



**CITY OF TOCCOA**  
**CITY COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES • JULY 22, 2024**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Commission/Court Room**

**5:00 PM**

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Fry called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Reverend Paul Garrison.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Terry Carter	Vice Mayor	Present	
Gail Fry	Mayor	Present	
Evan Hellenga	Commissioner	Present	
Ron Matheson	Commissioner	Present	
Michelle Jamieson	Commissioner	Present	
Fredda O. Wheeler	City Manager	Present	
John Dickerson	Attorney	Present	
Beth Rider	City Clerk	Present	

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carter to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

**REPORTS**

Commissioner Hellenga reported on the Humane Shelter. The Humane Shelter had 41 dogs transferred to other shelters, Rabies Clinic held on June 29th with 100 dogs served. Purina Nestle donated three pallets of dog and cat food. Shelter stats for June we had 105 intakes, 56 adoptions, 4 returned to owner, 25 transferred out, 14 euthanized and 4 died. Live release rate was 83%. Commissioner Hellenga stated they are actively taking applications and resumes for the Executive Director position and those are being screened and will be doing interviews soon.

Commissioner Matheson congratulated Kristen Deal and Main Street for their re-accreditation for Georgia Exceptional Main Street City.

Commissioner Matheson reported the Georgia Mountain Regional Commissions July meeting will be hosted by Stephens County and the City of Toccoa and will be held this Thursday.

Mayor Gail Fry reported on the Ceremony of the opening of the Greenspace and how beautiful it is. Mayor Fry stated we are so proud of the community for coming together and making this happen. It was a lot of hard work, from the Downtown Merchants, Main Street, City of Toccoa and all the contributions from our donors. Mayor Fry recognized Dillon Long and thanked him for his contribution and the electrical work at the Greenspace, it was an oversight he was not mentioned Saturday. Mayor Fry stated Congressman Andrew Clyde was present at the opening of the Greenspace and this year the City of Toccoa celebrates our 150th Year Celebration. Mayor Fry stated our Charter was signed on April 11, 1874 and this year Andrew Clyde presented a flag to Mayor Fry that was flown on the United States Capital on April 11, 2024.

Ms. Fry stated she and City Manager Fredda Wheeler last week had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Andrew Clyde in his office and with Jon Ossoff in his office to discuss funding and things that are moving forward for the City of Toccoa.

## I. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Request for Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2024 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carter to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

## III. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Public Hearing: Sign Variance Request from Walgreens (Tenant: Dollar General) and East Coast Signs

Attorney Dickerson opened the public hearing for a sign variance request from Walgreens. No one spoke in favor or opposition. Attorney Dickerson closed the public hearing for Walgreens.

Planning Director Jeremy Ward requested approval.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Hellenga to approve the variance request for the sign and waive the second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

### C. Public Hearing: Zoning Variance Request from WJH, LLC

Attorney Dickerson opened the public hearing for the Zoning Variance Request. No one spoke in favor or opposition.

Jeremy Ward gave a report from the Planning Commission regarding the subject property located in the Creekview Subdivision requesting a 15' setback for the first three lots in the subdivision.

Attorney Dickerson closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carter to approve the zoning variance request and waive second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

D. Public Hearing: 2024 Millage Rate and Tax Increase

Attorney Dickerson opened the public hearing for the 2024 Millage Rate and Tax increase. City Manager Fredda Wheeler presented the information and stated this will be the first reading of the Millage Rate increase with two other public hearings scheduled, one to be held on August 12th at 5:00 pm and a public hearing on August 26th at 6:00 pm.

There were no citizens comments. Attorney Dickerson closed the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PRESENTATION</b>
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E. Consideration of GEFA Funding for Phase II of Eastanollee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve the GEFA Loan funding for Phase II of Eastanollee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades.

Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

F. Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Becky Bohannon presented the monthly financial report.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PRESENTATION</b>
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**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Recognition of Visitors Wishing to Speak on General Items. **(Limit 3 Minutes)**

Mr. Tommy McLaughlin, Nub Garland Road spoke regarding a Stephens County flag he would like to present to the City to be put on the flag pole. Mayor Fry stated we will need to speak with our attorney.

Harris Blackwood, Currahee Street spoke regarding the Regency Inn

Mr. Gopalkrishna Pal, 70 Felton Drive spoke regarding the Regency Inn

Emmit Orr, 116 Oakcliff Drive, spoke regarding 93 Prather Bridge Circle, would like for something to be done to the property.

Julie Russell, 219 Cole Lake Drive, Toccoa. Ms. Russell spoke about the loss of her daughter and items she would like to place on her daughters grave.

**V. ADJOURN**

Mayor Fry adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm

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Mayor

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City Clerk