

**Minutes
CITY OF FOLKSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 21, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in regular session on July 21, 2025 at City Hall.

Mayor Lee Gowen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: Lee Gowen, Mayor
Ruby Baker
Marion Davis Jr.
Rick Carter
Bruce Young

Members Absent: Rob Roberson

Also Present: Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager
Wesley Green, Police Chief
Darlene Williamson, City Clerk
Leta Carter, Assistant Clerk
Patrick Brooks, City Attorney

Visitors: Melodey Martindale, Okefenokee Chamber; Bill Masey; Paul Kulwik with the Charlton County Herald

Mayor Lee Gowen welcomed the guest.

AGENDA

Mr. Marion Davis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bruce Young seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Mrs. Ruby Baker made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting, June 16, 2025 as presented. Mr. Rick Carter seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENTS

Mr. Marion Davis made a motion to approve the income and expense statements for June, 2025 as presented. Mrs. Ruby Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Wesley Green stated the police department filed 26 incident reports, investigated 15 accidents and answered 840 calls during the month of June, 2025.

The police department collected \$8,246.81 in fines and forfeitures; the city's portion is \$6,076.76.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lloyd stated the LMIG Bid opening for Martin St. and Sixth St. will be July 29, 2025. The manhole at Milton and Mt Carmel St has been completed. Sewer Plant equipment has been ordered and project will start the first week of August.

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2025 JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mayor Lee Gowen stated that the Comprehensive Plan is renewed every five years. Mr. Lloyd stated that the Comprehensive plan is a DCA requirement for applying for grants.

Mr. Rick Carter made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt 2025 Joint Comprehensive Plan as presented. Mr. Bruce Young seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO BECOME A RURAL ZONE

Mayor Lee Gowen stated the rural zone is necessary to identify businesses that are in the zone and allows incentives available through the rural zone program to help stimulate investment and increase economic development.

Mr. Marion Davis made a motion to Approve Resolution to Become a Rural Zone. Mrs. Ruby Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Lloyd stated that a joint meeting will be held with the County, Homeland, and the City of Folkston on Monday July 28, 2025 to adopt Intergovernmental Agreement for imposition of the Floating Homestead Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) and to discuss the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

ADJOURN:

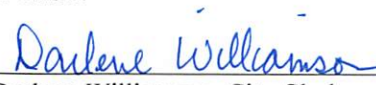
Mr. Bruce Young made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rick Carter seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk

CITY OF FOLKSTON**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
2025 JOINT CHARLTON COUNTY, AND THE CITIES OF FOLKSTON AND
HOMELAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Folkston has completed the 2025 Joint Charlton County and the Cities of Folkston and Homeland, Comprehensive Plan Update.

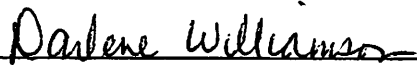
WHEREAS, this document was prepared according to the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning established by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning effective 2018.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City of Folkston does hereby adopt the 2025 Joint Charlton County and the Cities of Folkston and Homeland, Comprehensive Plan Update.

Adopted this 21st Day of July, 2025



Lee Gowen, Mayor City of Folkston



ATTEST: Darlene Williamson, City Clerk



RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY OF FOLKSTON
TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO BECOME A
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RURAL ZONE

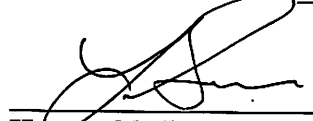
WHEREAS, the City of Folkston has identified slum & blight, a large number of vacant & distressed buildings, and a lack of businesses in the Folkston Downtown Area; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Department of Economic Development offers a five (5) year program to help the City address these needs through incentives available in their Rural Zone Program to stimulate investment, create jobs and increase economic development; and

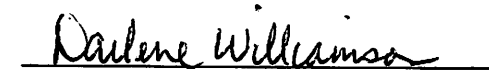
WHEREAS, the City of Folkston has established a Rural Zone Team to address these issues;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Folkston will submit an application to become a Rural Zone to address the identified needs throughout the Folkston Downtown Area.

SO RESOLVED this 21 day of July, 2025



Honorable Lee Gowen



City Clerk Darlene Williamson

