

Council Work Session

August 18, 2026

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Invocation by Councilman Edward Armijo.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Cedric Duncan.

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

Welcome Extended by Mayor J. Micheal Evans to all those in attendance and on social media at the meeting. Special recognition given for Houston County Board of Education representatives in attendance, Mrs. Marcie Shaw, Principal, Centerville Elementary School, Dr. Bridgett Hunt, Assistant Principal of Discipline, Thomson Middle School, and Dr. Amy Barbour, Director of School Operations, Houston County.

Mayor's Moments

Mayor J. Micheal Evans switched presentation order.

Public Works- Certification Recognition of Completion: William "Landon" Andrews: Mayor J. Micheal Evans presented William "Landon" Andrews, with his NPDES certificate of completion for the Level 1B Advance Fundamentals training (12 hours). Mr. Andrews has been an employee with the city's Utility Department for the last seven (7) years, and was recently promoted to Assistant Building Inspector.

2026-2027 Teacher of the Year: Centerville Elementary and Thomson Middle School: Mayor J. Micheal Evans presented letters of recognition and city coins to the 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year for both Centerville Elementary School (Mrs. Andrea Sanford) and for Thomson Middle School (Mr. Curtis Martin). Pictures were taken with the Governing Authority and representatives from the Houston County Board of Education (Dr. Amy Barbour, Director of School Operations, Centerville) and both Centerville Elementary (Mrs. Marcie Shaw, Principal) and Thomson Middle School (Dr. Bridgett Hunt)

Public Comments

No public comments made.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Discussion 2026 millage rate options: City Accountant Carol Harrison presented to the Governing Authority the PT32.1 computation of millage rate rollback and percentage increase in property taxes for 2026 tax year. We have received the tax digest from Houston County Tax Assessors and are showing an increase of \$17 million (or 4.14%) compared to 2025 tax digest. The 2026 calculated rollback rate is 8.871 mills, which is .029 mills less than the current millage rate of 8.90 mills for the 2025 tax year. The rollback rate applied to the net digest and will yield property taxes levied of \$3,176,990, which is about \$20,000 less than what was budgeted for the 2027 property tax revenues (\$3,196,798). City Accountant Harrison notes that the 2026 levy is \$108,602 more than the 2025 property taxes levy of \$3,068,387. Mayor J. Micheal Evans asked for clarification on error & release adjustments; Mrs. Harrison explained they are due to appeals, VA Exemptions and parcels that were either omitted from the digest or were removed due to them no longer being in our city's tax jurisdiction. Mrs. Harrison makes the suggestion

to go with the rollback rate for the 2026 tax year. Mrs. Harrison mentioned that the required ad reflecting the five-year levy history is ready to be submitted to the Houston Home Journal, which was supported by the governing authority. Mayor J. Micheal Evans mentioned that this was not a vote, only that the required advertising and other procedural steps advance forward. Also, noting that if the rollback rate was adopted then there would be no requirement to hold public hearings, nor advertise notices of a tax increase, since the rollback rate is less than the current millage rate.

No action was taken.

Governing Authority expressed appreciation for Mrs. Harrison's presentation.

Approval of Engineering Services- Carter & Sloope, Inc. (C&S or Engineer) Risk and Resiliency Assessment with Cybersecurity Assessment and the Emergency Response Plan: Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman presented for consideration the engineering service agreement from Carter & Sloope, Inc. for assistance with the city's Risk and Resiliency Assessment (RRA), Cybersecurity Assessment and Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Superintendent Coleman explained that the updates are required about every five (5) years and go hand in hand with each other. Mayor J. Micheal Evans inquired if whether Carter & Sloope had been used previously and if there were any other companies that had been reviewed. Mr. Coleman confirmed that the firm had been used previously and had handled the city's Groundwater Withdrawal Permit; however he noted that no other firms were considered since this firm specializes in the area and other firms were more towards Atlanta.

Motion to approve engineering service agreement with Carter & Sloope, Inc. given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Request approval to award the bid proposal for the design, construction, and purchase of a new Rescue Mini-Pumper apparatus-Fire Department: Chief Jason Jones presented a comparison sheet of four bids received and reviewed for the design, construction and purchase of a new Rescue Mini-Pumper apparatus for the Fire department. Chief Jones had sent RFP's to these four companies back in July 2026, and is recommending the Governing Authority award the bid to Peach State Emergency Vehicle/DEV in the amount of \$144,889.00. Chief Jones explained that this company offered the largest pump and most storage capacity, allowing modifications to the design to meet the fire department's needs. As well as, having a local warranty and service center in the area (Byron, GA) makes repairs needs more convenient. Expected delivery will be six to eight months from tonight's approval, noting that the other companies were years out before delivery could occur. Funds for this purchase will come from the SPLOST 24, which \$1.2 million was budgeted for two vehicles for the Fire Department.

Motion to approve the Peach State Emergency Vehicle/DEV bid given by Councilman Edward Armijo Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Discussion was had by governing authority, Councilman Armijo noted that both the public works and fire department items were fully budgeted, and he praised the city for planning and executing projects without overspending.

Councilwoman Lowe thanked Chief Jones for comparing multiple estimates and highlighted the practical value of a 6 to 8 month delivery and nearby service support.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans emphasized the city's priority of providing first responders and public safety departments with the equipment they need.

Comments from Council

Post 1: Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. offer his thanks and appreciation for all city employees, Superintendent Coleman, City Accountant Harrison and Fire Chief Jones for their presentations at tonight's meeting. As well as, having the opportunity to review and become knowledgeable on the agenda items tonight.

Post2: Councilman Justin Wright absent.

Post3: Councilwoman Velicia Lowe echoes appreciation to all Department Heads and city employees for all they do. Councilwoman Lowe recognizes two police officers, Ewing and Ussery, for the support and help they provided to a family in the Centerville community. Noting it is a wonderful thing to see happening and to hear about from our citizens.

Post4: Councilman Edward Armijo offered appreciation to the city's department heads, recognizing specifically Court Clerk Sara McCarthy, City Accountant Carol Harrison, City Administrator Krista Bedingfield, and City Clerk Lee Siefert for their dedication and hard work. Councilman Armijo also recognized teachers, noting that they are special people and all the work they do for our kids and community.

Mayor: J. Micheal Evans appreciated Councilman Bird for mentioning that the governing authority does review items so that they can be fully informed and make the best decisions. Noting the importance of taking care of our employees and the citizens. Mayor J. Micheal Evans thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date