

*"Preserving Our Heritage,
Shaping Our Future"*

Historic Home of Gravel Hill
Est. 1815

Timothy Byler, Mayor



City Hall
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14TH, 2026 AT 4:30 P.M.
FLEMINGTON CITY HALL - 156 OLD SUNBURY RD

Present at City Hall: Mayor Timothy Byler
Mayor Pro Tempore ('MPT') Rene' Harwell
Councilman Larry Logan
Councilman Hasit Patel
Councilwoman Leigh Smiley
Councilman Paul Martin
Councilman Manish Patel
Shameka Hawkes, City Clerk
Craig Stafford, City Attorney
LT Anthony Gallob, Liberty County Sheriff's Office ("LCSO")

Present via Phone: None

Absent:

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Byler on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, at 4:32 p.m. at Flemington City Hall. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. The invocation was given by Councilman Logan, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Martin and recited in unison.
3. Mayor Byler requested approval of the agenda.

Councilman H Patel made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Councilman M Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

4. *Councilman Martin made a motion to approve the May 12th, 2026, Amended Meeting Minutes as written and Mayor Pro Tem Harwell seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the June 9th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as written and Councilman M Patel seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

5. **Public Comments-** No Public Comments received.
6. **Financial Reports given by Shameka on behalf of Kim McGlothlin**
June 2026 budget vs. actual reports (general fund & hotel/motel fund) are preliminary; during the months of July and August, we will accrue various expenses and revenues in preparation for FY2026 audit. In September we will provide a final FY 2026 report along with any necessary budget amendments.

General fund revenues: \$788,494 (96% of budget) General fund expenditures: \$1,006,182 (91% of budget expenditures) General Fund has a net income: \$19,488, supported by \$237K in operating transfers from hotel/motel fund. Your "Capital Funds Summary Report" has been updated for any deposits, payments, and obligations. As payments are made for the LMIG/LRA projects, you will see the cash balances and obligations updated to reflect ongoing activity. District 6 County Commissioner has \$600K unobligated funds available. TSPLOST direct distribution to Flemington (Oct 2020–Sept 2025): \$442,903 (separate from \$517K already paid for Hwy 87 sidewalk projects) Councilman H. Patel asked whether the \$442,903 in T-SPLOST funds was still available or if it had been used for the Highway 84 project. City Clerk Shameka Hawkes stated that she believed the funds were still available but would confirm the balance with Kim and provide an update. District 6 total unobligated TSPLOST funds: \$2.3M. Council discussed need to formally present funding requests to the Liberty County Board of Commissioners. Update-Commissioner Walden is planning to meet with Mayor & Mayor Pro Tem regarding Flemington Village realignment project.

New Business

7. CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau) Annual Update — Leah Poole

Overview of Newcomers program, Small World Festival (won "Best Festival" 2nd year running), 4-H Liberty County Day at the Capitol, spouse tours, product photography, Taste and Travel Week (16 restaurants), Georgia Game Changers leadership program, Susie King Taylor Freedom Park ribbon cutting, Autism Awareness event, film commissioner visit, historic marker cleaning, social media results (110,976 organic views), student engagement/film permits (9 issued since January)

8. Business License-Presentation LCPC

Sharon Cadiz representing the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (LCPC), presented a Business License, Name of Business Liberty Smart Consulting Group LLC; 81 Cassels Court, Parcel # 083A109 Property Zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development Districts), Home-based business LCPC Zoning Recommendation: Approval. *Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve the Business License for Liberty Smart Consulting Group LLC-Business License. Councilman Logan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.*

9. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update-Mayor Pro Tem Harwell

DDA bylaws being revised following GMA conference; revisions to go to city attorney (Craig) for approval, formal adoption expected next month Membership change: Mayor stepping in for Councilman M Patel (due to voting conflict); Nick Westbrook (incoming Chick-fil-A owner) added to DDA.

10. Atlantic Waste

Atlantic Waste requested a rate increase tied to the county's annual July increase (\$2/ton) Investigation revealed Atlantic Waste has not been delivering bulk trash to the county facility, resulting in a shortfall of \$17,000 since February (projected to reach \$30,000 by year-end) a potential breach of contract. Council proposed that a formal letter be sent to Atlantic Waste with a short response deadline Backup contractor (ABC Waste) to be contacted regarding availability as a contingency.

11. Engineering Report-M.E. Sack Engineering Randy

Repairs completed/underway: Old Hinesville Road (shoulder work), Cobblestone potholes, West Daryl (repaved), Old Savannah Road. Remaining: Tranquil Way, Patriots Trail, Tremaine Drive (contract deadline: Aug 6) Additional pothole issues identified near Old Hinesville Road entrances and near the school in Flemington — to be addressed with contractor. Praise given for contractor's professionalism and communication.

Business In Progress

Status Updates

Audit Report

FY 2025 audit complete with an unqualified opinion (best possible outcome)
Thanks, extended from Council to Shameka and Kim for their work.

State Ethics Commission / PeachFile Reporting

New reporting requirement begins January 1, 2027 (quarterly filings via PeachFile system) Council to receive calendar reminders ahead of filing deadlines. Training sessions available for council members

June 2026 Law Enforcement Report

At the time the Law Enforcement Report was presented, Lieutenant Gallob was responding to a traffic accident and was unable to attend the meeting during the report update. Mayor Byler read the June 2026 Law Enforcement Report on his behalf. Lieutenant Gallob arrived later during the meeting after the report had been presented. The report reflected 10 traffic accidents (2 with injuries and 8 without injuries), 2 hit-and-run incidents, 6 hang-up calls, 7 suspicious activity calls, 7 theft/burglary calls, and 14 disturbance calls. Mayor Byler also reported that increased patrol activity, including the use of rolling radar, has been implemented to address speeding concerns throughout the City. In addition, Mayor Byler advised that the traffic accident that occurred earlier that day was confirmed to be unrelated to the design of the Wallace Martin intersection and that there is no identified pattern of left-turn accidents at that location.

Work in Progress/Tasked Parties (Updates)

GMA Convention Updates-Council

- Presentations covered: municipal debt financing options (short-term, long-term, bonds, capital leases, anticipation notes), evolving technology/AI in government (GovAI platform, smart city infrastructure, cybersecurity), and downtown/DDA development best practices (case study: Blue Ridge, GA)
- Discussion on lessons learned for structuring Flemington's DDA to work cooperatively with council
- Interest expressed in inviting outside city manager/planner (Marty Allen) for a workshop on downtown development strategy

Homeless/Urbanize Camping Ordinance (Preview)-Mayor Byler/LT Gallob

- Hinesville has passed an urban camping ordinance; issue may migrate to Flemington
- Recommendation to adopt consistent regional ordinance language (coordinate with LCPC Jeff)
- Public safety protocol outlined: trespass warnings, littering citations, 3-day notice for disputed occupancy

Water/Sewer Infrastructure Update

- Discussion of extending sewer service toward Fort Stewart via Sunbury Road, increasing pump station capacity
- Private property owner offering \$500K toward a grind station/tie-in, contingent on Hinesville allowing access to Wallace Martin pump station
- Key open questions: ownership, funding sources (potential state infrastructure grants), and long-term maintenance responsibility
- Flemington to retain ownership of all its water/sewer infrastructure, consistent with past projects (e.g., self-funded roadway realignment)
- Follow-up meeting to be scheduled with city engineer (Marcus)

12. *Councilman H Patel made a motion to adjourn. Council Martin seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.*