

July 6, 2026

City Council Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, July 6, 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 Roberson, City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Assistant City Clerk Kayleigh Faircloth and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Tim Pitrowski, Mathew Billings, Jane Whitehead, Kim Rushin, Cheryl Roberts, Pamela Jordan & Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

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

Mayor Barbee gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve the July 6, 2026, agenda.

APPROVED 5-0

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

APPROVED 5-0

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

APPROVED 5-0

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Barbee stated that he, Councilman Tufts and Councilman Simmons attended the GMA Convention.

New Business:

1. **First Reading:** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to amend Chapter 66, Article I, Section 1 of the code of the City of Gray, Georgia, so as to provide for additional restricted streets for motor vehicles weighing in excess of 8,000 and/or 18,000 pounds; and for other purposes.
2. **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).
 - City Attorney John Newberry noted the public hearing for on this item was held at a previous meeting, stating that it was placed back on the agenda for further discussion.
 - Tim Pitrowski said he was asked to clarify the difference between commercial and industrial zoning and noted the following:
 - Current zoning at 133 James Street is C-2 (commercial parking lots are allowed).

- Truck terminals are not permitted in C-2, they are permitted in M-1 zoning.
- Mr. Pitrowski stated that staff's opinion is that tractor/trailer parking is not a permitted use in C-2 district and that is the reason the variance is required.
- Mayor Pro Tem Collins read a letter from the Downtown Development Authority regarding the variance request, which stated the following:
 - They acknowledged and gave respect for the property/business owner, as well as the important role truck drivers play in supporting our local economy.
 - For years DDA has worked closely with the city to create a downtown area that is clean, welcoming, and attractive for residents, visitors, and businesses.
 - They do not feel that regular semi-truck parking is the best fit for our Downtown. It's also not unusual for Downtown Districts across Georgia to have similar restrictions in place.
 - They also respectfully wanted to note their concern that approving this variance could set a precedent for future requests on other properties with the same commercial zoning designation. Maintaining consistency in how zoning standards are applied is important to preserving the long-term vision and integrity of the Downtown District.
 - They asked if Council chose to approve this request. That the property/Business owner make visual improvements such as screening, fencing, landscaping or other appropriate barriers be considered to help maintain the appearance if this important gateway to Downtown.
- Kimberly Rushin spoke in favor of allowing tractor trailer parking at 133 James Street.

Mayor Pro Tem James Collins made a motion to deny the variance request to allow tractor/trailer parking at 133 James Street., the motion was seconded by Councilman Favors. Councilman Tufts and Councilman Fulford voted in favor of the motion and Councilman Simmons voted against. Motion passes.

APPROVED 4-1

3. A resolution of the mayor and council of the City of Gray, Georgia authorizing Mayor Barbee to execute an agreement between the City of Gray and Goebel Media Group, LLC regarding web development; and for other purposes.

Councilman Fullford made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 26-R-014**.

APPROVED 5-0

4. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to supplement the general appropriations resolution pass by mayor and council on the 6th day of October 2025, for fiscal year 2026; and for other purposes.
 - LMIG supplement.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 26-R-015**.

APPROVED 5-0

5. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to supplement the general appropriations resolution pass by mayor and council on the 6th day of October 2025, for fiscal year 2026; and for other purposes.
 - Firework stand inspection fee.

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approved **Resolution 26-R-016**.

APPROVED 5-0

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

- City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated drilling on the Lampkin property should begin this week.
- Attorney Newberry said that an extension payment for the Lampkin property is due on July 15, 2026.

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

City Clerk