



**CITY OF TOCCOA**  
**CITY COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES • MARCH 23, 2026**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Commission/Court Room**

**5:00 PM**

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Hellenga called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Reverend Paul Garrison gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Attorney Jay Doss was present for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fry, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fry, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

A. Request for Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2026 Commission Meeting

**REPORTS**

Commissioner Matheson reported a couple of weeks ago he was in Washington, DC for three days and attended two different conferences. The sessions were very informative with panel

discussions of what Municipalities are being hit with and how we deal with it.

Commissioner Matheson reported last week he attended a Ritz Review meeting to check the status of the development and everything is on schedule.

Commissioner Matheson reported tomorrow night is Night at the Ritz, there are big things happening. Commissioner Matheson asked Tim Mullen, to speak on what is taking place at the Ritz.

Mr. Tim Mullen, Ritz General Manger reported tomorrow night is 25 Years of Band of Brothers at the Ritz, starts at 6:30, admission is free. Mr. Mullen stated you will be able to meet some of the actors from the HBO Mini Series Band of Brothers who trained at Camp Toccoa at Currahee, reflect with the Air Crew of the C47 Placid Lassie, the volunteers at Camp Toccoa Currahee and the Paratrooper of the All Airborne Battalion and a behind the scenes breakdown of the documentary.

Commissioner Jamieson thanked the Fire Department for their fast action Friday evening in order to put out the fire at the Water Treatment Plant. Commissioner Jamieson stated she is glad you are all safe and you acted fast to save what you could.

Commissioner Fry welcomed those who are here for the Band of Brothers, she stated she and the Mayor was at the Airport when the C47 plane landed. Commissioner Fry spoke about the 48 Star Flag that was found in a building that had been transported from Camp Toccoa to the Golf Course when the building was being refurbished they found the flag and took it back to its home at Camp Toccoa where the guys trained for our Country.

Mayor Hellenga reported he and Commissioner Fry were at the Airport when the C47 landed, it was quite a site to see; that is the real history.

Mayor Hellenga asked Mr. Sean Lockheed of All Airborne Battalion to speak. Mr. Lockheed reported they are here representing Darren Cinatl, retired Captain who ran the Airborne School as the XO. Mr. Cinatl is at Camp Toccoa giving primary instructions; there are about 15-20 students and 6-7 refreshers, and a number of hangers, we have representatives from six countries. Mr. Lockheed stated we have done so much work at the Camp; the C-47 was in pieces when we started. As we brought back training two years ago, we had the Band of Brothers, we had 8 of the actors come through; they actually went through the training. When they did the series they never did real jumps everything was staged, they never ran up Currahee; when they first ran it, it was an eye opener for them to understand how difficult that run is. Mr. Lockheed stated we took them and ran them through camp here; we took them to Normandy and dropped them twice in Normandy. We have commemorations all through Europe and we still do and will be back for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. Mr. Lockheed stated World War II Veterans are fading fast, they youngest of the young are still 98-99 years old and to be able to go back to France to experience it all is dwindling and we want to take full advantage to make that happen. We will have a World War II Veteran with us this week Gene Metcalf, he trained at Camp Toccoa and he will be receiving awards that are long overdue. Mr. Lockheed stated just to have Gene Metcalf tell his stories of what he experienced as an 18 year old at the camp is mesmerizing. Mr. Lockheed reported about the upgrades at the Camp and asked about any support from the City and County. We are hoping to bring the community closer together as they visit the Camp, we have plans for an obstacle course, we are adding a 34 foot jump tower that we can open to the public, a rifle range to be reinstated; we have all these plans and opportunities for improvement. Mr. Lockheed stated one

thing that made a connection for him in the City Mission Statement is to provide the infrastructure, public facilities image necessary to attract and keep residents and businesses and we want to help you do that and any help we can provide to you, please let us know.

Mayor Hellenga reported last week he attended the Humane Shelter meeting, they had an inspection from the Department of Agriculture and all went well. Mayor Hellenga gave the February stats for the shelter; 155 intakes, 50 adoptions, 11 returned to owner, 87 transfers, 29 euthanized for a live release rate of 84%.

Mayor Hellenga reported on March 18th he attended the Development Authority meeting; on March 19th he attended the reception honoring Shantelle Grant, 2025 Public Library Employee of the Year.

Mayor Hellenga thanked the Fire Department and First Responders for their quick response; Mayor Hellenga reminded everyone of the Open House for the new Police Department on Fernside Drive.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

B. Proclamation for American Legion Post 104 Day

Mayor Hellenga read and presented the American Legion Post 104 with a proclamation for American Legion Post 104 Day.

**RESULT: PRESENTATION**

C. Consideration of Lease Agreement with Norfolk Southern

A motion was made by Commissioner Fry, seconded by Vice Mayor Jamieson to approve the Lease Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway in the amount of \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:** Gail Fry, Commissioner  
**SECONDER:** Michelle Jamieson, Vice-Mayor  
**AYES:** Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**V. ADJOURN**

Mayor Hellenga adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.



*Evans Hellenga*  
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Mayor  
*Beth Rider*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk