

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, June 1, 2026 in the D.V. Childs Civic Center.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terry Favors, Terrell Fulford, Ikea Simmons and David Tufts, City Attorney John Newberry, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Robinson, and Assistant City Clerk Kayleigh Faircloth.

Guests: Mathew Billings, Jane Whitehead, Cecil Ethridge & Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

David Tufts gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to approve the June 1, 2026, agenda.

APPROVED 5-0

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve the May minutes.

APPROVED 5-0

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to approve May's accounts payable.

APPROVED 5-0

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Barbee Had a zoom meeting with GDOT regarding the traffic signals at the railroad tracks. Mayor Barbee stated that GDOT will be doing a traffic study at that location and will follow up with mayor and council.

New Business:

1. P&Z Hearing:

- **Item A:** Matthew Billings requests a variance to allow parking for 2-4 tractor trailers at a commercial location. Property is located at 133 James St., and consists of 2+/- acres, zoned C-2 (General Commercial).

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fulford, and unanimously voted to go into P & Z Hearing.

APPROVED 5-0

- Mathew Billings
 - Mr. Billings stated that he is the owner of the property at 133 James Street.
 - school. They are not parking on the street; they are well behind the property line.

- Mr. Billings stated the property was previously used as a landfill which limits the usage of the property.
- Jane Whitehead spoke in favor of the variance request.
- Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated Tim Pitrowski from planning and zoning stated it needed to be rezoned. Mr. Pitrowski was unable to attend the meeting.
- Mr. Collins suggested we postpone decision until we were able to discuss the item further with Mr. Pitrowski.
- Councilman Favors stated he has received the complaints regarding the appearance of the trucks/trailers being parked at the location.
- Councilman Fulford asked if he had purchased the land with the intent to use it for parking.
- Mr. Billings stated he did not that he had his business there long before purchasing the land.
- Mr. Billings said that the prior owners had approved parking on the property before he purchased.
- Councilman Tufts asked if there were certain people parking there or if it was parking for all truck drivers.
- Mr. Billings stated he does not advertise it; currently the drivers that are using the space have routinely park there. Mr. Billings noted that it was a total of four drivers. He has based his request on how many trucks are currently there and how often the drivers are looking for parking.

Mayor Pro Tem James Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to exit the P & Z Hearing.

APPROVED 5-0

Mayor Po Tem James Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to postpone this item until July's Council Meeting.

APPROVED 5-0

2. Appoint Mayor Pro Tem Collins as the city representative on the chamber board.

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Collins as the city representative on the chamber board .

APPROVED 5-0

3. Authorization for the city clerk to transfer \$100,000 from the WWTP bank account to the W&S Operations/Maintenance account.

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, to approve the city clerk to transfer \$100,000 from the WWTP bank account to the W&S Operations/Maintenance account.

APPROVED 5-0

4. Authorization for Mayor Barbee to sign the 2026 supplemental LMIG application.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, to authorize Mayor Barbee to sign the 2026 supplemental LMIG application.

APPROVED 5-0

Public Comments: *(Three minutes per speaker and no more than two speakers per topic)*

- Main Street Director Ashley Roberson has Total Marketing 365 coming on June 11th to take pictures of the community as part of the rebranding package.
- Debbie Lurie-Smith handed out a flyer with updates from our public library. 11,158 public library card holders, 40,430 Parton visits, 2,544 hours open. (Flyer in City Hall Lobby)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

City Clerk