwoman Lowe offered clarification that the current Stormwater rate is \$4.25, and the proposed rate will be \$6.00(an increase of \$1.75 per residential unit).

Mr. Coleman offered the following key points:

- There has not been an increase to the rates in ten years.
- Will help fund current and future Stormwater projects (\$200,000 up to 2 mil).
- Stormwater fees directly support repairs/maintenance.

- Increase continues city’s commitment to financial solvency and low indebtedness.
- Tap Fee adjustments will be for new developments only and will not affect existing residents (unless adding a new meter).
 - For a typical new subdivision (275 homes):
 - 2026 new tap fees, if city continues to bear the cost, would cost \$700,000.
 - By 2029, will rise to \$1.8 million.
- Tap Fees would now be covered by the developers/builders, and not new homeowners.

Discussions were had among the governing body expressing the increases are necessary for infrastructure sustainability and fair distribution of future costs. Legal made mention that the Stormwater mandate originated as an unfunded state requirement (approx. 15-20 years ago), necessitating local funding procurements.

Motion to approve the Ordinance Amendment-Water/Sewer and Tap-On Fees was given by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous. (Ordinance 2026-2).

Approval to purchase 2026 Ford Maverick for Code Enforcement: Chief Cedric Duncan presented two quotes for review from Brannen Motors (\$30,200) and Jeff Smith Ford (\$29,500) for a 2026 Ford Maverick, which will replace the current vehicle for Code Enforcement, a 2015 Dodge Charger (will be designated as surplus at a later date).

Key points were made during discussion:

- 2015 Dodge Charger continues to incur increasing repairs, due to age and mileage (99,000 plus miles) the vehicle has become no longer efficient to maintain.
- This will be a paid-in-full, direct purchase; not a lease.
- An insurance reimbursement check of \$21,781, for payment on another police vehicle will help cover majority of the funds needed.
- Was not initially budgeted, however, additional funds to will be covered by budget amendment at fiscal year-end.

Motion to approve the Purchase of 2026 Maverick Truck from Jeff Smith Ford was given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval to purchase new security system hardware and software: Chief Cedric Duncan presented a quote from NextGen (\$20,000.15) for replacing both the hardware and software for a new security/keypad system. Current system has been nonfunctional for the last six months, resulting in difficulty for new/transitioning officers from accessing the public safety building. Manufacturer has confirmed that the equipment is at “end-of –life” and are not updatable. The quote price does include tax, however, once removed the price changes to \$19,045.00. Budgeted funds, originally set aside for a filing system in the current year, and are still available, will be used to cover the purchase; requiring a reclassification only. Upon approval, the installation can began immediately.

Motion to approve the purchase of new security system hardware & software from NextGen was given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Changing the day the city employees observe the 2026 Independence Day from July 3rd to July 6th: Mayor J. Micheal Evans acknowledged that the city’s 2026 Independence Day Celebration event will be held on July 3rd, and there will be some city employees that will be working the event. Mayor J. Micheal Evans proposed to change the holiday date observed by city employees from July 3rd to July 6th, to ensure that all employees are able to still have a day off for Independence Day.

Motion to approve the change to the city observed Independence Day from July 3rd to July 6th was given by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Comments from Council

Post1: Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. announced upcoming city events for May: Food Truck Friday, Market Day, and Splash Pad (beginning May 1, 2026). Offered acknowledgement and appreciation to city employees and department heads for the essential work they do on behalf of the city.

Post2: absent

Post3: Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe expressed gratitude to city workers for efficient daily operations and thanked the councilmembers in attendance for changing the holiday observance for staff rest. Asked for continued prayers for military service members and their families.

Post4: Councilman Edward Armijo complimented the police department's professionalism during a citizen-requested wellness check, and the fire department's prompt assistance with community health emergencies. He offered praise to the public works and utilities department for their service and keeping the city's utility services running efficiently. Councilman Armijo reminded everyone that the schools will be letting out in about 4 weeks, and urged everyone to drive careful near the parks and surrounding areas.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans recognized that the city will be celebrating Georgia Cities Week with the following events scheduled:

- Touch-a-Truck and Meet an Official on April 22nd (tomorrow) from 1pm-5pm at CenterPark, to include city departments and Robins AFB.
- Mayor scheduled to read to children at the Centerville Library, on April 23rd, at 10:30am.
- Mayor scheduled to read to 3rd graders at Centerville Elementary School on Friday, April 24th.
- Food Truck Friday, May 1st, which coincides with Splash Pad opening at the CenterPark.
- Market Days, set to begin with a grand-opening ribbon cutting on April 28th and then beginning in May, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans offered appreciation to the utilities department for their hard work on keeping up with the maintenance, especially when the Splash Pad is in operations, acknowledging the burden it can cause for the department. Mayor J. Micheal Evans recognized growing community excitement for new events and city improvements.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:29pm.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date