APPROVED ON: 03.02.2026

City of Andersonville
City Council Minutes
February 2, 2026

The Andersonville City Council met on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the City Conference Room at the Depot. The following council members were present: Mayor Brandon Gross, Mayor Pro Tem Velma Coley, Chris Hobbs, Penny Williams, and Chris Wooden. Also present were City Clerk Teresa Owens, Public Works Supervisor Mark Hall, Utility Clerk Jeff Smith, Deputy Brandon Glover, Stephanie Wooden and Mack Page. Wanda Pate and Wes Beamon were present as guest speakers.

Mayor Brandon Gross opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Chris Wooden gave the invocation.

January 2026 Minutes

A motion to accept the January 2026 minutes was made by Chris Wooden and seconded by Velma Coley. **The motion was unanimously approved**.

Financial Reports

A motion to accept the January 2026 financial statements was made by Chris Wooden and seconded by Chris Hobbs. **The motion was unanimously approved**.

Guest Speaker

Wes Beamon

- Sumter County native and 1995 graduate of Sumter County High School; announced his candidacy for Superior Court.
- Served six years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of Sergeant.
- Joined Americus Fire & Emergency Services in 1996 (rising to Captain); currently serves as volunteer firefighter and paramedic with Schley County since 2013
- Began law school at Mercer University in 2016; opened Beamon Law in 2018.
- Appointed Magistrate Court Judge for Schley County in 2017; serving as Municipal Court Judge for Oglethorpe since 2022.
- Stated that his experience and judicial demeanor have prepared him to serve effectively as Superior Court Judge for the circuit.
- Thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak and asked for their support.

Wanda Pate

- Wanda is a Coach and Consultant at Manifest Coaching and Consulting in Albany, GA
- Wanda presented to council the desire to open a girl's home at 503 Winder St in Andersonville.
    - The home will be for girls 12-17 years of age and there will be a maximum of 6 girls in the home.
    - The girls will be supervised, 24/7, by trained staff.
    - The girls will not be on their own to walk around, they will be required to have staff with them at all times.

- They selected Andersonville to get the girls into a more rural environment which would be different from where they have been living.
- There was no vote, but the City Council expressed support for Wanda's plan for a girls' home.

Items Voted on by Council

- In the City Clerk report it was noted that Synovus Bank suggested not closing the bank account at this time as there was not any electronic access with attempted fraud. Chris wooden made the motion to wait on closing the bank account and Velma Coley seconded the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Items Discussed without Vote

- SPCC Report
  - Stephanie Wooden stated she has had a lot of grand babies lately and has not had the time to open the SPCC as much as she would like.
  - Penny Williams asked about the status of the Mud Run. The Mud Run has not been decided yet.
  - It was noted that Mark has been checking and scraping the section of Oglethorpe St where the mud run has been held in the past.
  - Teresa Owens suggested we might be able to use Battlefield Rd, through the Guild's land.
- City Clerk Report
  - No work was completed on delinquent audits due to all available hours being used for the various end-of-year/beginning-of-year required reporting; W-2s have been processed. Payroll reports and tax deposits are current; will begin bringing sales tax reports/payments current as time and funds allow, working on GIRMA packet due February 9th
  - Three property-complaint letters still need to be written and sent.
  - Ideally the Council should adopt the new budget for the next fiscal year by June 30. Public Hearing is required at least one week before adoption. A Public Notice has to be published at least one week before the public hearing.
    - Mayor Brandon Gross stated that he will provide possible dates for budget meetings.
  - The generator contract is still under review with the attorney.
  - Shred-It will be at the Depot on February 10; the public may bring items for shredding.
  - The Synovus account closure was discussed (see "Items Voted on by Council").
  - A letter has been sent to Congressman Sanford Bishop's office regarding the need for consistent Post Office hours for the community.
- Public Works Report
  - It was requested to investigate getting a toolbox for the new pickup. Mark to check into options and pricing.
  - A valve at the old well cracked and had to be capped underground with a 3" cap.
  - Fire hydrant behind Drummer Boy Museum is leaking. It has been too cold to work on but Mark and Eddie plan to try and fix it as soon as it's warmer.

- New Business
    - Teresa Owens provided a resolution to amend the City's Investment Policy along with a newly drafted policy prepared by City Attorney Kathryn Moore and Financial Advisor Bardin Hooks; Council will take both home for review and future discussion.
        - The reason for considering a new policy is that local governments now have more investment options available, and because the City's remaining CDs were no longer staggered according to the 2014 Investment Policy after some CDs were used.
        - Bardin Hooks is holding the most recently matured CD in cash until a decision is made on reinvestment.
        - Penny Williams asked whether the cash is currently earning interest; Teresa said it is not.
        - After discussion, the Council agreed to keep the current (2014) Investment Policy because it is more restrictive and provides stronger safeguards for public funds.
        - Teresa will coordinate with Bardin Hooks to reinvest the cash on hand into staggered CDs in accordance with the current policy.
    - Mayor has asked Teresa to send letter to the owner of the old gas station to clean up the property. (see city clerk report 3 letters)
    - Teresa Ownen asked if we should consider dissolving Municipal Court due to reporting and training requirements for the City Clerk as Court Clerk. It was discussed and Chris Hibbs made a motion to dissolve which Chris Wooden seconded. Teresa asked if the council wanted to wait until all of the council members were present before taking official action to dissolve the city's court system Chris Hobbs withdrew his motion.
- Old Business
    - City Clerk Job Posting
        - Teresa's resignation letter (submitted September 2025) included up to a one-year transition, ending September 30, 2026. The City Council agreed to move forward with posting the City Clerk job.
    - City Logo
        - Mayor Brandon Gross showed council a simplified version of the potential logo.
    - OneSumter Sign
        - The Mayor said that OneSumter had him that repainting the sign from brown to white and making the modifications needed to install it in the Hwy 49 planter box would add $1,600 to the cost.
        - Earlier in 2025, OneSumter donated a sign and installation to each municipality. In October, believing the sign had not yet been manufactured, the Council chose to use it to replace the old city-limits sign on Hwy 271 rather than place it at the originally suggested Hwy 49 location.
        - At the November meeting, OneSumter noted potential issues with the Hwy 271 location and encouraged reconsideration. The Council voted 4–1 to return the sign to the Hwy 49 location and to have it produced in white with black lettering.
        - The reason a new cost is being discussed is because the sign had already been produced in brown, and changing the color plus the planter-box installation requires additional work. The Council is not agreeable to cover any additional

cost because they were given the impression that the sign had not been made yet.

- The Mayor stated he had already told OneSumter that he didn't think the Council would agree to pay the additional cost and would confirm it with them.

Other Business

- Mayor Brandon Gross stated that he was in discussion with a CPA that occasionally works with the city's auditor Gene Allen, but that auditor wants to make sure it won't be an issue with Gene if he were to bid on becoming our current auditor.
- Chris Wooden reported that a residential lot on S. Freeman has two or three RVs and a tent with people living in them, which is prohibited under both the City ordinance and Sumter County code. He asked what actions the City can take, and Teresa said she will contact the Health Department to check how sewage is being disposed of since City sewer is not available on that street. Chris also noted that one of the individuals, in order to avoid court, had previously agreed not to live in her RV. Teresa will follow up on enforcement options.

Being no further business, the monthly meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.