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MINUTES
CITY OF KEYSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE: JUNE 8, 2026
TIME: 7:00PM
LOCATION: KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

The Keyville City Council Meeting was held on Monday, June 8, 2026, at Keyville City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor: James Neely
Mayor Pro Tem: Sharon Neely
Councilmembers: Kathy Couch
Maggie Terrell
Freddie Harden
Harold Kight
City Employees: Maefield Streetman, City Custodian
Others Present: Kathleen Whittaker, Cora Burke, Patrice Burke, Sara Singletary,
Kathy Brown

WELCOME

Mayor James Neely welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance.

PRAYER

Prayer was led by Councilmember Maggie Terrell.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Neely called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Kathy Couch for the approval of the agenda as order of the day. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Harold Kight. The vote was unanimous.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Kathy Couch for approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2026 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Maggie Terrell. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Maggie Terrell asked that each Councilmember review the minutes when they receive them and notify her or Mayor Neely of any corrections that need to be made. Mayor Neely reiterated the request.

ROLL CALL

Mayor James Neely (present), Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Neely (present), Councilmember Kathy Couch (present), Councilmember Maggie Terrell (present), Councilmember Freddie Harden (present), Councilmember Harold Kight (present).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental and Water – Councilmember Harold Kight

1. Councilmember Harold Kight stated that there are four water leaks on Cheatham Street and a water leak in front of Ms. Tessie Jordan's driveway again.
2. Councilmember Kight stated that an emergency call was received during Memorial Day weekend. He stated that the City's Water Operator came in response to the call but did not have any equipment to perform the necessary system checks. He stated that a power surge had caused the leveling system to shut down, but the issue was resolved and the system is back online and working properly.
3. Councilmember Kight asked Mayor Neely if anyone had gotten back in touch with him regarding the plug-n-play system. Mayor Neely explained that a wireless monitoring system is to be installed at one of the stations, either the sewer station or the fresh water station, but currently there is some conflict regarding where the system is to be installed. He stated that once they can determine where the system is to be installed, it will be taken care of.
4. Mayor Neely stated that the leak at 449 Cheatham Street has been repaired, as well as as the leaks at Ms. Birt's address. He stated that repairs have been completed at Mr. Sammy Powell's address and on South Street. He stated that there is still a leak at Mr. Jordan's address that he will be responsible for repairing.
5. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that there is a water leak at 179 Tyrone Brooks Street.

Mayor Neely requested that each Councilmember provide him with brief notes on the information included in his/her Committee Report. He stated that the notes can be handwritten or sent via email.

Emergency and Personnel – Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Neely

1. Mayor Pro Tem Neely asked if anyone had any information on the person or organization that provided mobile homes to several Keysville citizens several years ago. She stated that the mobile homes were provided after the City received a housing grant and each citizen that received a mobile home was automatically given ownership of it if he/she lived in the mobile home for five years. Councilmember Kathy Couch stated that she would see if she could locate the information. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that there is a Keysville Citizen who is trying to get the title to her mobile home and needs either contact information for the person/organization who managed the grant or a letter from the City stating that the City does not have a lien on the home.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that a tree was downed over Memorial Day weekend but was removed.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that, while checking the lights in the City the night prior, she noticed trash on the highway near the lift station when she passed there the third time at approximately 9:30pm. She stated that the trash was not there when she passed through initially. She advised Citizens to be sure trash bags are tied up and secure before placing them in the trash bins to be picked up.
4. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that she would get a list of the lights requiring repair to Mayor Neely.
5. Mayor Neely stated that earlier that day, he noticed loose trash blowing out of the top of the trash truck as he met it on the road. He stated that if the top of the trash truck does not close properly, trash will blow out. He stated that he noticed trash along Old Waynesboro Road. He stated that, regarding Mayor Pro Tem Neely's report of trash in the road near the lift station, he would like to involve the County in having cameras placed along the road since it is a County road. He asked Councilmember Harden if the two of them could speak with someone at the Burke County Roads and Recreation Department about the issue.
6. Mayor Pro Tem Neely stated that the City Clerk position is still open.
7. Mayor Neely stated that he has met with representatives from Work Source Georgia regarding bringing in people to assist with administrative work. He stated that there are flyers in the lobby.

Building and Housing – Councilmember Kathy Couch

1. Councilmember Couch asked Mayor Neely if he had reached out to Augusta Tech regarding candidates for open positions. Mayor Neely stated that it had been considered, but there is no cost to the City for candidates hired through Work Source Georgia.
2. Councilmember Couch asked if placing signs along the highway/road stating that there is a fine for dumping trash would serve as a deterrent. Mayor Neely stated that he would

like the County to be involved in whatever action is taken, whether it be cameras or signs.

3. Councilmember Couch stated that she previously had problems with her trash bin being turned over. She stated that it has not been turned over since she began putting Clorox in it.
4. Councilmember Couch stated that the roads need attention, but due to health issues, she is limited in what she can do.

Roads and Recreation – Councilmember Freddie Harden

1. Councilmember Harden stated there is still a pothole at Highway 88 and Old Waynesboro Road. He stated that hopefully, a DOT Supervisor will complete a report on the issue and have it repaired.
2. Councilmember Harden stated that a water tap was installed at 161 Center Street. He stated that the spot will be paved the next time the paving machine is brought to the City.
3. Councilmember Harden asked Mayor Neely if the water leak on Birt Street had been fixed. Mayor Neely confirmed that it had been.
4. Councilmember Harden asked Mayor Neely if the water leak near Mr. Scott's old house had been fixed. Mayor Neely stated that it had not been fixed.
5. Councilmember Harden stated that there is another leak at Ms. Tessie Jordan's address. He stated that repairs have been made at the same spot at that location numerous times.
6. Councilmember Harden stated there is trash along Martin Luther King Road. He stated that some of it comes from trash floating off the top of the trash truck when it passes along the stretch of Martin Luther King Road that comes into Keysville. He stated that he would reach out to the County for assistance with the issue.
7. Councilmember Harden stated that there is breakage along the edge of road at the intersection of Martin Luther King and Old Waynesboro Road. He stated that the breakage will be repaired by the Burke County Road and Recreation Department.
8. Councilmember Harden stated that there are three entrances to the City Park off Perkins Mill Road. He stated he has blocked the entrance between the two kiddie play areas.
9. Councilmember Harden asked Mayor Pro Tem Neely if she was aware of the light being out near Ms. Patsy Willilams's home.
10. Councilmember Harden reported that the event held by Comedian Lorenzo Williams at the City Park on 5/30/26 was a success. He stated that the kids that were at the event participated in drills and practice and a flag football game was held afterwards. He stated that food was served.
11. Councilmember Harden stated that Mr. Williams has begun clearing out the area behind the dugout on the baseball field.
12. Councilmember Harden stated that when the Park is closed, a sign should be posted stating it is closed. He stated that there has been another incidence of the Park grounds being damaged. He suggested closing the Park at 9:00pm.

Mayor Neely addressed a question asked by Councilmember Harden at the City Council Meeting held on 5/10/26. At the meeting Councilmember Harden asked how many streetlights

the City has. Mayor Neely reported that the City currently has 38 streetlights at a cost of \$18.49 per light, which makes the monthly bill approximately \$705.00. He stated that he had asked Georgia Power for financial relief. He stated that the City is current on all bills it receives from Georgia Power except the bill for streetlights. He stated that the City currently owes \$17,212.55 for streetlights, which includes past due penalties as well as monthly penalties. He stated that he plans to ask Georgia Power for some financial relief on the penalty amount.

He stated that Verizon gave the City \$1,300.00 financial credit on a past due bill in exchange for the City agreeing to move forward with installing the equipment for Verizon's wireless system.

Mayor Neely suggested that, except for streetlights needed in critical locations, a moratorium be placed on any additional streetlights until the bill is paid. Councilmember Harden asked if the City is still being charged \$18.49 per light for the lights that were damaged during Hurricane Helene and for lights that are not working. Mayor Neely stated that he was informed by a representative from Georgia Power that the only way the City will not be charged the \$18.49 monthly fee for a streetlight is if the City reports any problems with the light to them and they fail to repair it.

Councilmember Kathy Couch suggested blocking the Park entrance that is near the Medical Building. Councilmember Harden stated that entrance leads to the Park basketball court. Mayor Neely stated that the City should work to entice people to come to the Park and on finding ways to use the Park to recoup funds for the City. Mayor Neely specified some of the repair work that will be done at the Park soon.

Mayor Neely stated that the roll-up door on the maintenance shed had been replaced. He stated that work has begun on the Lab building. He stated that Councilmember Maggie Terrell will provide more information on the funding source for the work during her report.

Councilmember Kathy Couch suggested putting up a gate near the Park entrance that is near the Medical Building and closing the gate at night when the Park closes. Councilmember Harden stated that the entrance is between 16 and 20 feet wide.

Finances - Councilmember Maggie Terrell

Charles Walker – Building Rental

Two events held.

Total Revenue \$400.00

Account	Beginning Balance 5/1/2026	Deposits/ Credits	Withdrawals/ Debits	Ending Balance 5/31/2026
Queensboro				
General Fund	\$47,502.23	\$13,622.14	\$35,571.71	\$25,552.66
TIA	\$27,238.11	\$1,327.94		\$28,566.05
SPLOST	\$29,914.70	\$15,486.00	\$12,577.29	\$32,823.41
Special Revenue	\$90.50			\$90.50
Hurricane Helene Building Fund	\$109,119.88	\$10,300.00		\$119,419.88
Wells Fargo				
Water & Sewer	\$12,554.77	\$8,971.32	\$9,898.97	\$11,627.12
GEFA Savings	\$7,637.99	\$0.07		\$7,638.06
GEFA Loan	\$2,615.64	\$0.02		\$2,615.66
TOTALS	\$236,673.82	\$49,707.49	\$58,047.97	\$228,333.34

1. Mayor Neely requested that Councilmember Terrell provide details on the Hurricane Helene Building Fund account. He stated that there will be more activity in that account during the month of July. Councilmember Terrell stated that the balance in the account as of 5/31/26 was \$119,419.88. Councilmember Terrell reported that the City has contracted with Mr. Midlo/J.M. Midlo Construction to complete repair work. Mayor Neely stated that Mr. Midlo gave the city a quote of \$114,000.00 plus. Mayor Neely stated that the State had assessed the required repairs at \$87,000.00. Mayor Neely stated that the City was able to secure an additional \$5,600.00. He stated that the City has approximately \$92,000.00 to complete repairs on the Lab building.
2. Mayor Neely stated that six projects were submitted for funding due to damage from Hurricane Helene and four were approved, resulting in the City receiving over \$119,000.00. He stated that, as repair work beings, there will be drastic movement in the Hurricane Helene Account. He stated that the projects that were approved were:
 - Repair of the Lab/Engineering Building
 - Replacement of the roll-up door on the Maintenance Building and repair of a hole in the roof of the smaller building on the same property.
 - Repair damage caused by tree falling on light pole at the City Park
 - Repair damage caused by tree falling on dugout at the City Park Baseball Field

Agenda Items / Requests

1. 547 Bar and Grill, 248 Cheatham Street, Complaint/Business License.
 - Mayor Neely stated that an application for a business license and liquor license had been submitted for 547 Bar and Grill at 248 Cheatham Street. No representative from the business was present. Mayor Neely stated that he reviewed the City's liquor license requirements and found them lacking. He stated that he will present the Council with a draft of revised liquor license requirements.

2. Mr. Lorenzo William – Update on City Park Activities
 - Mayor Neely stated that Mr. Lorenzo Williams has a softball game scheduled for 06/13/26 at 2:00pm at the Baseball Field. Mayor Neely asked Councilmember Harden to contact Mr. Williams to find out what preparations need to be made for the event and how to rectify any damage that has been done to the Baseball Field. Mayor Neely stated that the City may have to have cameras installed.
3. City Park Renovations and Back-to-Keysville Planning (Parade, etc.)
 - Mayor Neely stated that he provided an update on the City Park Renovations earlier in the meeting.
 - Councilmember Harden read a memo concerning the planning meeting for the Back-to-Keysville event as well as an agenda for the meeting. Ms. Kathy Brown, who will be working with Councilmember Harden on planning the event, provided more information. She stated that the event planning meeting should be held in July. Mayor Neely requested that the event planning meeting be held and that work begin as soon as possible. Mayor Neely asked Councilmember Harden to let him know what date the event planning meeting is to be held.

Announcements

1. Work Source Georgia
 - Mayor Neely stated that Informational flyers are in the lobby.
2. People's Law School Application
 - Mayor Neely stated that Mr. Andrew Palmer is sponsoring a free People's Law School for Burke County Citizens. Information is in the lobby.
3. Boggs Academy – Juneteenth Celebration
 - Mayor Neely stated that Juneteenth activities at Boggs Academy began on 6/6/26 and will continue for the next two Saturdays. Informational flyers are in the lobby.
4. A public citizen stated that a Farmer's Market is held at Boggs Academy on the first Saturday of every month.
5. Mayor Neely stated that Boggs Academy has a new Administrator. He stated that the person has introduced himself to him and expressed an interest in working with the City.
6. Mayor Neely stated that the City is working on getting the 2020 audit completed.
7. Mayor Neely stated that he has not had a chance to work on the budget for the City.

Public Comments

1. A public citizen commented on the suggestion made at the City Council Meeting held on 5/11/26 that the City consider hiring someone to catch stray animals and take them to the County Animal Shelter. She stated that she liked the suggestion. She stated that garbage bins are probably being knocked over by stray dogs and they are also killing pets. She stated that it is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.

Councilmember Kathy Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Neely at 8:33 p.m.

James Neely, Mayor

JUNE 8, 2026 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING- SIGN-IN SHEET

1. James A. Neely
2. Kathy Couch
3. Kathleen Whitaker
4. Maggie Sevel
5. Cora Burke
6. Patrice Burke
7. Sarah Singleton
8. Sharon D. Neely
9. Freddie Hansen
10. Hank Kilt
11. Macquie Stralman
12. Kathy Brown
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.