Regular Council Meeting
October 6, 2026

Meeting called to order by Mayor J. Micheal Evans at 6:00pm.

Invocation by Councilwoman Lowe.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Wright.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Evans, recognized former Mayor John R. Harley.

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

Mayor's Moment
None

Public Comments

1. Susan Lemme, 219 Mason Drive, Centerville Ga, 31028: spoke about the City of Milledgeville recent tax increase and how this would affect the citizens and future obligations. The good news is we live in Centerville and Houston County. City of Centerville does not operate in this manner; everyone stays in the loop. City staff provide procedures in place to follow. Recognition and Appreciation thanked everyone for good budget management practices. Ms. Lemme contrasted reports about Baldwin County's finances with her observations of Centerville's budget practices. She cited reporting that a GBI and Attorney General investigation, requested by the Judicial Circuit District Attorney, examined allegations that Milledgeville had not received its share of SPLOST and TSPLOST funds and that Baldwin County faced a $15 million loan payment due in December. She said the county initially considered raising its millage rate from 9.76 to 19.66 mills, then considered a 3.9-mill increase and transferring its courthouse and government building to a public facilities authority to finance their costs through bonds. She noted that the alternative would still not cover future loan payments and recurring payroll, health-insurance, and retirement costs. Ms. Lemme described Centerville's practices as involving public council review of SPLOST projects, spending, project stages, and funding sources. When unbudgeted or excess costs arise, she said department heads, the city accountant, the city administrator, and sometimes a council identify a funding source and present the proposed budget change publicly for council approval or rejection. She also praised public access to budgets, contracts, audit reports, and council meetings; department heads, mayor, and council; and the city attorney's role in protecting the city's interests in contracts. She raised concerns reported in Baldwin County about alleged use of general funds to cover excess SPLOST/TSPLOST spending, commingling of funding streams, capital-project overspending without contracts, limited financial accountability, and a county chairman not seeing a budget for about six years. Ms. Lemme thanked current and former city officials and employees for responsible stewardship and encouraged residents to attend and participate in City Council meetings, which are broadcast live via Facebook. Council members and the mayor thanked her and credited city staff, council oversight, and previous administrations for Centerville's financial practices and reserves.

Adoption of Minutes

2. September 1, 2026: Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Old Business
None

New Business

Motion to revise agenda moving items 8 to 7 made by Councilman Bird; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

3. Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) 2025 Centerville Fire Department Recognition: Bridgett Monroe (MDA): Fire Chief Jason Jones recognized Ms. Monroe, MDA representative presented the department's 2025 recognition and thanked Centerville firefighters, city officials, local businesses, golf-tournament participants, sponsors, and community members for their fundraising partnership, which is in its 20th year. The presentation included a video about a family affected by ALS and the value of fundraising for research and support. The representative noted the recent death of Brooke Eby, who had been diagnosed with ALS at age 33 and died at 37. Centerville's fire service and community were recognized as Georgia's leading MDA fundraiser among fire-service communities of comparable size. No motion or action taken.

4. Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) 2026 Check Presentation: Fire Chief Jason Jones presented check to Ms. Monroe in the amount of $18,000. The 2025 campaign raised $16,800. The department presented its 2026 fundraising check of $18,000, its highest total in the partnership's 20-year history. Fundraising included boot drives and a golf tournament. No motion or action taken.

5. 2026 Firefighter of the Year Recognition (Andrew Schuler – recipient): Fire Chief Jason Jones recognized Andrew Schuler as the 2026 Firefighter of the Year. Chief Jones stated that fire fighter Schuler has continued to grow professionally and dedication to Fire Department and well-deserved recognition voted on his peers to select by nomiations.5 ½ years.

6. Proclamation Fire Prevention Week 2026: Mayor J. Michael Evans proclaimed October 4–10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week in Centerville. The 2026 theme is "Charge into Fire Safety, Safe Charging is a Superpower." The proclamation highlighted fire risks from lithium-ion batteries in everyday devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, scooters, and toys. It encouraged using the supplied or manufacturer-approved charger, charging on a flat, hard surface, and watching for warning signs such as excessive heat or swelling. Proclamation presented to Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones stated firefighters provide year-round fire-safety education, particularly for children, and announced department outreach at the mall this and at the fair the following week, including use of the fire safety house.

7. Approval of Medical Services Director Agreement: Fire Chief Jason Jones explained that the agreement provides medical oversight for the department's emergency medical services, including protocols, patient-care practices, and clinical guidance. Houston County fire departments will use the same agreement and protocols. The medical director can help during unusual field-care situations through contact with the 911 center. The chief said the agreement establishes a shared framework and helps protect the city and personnel. Cost is $4,800 current budget will absorb; funds will be paid out of the education and training. Mayor Evans added that this will protect the city, patient care practices and protocols come from a physician, this will give one umbrella to work under in case something happens if we get on a scene, make contact with medical director for approval of care. Provides direction and protection. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve agreement as written; seconded by

Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Motion to move item 12 to 8 change made by Councilman Bird; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Council approved rearranging agenda items so the fire department matters could be handled together.

8. Rescue Mini-pumper Change Order Approval: Fire Chief Jason Jones requested approval of specification changes identified at a pre-construction meeting in Florida. The department removed a couple of large hoses it does not use and added a brush guard and winch, based on the usefulness of the winch on the current rescue truck. The change of order was described as an increase of $2,999. Chief Jones added the current budget can absorb the additional revenue. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

9. Adoption of 2026 Rollback Millage Rate: Mayor Evans entertained motion to adopt ordinance with 2026 millage rate of 8.846 mills. Motion to approve made by Councilman Armijo; seconded by Councilwoman Lowe. General discussion re: 2026 rollback millage rate. City Accountant Harrison provided copy of ordinance and PT-32.1 calculation for adopting the rollback rate. Mrs. Harrison also confirmed that the city had met the advertising requirements for the five-year history and issued a revised advertisement changing the adoption date from September 15 to October 6. Mayor Evans called for vote. Motion carried.

10. Infrastructure IGA: Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman stated the city would take on additional responsibility for traffic studies and confirming residual and everyday flows. The agreement changes the terminology from a master meter to a transition meter. The city remains responsible for lines, taps, and mains behind the meter. County bulk-water fees will be updated annually and provided by July 1. New-subdivision tap and related costs are passed to developers, while the city will pay the county a per-service fee listed in Exhibit A. Fees for a three-quarter-inch service are scheduled to increase through 2029, with further increases anticipated. Council members asked about reports of a limit of one hundred taps per developer per year. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve; seconded by Councilwoman Lowe. Motion carried.

11. Moratorium Telecommunications Infrastructure Right of Way: Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman presented an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium in response to increased requests from companies to install fiber-optic infrastructure in city rights-of-way. The city attorney had been involved in developing the proposal. The city intends to rejoin the Georgia Municipal Association's telecommunications franchise-fee program to access updated master right-of-way and model franchise-fee agreements that can be tailored for Centerville. The proposed moratorium is for six months, with completion of the updated framework by the end of 2026. Motion made by Councilman Armijo; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

12. Resolution of Authority for Deposit Services Colony Bank: City Accountant Carol Harrison provided resolution for approval. Colony Bank deposit-services authority resolution bank's model resolution, which identifies the mayor, council, and city administrator as officials authorized to act on deposit services, including opening accounts and managing safe-deposit box leases. It also permits designation of additional account signers. The resolution covered eight accounts previously authorized by council on September 1. Additional signers identified were Police Chief Duncan for the confiscated funds account and Municipal Court Clerk Maxwell for the municipal court account. Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thanked city accountant Harrison referenced Ms. Lemme comments, guiding force in budget and funds in separate accounts. Congratulations to fire fighter of the year and MDA fund raising. Reminders: Fall Festival October 17 and applications are being accepted if you wish to participate in the Annual Lighted Christmas Parade.

Post 2 Councilman Wright recognized Mrs. Harrison and congratulated the firefighter of the year along with the departments continued support for MDA.

Post 3 Councilwoman Lowe thanked fire department and their MDA partnership and their work. Reminder early voting, thank you to all new voters and reminder to exercise your right to vote. Recognized Utilities Superintendent thankful for their recent service in handling citizen's concern. October is breast cancer awareness month; early detection saves lives.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, congratulations to the Fire Department and "kudos" to Public Works, have a great community and department heads. Recognized Ms. Lemme and thanked her for coming to the meeting and the comments. Thanked Mrs. Harrison for her hard work. Mrs. Harrison replied "kudos' to Mayor and Council for their continued oversight.

Mayor Evans, recognized Mrs. Harrison, stating the accounting department is running well, thank you for all you do and because of the oversight of the council, Centerville is doing well, we are in good condition with reserves. C ongratulations firefighter Schuler and the entire department they work hard to help MDA. Reminder, Centerville Elementary will be hosting BOOK NIC in center park on Thursday, October 8, from 5-7.

Mayor Evans adjourned meeting at 6:55pm.

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Mayor J. Micheal Evans

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Attest by City Administrator Krista Bedingfield

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Date