

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

City Council

JAMES NEELY, MAYOR

Sharon Neely
Kathy Couch
Maggie Terrell
Harold Kight
Freddie Harden



City Administration

Sherell Russ, Administrator
LaTora Lewis, Water Clerk

120 Old Waynesboro Road
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Today's Date : April 13, 2026

Meeting Date: March 9, 2026

Meeting called to order by: Mayor James Neely.

Mayor: James Neely

Councilmembers Present: Kathy Couch, Freddie Harden, Harold Kight, Sharon Neely, Maggie Terrell

Employees Present: Sherell Russ, LaTora Lewis

Others Present: Eddie Birt, Lorenzo Williams, George Terrell, Gwendolyn Vasquez, Sarah Singletary, Cora Burke, Patrice Burke, Jerry Couch, Kathy Brown

Mayor James Neely: Welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

Agenda:

Mayor James Neely asked for a motion to approve the agenda with noted additions as order of the day.

Councilmember Kathy Couch motioned to approve the agenda with noted additions as the agenda of the day.

VM Sharon Neely seconded the motion.

Mayor James Neely motioned to approve the agenda as order of the day.

Agenda approved.

Minutes:

Mayor James Neely asked for a motion to accept minutes with corrections if there be any.

Councilmember Kathy Couch motioned to accept minutes with necessary corrections if there be any.

Councilmember Harold Kight seconded the motion.

Councilmember Maggie Terrell noted that corrections needed to be made on page 3 regarding a misspelling of a name. Correction has been noted.

VM Sharon Neely noted that minutes did not look complete. Mayor James Neely also noted that minutes looked incomplete as well. He noted that there were several items discussed that were not in the minutes such as: PIP Plans and issues and findings from Ms. Bailey and Ms. Helton, Consultants from GMA. He did note that they have been having issues with their version of Microsoft Word that is on the City Clerk's computer. Asked for minutes to be tabled as incomplete until a complete copy is made available.

Councilmember Maggie Terrell motioned that February 9, 2026 minutes be tabled as incomplete.

Councilmember Harold Kight seconded the motion.

Mayor James Neely accepted the motion.

Mayor James Neely wanted to address some issues before the Committee Reports:

- Incident with Mayor James Neely and a City Worker which resulted in his arrest. This is now in the Courts hand. He is going to continue to do what's best for the City. He is going to let the process play out in the courts and will keep everyone informed without jeopardizing all parties involved.
- Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026 @2pm with the company that has built the well to get a status report on where we stand regarding payments and completion. Councilmember Harold Kight has been invited to attend the meeting with the Mayor.
- Advised City Council that we need to get a new credit card for city use. The Capital Bank credit card has been cancelled by the City. There are expenses that need to be reconciled and it is believed it would be better to start with a new credit card from a different institution. A motion was made by Councilman Harden to approve the Mayor applying for a new credit card. It was approved unanimously by the City Council.

Committee Reports

Environmental Water

Councilmember Harold Kight

- Stated that the 2nd pump is up and going.
- Lab is still on hold. We are still waiting on more bids.

Emergency/Personnel

VM Sharon Neely

- Reported that GA Power did come out to work on streetlight outages but she thinks that they were working from an old report.
- Asked City Clerk LaTora Lewis to make another report to GA Power on the streetlight outages.
- Lights reported out at 382 Hwy 88 and 129 Tyrone Brooks Street

Building and Housing

Councilmember Kathy Couch

- Wanted to know who is responsible for the removal of trash from the trailer having been torn down?
- City is responsible for the removal of the insulation/trash
- Mayor James Neely is getting quotes for the removal of insulation/trash
- Ask about the removal or trimming of trees on the Singletary property. First, we have to determine the measurements for the easements and that will determine what the City is responsible for.
- Asked about the fallen trees on the Woodward property? Will need to speak with the Woodward's about the removal of the trees on their property at the entrance to the City.
- Mentioned the trees covering the streetlights in front of Councilmember Harold Kights place. He stated that the streetlight does not work and he is not concerned about it.
- Asked City Clerk LaTora Lewis if her Deer Crossing Signs had been ordered? Councilmember Freddie Harden will report on that in his report.

Roads & Recreation

Councilmember Freddie Harden

- Signs have been replaced on Martin Luther King South Street, Rhodes Lee and Cheatham Street, Tyrone Brooks Street(exit), Tyrone Brooks & Neely Street, Shuman Street and Center Street.
- Councilmember Freddie Harden has the new signs for Swamp Road and Martin Luther King and Hwy 88. They did not need to be replaced at this time.
- Deer Signs haven't been made yet but as soon as they are ready, Burke County Roads Dept will contact Councilmember Freddie Harden and come back out to put them up.
- Suggested cutting down the shrubbery and clearing the area between Mrs. Singletary two homes ourselves because we have no funds to allocate to this project.
- Water tap has been put in at 194 Perkins Mill Road. That section has been filled with gravel, tarred and repaired.
- Leakage and road have been repaired near 179 Tyrone Brooks Street.
- Pothole on Old Waynesboro Road and Hwy 88 is continually having to be filled every week with gravel. Called DOT and they will be sending a Supervisor out to check on the roads.

- Observed Sanitation truck as it was heading out of town going towards Hephzibah and witnessed trash and debris falling from truck. Will report to Ryland once we get pictures.
- Asked to have “Trail Cameras” installed at City Park to catch individuals vandalizing the park.

Finance

Councilmember Maggie Terrell

- Report on Queensboro Accounts
 - General Funds
 - TIA Report
 - Special Revenue Fund
 - SPLOST
 - Hurricane Helene
- Report on Wells Fargo Accounts
 - Water and Sewer
 - GEFA Savings
 - GEFA Loans/Interest
- Charles Walker Building Rentals
- Mayor James Neely reported that the 2020 Audit is expected to be completed by June

New Business:

- How to get temporary support for maintenance, yard work and removal of trash from Martin Luther King Road
- Mr. Lorenzo Williams asked to host a Softball Tournament on “Back to Keysville Day”
 - Also a Community Softball Game in July
 - And help with the Christmas Parade to coincide with his Turkey and Toys Give Away
 - Other projects to include a Football, Baseball and Basketball Camps
- Mayor James Neely asked Councilmember Freddie Harden and Mrs. Singletary to form a committee to work with Mr. Lorenzo Williams
- Concerns expressed by staff regarding recent events in the office
 - Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026 @5pm with Mayor, Councilmembers, City Lawyer and all City Employees

Announcements:

- City Administrator announced that interest will be added to any Property Tax not paid by April 15, 2026

Mayor James Neely asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting to go into a closed meeting
Councilmember Kathy Couch motioned to adjourn this meeting to go into a closed meeting
VM Sharon Neely second the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

James Neely, Mayor