



**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
4040 SOUTH BERKELEY LAKE ROAD
BERKELEY LAKE, GEORGIA 30096
FULL MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Lois Salter

Council Members: Barbara Geier, Scott Lee, Chip McDaniel, and Resa Mechling

City Officials: Leigh Threadgill - City Administrator, Dick Carothers – City Attorney

Members of the Public: 4

Members of the Press: 0

CALL TO ORDER

Salter called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. A quorum of council members was in attendance.

AGENDA

Salter solicited a motion regarding the agenda.

Geier made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. McDaniel seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Salter noted that there were no public hearings.

CONSENT AGENDA

Salter noted the following as items on the consent agenda and solicited a motion:

- a) Minutes of July 17, 2025, Council Meeting
- b) Minutes of July 17, 2025, Council Work Session
- c) Financial Statements of June 2025 – Unaudited

McDaniel made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Mechling seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Discussion – Amendment to Property Maintenance Code – Sec. 14-74, Trees

Salter solicited feedback from council regarding their wishes in response to last month's citizen request to amend the code related to tree stumps and tree debris.

There was consensus among council to leave the code as is.

NEW BUSINESS

a) R-25-05, Resolution to Adopt 2025 Millage Rate

Threadgill: Before you is a recommended millage rate of 1.194 mills for the year 2025. This recommended rate is equal to the rollback rate. As an example, for a home with a fair market value of \$775,000 in 2024, the city property tax was \$388.74. For a home of the same value in 2025, the tax will be \$370.14, which represents a 4.78% reduction in taxes year to year. The Citizen Finance Committee unanimously supports the recommended rate.

Lee made a motion to adopt R-25-05, a resolution to levy an ad valorem tax for the calendar year 2025 at the rate of 1.194 mills on all property subject to taxation in the City of Berkeley Lake. Geier seconded the motion. All remaining council members were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Public Works: 350 and 356 Lakeshore Drive Drainage Easements

Threadgill: In preparation for the pending stormwater project, the city needs to obtain two easements for work occurring on private property. The work consists of repairing a junction box at the intersection of two pipes. Both property owners have signed the easements, and I ask you to accept the easements and authorize the mayor to sign the easement agreements to be recorded by the City Attorney.

Geier made a motion to accept the permanent drainage and maintenance easements for stormwater infrastructure at 350 and 356 Lakeshore Drive and authorize the mayor to sign the easement agreements to be recorded by the City Attorney. McDaniel seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Ratification of Contract for Cleaning Services

Threadgill: The contract for Parsons Professional Cleaning, LLC to begin providing janitorial services for City Hall is included in your packet and has been signed by the mayor. I request that the council ratify the mayor's execution of the contract, which the attorney has reviewed and approved as acceptable for the mayor's signature.

Mechling made a motion to ratify the contract for Parsons Professional Cleaning, LLC. Lee seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Discussion – Amendment to Sec. 46-2, Discharging firearms, slingshots, bows, airguns, and similar devices

Threadgill: This section of code was amended in 2013 to prohibit the discharge of certain weapons. I was not on staff at the time of the amendment and do not know what may have been occurring at the time to prompt its enactment.

In recent conversations around concerns about deer/human conflicts, I have learned that local government regulation of hunting is pre-empted by the state, except on city-owned property. The state also explicitly authorizes local governments to reasonably limit or prohibit the discharge of firearms due to public safety concerns. However, the question as to whether local government regulation of certain other types of weapons is allowed remains. At this point, I believe that we need further legal guidance to understand the city's options regarding prohibition of the discharge of weapons.

Salter asked the council for input on the topic and reminded citizens that this has been an ongoing discussion in our community for quite some time, as far back as almost a year ago when we met with a group of our citizens and talked about concerns. There was then a meeting that citizens organized at Pinckneyville Community Center. Our council members and our staff have done research for months into how other cities are handling this. In the April 24th Mayor's Message, she addressed this and encourage citizens to go back and review that. She suggested in that Mayor's Message that citizens who had requests for city help provide a specific actionable plan. Each element of a proposal must conform to difficult realities. Citizens then organized a survey, the results of which have not yet been provided. No specific proposals have been shared. Council has continued to talk to our citizens. Salter asked for any input from citizens that the council would like to share.

Lee noted that the state is the sole responsible governing party for hunting, and we should remove any restrictions that we appear to be imposing, and we should proceed with asking the city attorney to advise what we can do in regard to regulating weapons discharge to ensure protection of public safety.

Salter asked if anyone disagreed with that.

McDaniel responded in agreement and noted we need some guidance on what we're allowed to do and reiterated the point to the citizenry that we would be happy to look at any concrete plan that is brought forth, but that it is a difficult problem and there don't appear to be any easy answers.

There was no further discussion among council.

There was consensus among the city council to authorize the city attorney to investigate the question to better understand the city's authority to regulate the discharge of weapons.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Delicia Reynolds, 3685 North Berkeley Lake Road, noted that she had visited a local merchant and they discussed government in general, and he shared that a council member had come to him and said, "I'm on the Berkeley Lake City Council can I get a discount". She stated that that seemed like an ethical violation that she wanted to make Mayor and Council aware of. Reynolds noted that the merchant identified the individual, but that she wasn't going to do that in this meeting.

Salter noted that she would be interested in any additional information about that.

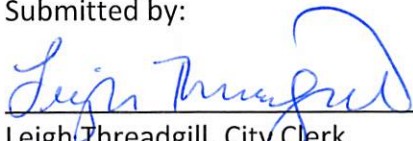
Reynolds said that she would talk to her in private.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Geier moved to adjourn. McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Salter adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Submitted by:



Leigh Threadgill, City Clerk

