Regular Council Meeting

September 1, 2026

Meeting began at 6:00pm.

Invocation by Councilman Justin Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Lou Napolitano.

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 Moments

Mayor J. Micheal Evans added to the agenda two items that he highlighted during his Mayor's Moments.

- GED Bootcamp being hosted at Centerville City Hall this week (August 31-September 4, 2026), and in partnership with Central Georgia Technical College. This program is offering an opportunity for people who want to earn their GED to do so in less time. City Administrator Krista Bedingfield acknowledged there had been positive interest with initially 13 people signed up, and 4 people actual in attendance for the first session. The GED testing is set for September 4 and 5. Mayor J. Micheal Evans mentions the concept may serve as a pilot program that could potentially be expanded across other campuses if successful.
- Employee Recognition: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield. Mayor J. Micheal Evans took a moment to recognize and thank Mrs. Bedingfield for her many years of service with the City of Centerville, having just celebrated her 26th year last Friday, August 28th. Mayor J. Micheal Evans extended appreciation to all long-serving employees and department heads for helping the city run well. Additional council members offered congratulations and appreciation.

Public Comments

No public comments made.

Adoption of Minutes

August 4, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

August 18, 2026, Council Work Session

Motion to approve minutes as written together given by Councilman Edward Armijo. Second by Councilwoman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried with yays from Mayor J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Bird, Councilwoman Lowe and Councilman Armijo, zero nays and one abstain from Councilman Justin Wright; citing reason being he was absence from those meetings. Motion passed.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Approval of Agreement to Upgrade City wide phone system: Mayor J. Micheal Evans and City Administrator Krista Bedingfield provided two quotes for a new city wide phone system. Mrs. Bedingfield explains this is for sixty-eight (68) new phones covering the six facilities within the city. The

quotes provided were from Total Computer Service (TCS) and Cox Communications. Mrs. Bedingfield recommends going with Cox Communication (a lease agreement), based on the long-term support and maintenance with upgraded phone systems for each department. Mrs. Bedingfield explains that the project timeline, if approved, would be about three (3) weeks for completion. This was not a budgeted item, however after review with City Accountant Carol Harrison, there will be no issues for each department absorbing the extra cost. City Administrator Bedingfield added a request for the governing authority to authorize her to sign the required documents. Mayor J. Micheal Evans inquired as to why the need to change the current phone system? Mrs. Bedingfield explained that the current aging system (approximately 14+ years old) is no longer receiving adequate support, with some departments experiencing significate issues such as customers and staff being able to reach those departments.

Motion to approve the Cox Communication agreement and authorization for City Administrator Bedingfield as signer on behalf of the city given by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans combines items #2 and #3 together, since the resolution provided has combined both items.

Approval & Resolution to Declare Surplus Property - 1997 Chevrolet 3500 (Brush Truck-Fire Department): Mayor J. Micheal Evans and Fire Chief Jason Jones requested the governing authority approve the resolution declaring the Fire Department's 1977 Chevrolet 3500 (brush truck) as surplus property. Chief Jones mentions that the Fire Department originally acquired the vehicle from Peach County's surplus inventory, and is currently dealing with a fuel issue, adding to the ongoing repair problems. Chief Jones adds that this vehicle will be replaced by the new Rescue Mini Pumper when it arrives.

Approval & Resolution to Declare Surplus Property – 2015 Kymco side-x-side: Mayor J. Micheal Evans and Fire Chief Jason Jones continues by requesting the governing authority approve the resolution to declare the Fire Department's 2015 Kymco side-by-side ATV unit as surplus property. Chief Jones mentions that the unit was purchased from the Georgia Forestry surplus; and again it too has repair issues and is to be replaced by the new unit the city has purchased.

The council discussed whether another side-by-side intended for the Water Department needed to be declared surplus; it was clarified that it was a different unit and that the Water Department would receive the older one later and attempt repairs.

Motion to approve the resolution (2026-9) declaring the 1977 Chevrolet truck and the 2015 Kymco Side-By-Side as surplus property given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval Transition of Existing Bank Accounts from Synovus Bank to Colony Bank: Mayor J. Micheal Evans and City Accountant Carol Harrison presented to the governing authority for approval the transition of all existing bank accounts from Synovus Bank to Colony Bank. Mrs. Harrison mentions that the change would result in a net benefit of $10,107 per month of interest (or 3%); noting that $1 million of the city balances would cover the relevant services fees from Colony Bank. The city currently has 7 bank accounts with Synovus, and all 7 would eventually be moved to Colony. The initial move will include the first four accounts (Confiscated Funds, Chip, Court and Stormwater) around mid-October to early November, due to lower activity. The remaining 3 accounts will be moved late February to early March 2027; there will be expected changes to user setups, etc. as each account is moved over.

Councilwoman Lowe inquired as to the reasons behind the move; Mrs. Harrison explains the city already has a relationship with Colony, the local representative had made a strong case, and the arrangement would bring better returns ($120,000 annual) and accessibility.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans asked about the separate FLOST account; Mrs. Harrison explained that it is a requirement of the law for this particular account, which is clarified more in the next agenda item.

Motion to approve the transition from Synovus Bank to Colony Bank given by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval Open New Bank Account - FLOST Proceeds: Mayor J. Micheal Evans and City Accountant Carol Harrison requests approval to move forward with opening the FLOST account before funds start coming in; proceeds will begin in December. Mrs. Harrison explained that FLOST refers to the floating local option sales tax and by law funds are required to be kept in a separate account from all other city accounts (similar to SPLOST). Mayor J. Micheal Evans offered a brief explanation of the FLOST noting that the tax is intended to help reduce property taxes and that future collections would affect the millage rate.

Motion to approve the opening of the new FLOST Bank Account given by Councilwoman Velicia Lowe. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Point of information – 2026 Rollback Millage Rate: Mayor J. Micheal Evans and City Accountant Carol Harrison provided a point of information to the governing authority informing them of a correction to the 2026 rollback rate. Mrs. Harrison further explains that Houston County sent over last Friday a correction to the homestead exemption, resulting in the recalculation to the 2026 rollback rate from 8.871 to 8.846. The change in property levied was described as a decrease of $8000.00. Property taxes levied at the 8.846 rate would generate $3.168 million in revenue; the city's FY2027 budget of $3.196million, would leave a difference of $28,000, however Mrs. Harrison states the budget could absorb the difference. Mrs. Harrison mentions that if the governing authority decides to adopt the proposed rollback rate, then there is no requirement for public hearings and only one ad notice (5-year digest look-back; set to run September 5th) would be required and would have the corrected rollback rate listed. Mayor J. Micheal Evans indicated the intent is to adopt the millage rate at the next council meeting (September 15th).

No action taken.

Comments from Council

Post 1: Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. had no additional comments.

Post2: Councilman Justin Wright offered congratulations to Krista Bedingfield for her many years of dedicated service.

Post3: Councilwoman Velicia Lowe expressed excitement for the GED boot camp program and offered congratulations to Mrs. Bedingfield on her 26 years of service.

Post4: Councilman Edward Armijo recognized Mr. Todd Bedingfield, spouse of Krista Bedingfield, and offered his thanks and appreciation for his support and for attending tonight's meeting.

Mayor: J. Micheal Evans echoed similar comments as the council and reiterated his appreciate to City Administrator Bedingfield and his excitement with the city's partnership with Central Georgia Technology College (CGTC) and Dr. Ivan Allen; he expressed hope for more future programs. Mayor J. Micheal Evans offered his thanks to all of the city's employees for all their hard in keeping the city running smoothly.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:23pm.

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Mayor J. Micheal Evans

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Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

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Date