

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting

5pm Tuesday, May 12, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes for April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting
7. Historical Preservation Commission Chairman Dip Polatty's Presentation of HPC's Annual "Preservation Award"
8. Recognition of "It Takes A Village" Participants
9. Clerk's Report
10. Department Reports
11. Mayor's Report
12. Old Business
13. New Business
 - A. Approve MOU Between Atlanta Humane Society & City of Sparta
13. City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, May 25 in Observance of Memorial Day
14. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday, June 9
15. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, June 9
16. Historic Preservation Commission 5:30pm Thursday, June 11 in City Hall
17. Citizens' Input
18. Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters
19. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Meeting
5 PM Tuesday May 12, 2026

Elected officials present were Mayor R. Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Tom Roberts, Councilmembers Glenn Johnson, Brandon Nolley and Sandra Sherrod.

City Clerk Virginia Webb was present. City Attorney John Hitchcock was present.

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by Mayor ProTem Roberts, followed by a Moment of Silence, The Lord's Prayer, and The Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

Councilman Johnson motioned to adopt the agenda; Councilman Nolley seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod refused to vote (which is counted as a "yes" vote). No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Adoption of Minutes for April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting

Councilwoman Sherrod motioned to table April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Historical Preservation Commission Chairman Dip Polatty's Presentation of HPC's Annual "Preservation Award"

Rick Joslyn, HPC Vice President, presented an award to Marilyn Myers for her exceptional restoration of her property on Linton Road, formerly recognized as Glen Mary Plantation, noting the care taken to preserve and restore its historic character.

Recognition of "It Takes a Village" Participants

The North Central Health District covers Hancock County and 12 other counties and includes the Hancock County Health Department and the SHINE program. It is a partner in "It Takes the Village." The City of Sparta is also an important partner, and the event could not have happened without city employees who helped make it a success. The event was held on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Staff arrived early in the morning, some as early as 5:00 and 6:00 a.m., and worked until late afternoon. They assisted with unloading and distributing vegetables, produce, and strawberries, as well as setting up tents. Their hard work is greatly appreciated, and certificates and small gifts were presented in recognition of their efforts.

The city's employees & volunteers recognized were: Amanda Martin-Akins, Jason Glover, Heath Graham, Quantevious Hill, Donald Ingram, Fred Hurt, Sharissa Hunt, Sanford Posley, Della Smith, Virginia Webb, David Wilkerson and Nate Wilkerson.

Mayor Haywood also praised the workers, saying they have been fantastic. He noted that they not only work, but also volunteer their time, which makes a big difference. He added that their hard work is important to the community every day, especially when they help on weekends.

Amanda Akins, Utilities Administrator, said the workers did not know they would be paid for the event because it was intended to be voluntary to gauge participation. She said time was later added to cover their hours and remaining funds were used to thank them for going above and beyond. She noted that photos would be taken the next day and thanked everyone for coming and for their help.

Clerk's Report

1. The City of Sparta will hold its property tax sale on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. A total of \$36,773.60 in delinquent property taxes is still to be collected. These funds are important for supporting the police and administrative departments. Letters have been sent out, and the 30-day notice of intent to issue FIFA's is currently being prepared.
2. "Keep Sparta Clean" day will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, for city residents. Public Works will collect old furniture and appliances placed near the curb, at least one day but no more than three days before the event. Household trash will not be accepted. For questions, call 706-444-5753.
3. The city currently has three temporary workers through a WorkSource Development grant. One is assigned to the gas department, and two are assisting Public Works. The assignment will end June 30, 2026
4. On Monday, May 4, 2026, a retreat/planning event hosted by County Government was held in Macon. Attendees included Mayor Haywood, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Roberts, City Clerk Virginia Webb, Amanda Akins, and other leaders from the county and Board of Education. The meeting focused on property tax procedures and future planning.
5. On Wednesday, May 6, 2026, City Clerk Virginia Webb, Utilities Administrator Amanda Martin-Akins, and Administrative Assistant Latresa Warren attended a Planning and Zoning training conference in Pembroke, Ga. The training covered comprehensive planning and zoning law procedures.
6. City Hall is getting a new look as painting has begun. New shrubbery, donated by March Lettson of Covey Rise Farm, will be planted in the upcoming days.
7. Our "It Takes a Village" Event was a success.
8. The Boys and Girls Club is partnering with the Hancock County Parks and Recreation Department. Summer camp will be offered from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. The camp will run from Monday, June 1 through Friday, July 17, with closure from Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3. The fee is \$60, which includes registration, meals, and field trips. The camp will be located at 12560 Augusta Highway.
9. The municipal court will be held at the courthouse on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. For information regarding citations or court-related questions, contact the Police Department at 706-444-5777. The department is located at 9535 Jones Street.
10. City Hall will be closed to observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2026.

Department Reports

(See attached pages)

Mayor's Report

1. Streets will be repaired in the next few weeks as the weather warms up. A LMIG list has been prepared, as required by the state. The city receives about \$25,000 each year, but funds have been saved over multiple years to complete additional work.
2. Mayor Haywood reported that the city has about \$25,000 in governor's funds and approximately \$115,000 annually from T-SPLOST and discretionary funds for road repairs, including potholes and speed humps. He also shared updates from Engineer Jerry Hood regarding GEFA projects, including pump stations on Highway 22, wastewater facility work, and the water plant (IHC), along with contractor draws and engineering fees totaling about \$600,000, which will be reimbursed but must be paid upfront. Mayor Haywood noted the city has about \$400,000 available in utilities funds to manage payments while awaiting GEFA reimbursements, which average about 93 days. He stated the city will continue managing cash flow to avoid delays or "slow pay" status and will provide further updates at the June meeting.
3. Sherard Kennedy, Jr. is preparing to open Gracie Mae's Café and hopes to begin operations in July. He plans to obtain an alcohol pouring license from the city before opening.
4. A planning retreat was held with representatives from the city, county and Board of Education to discuss ways to improve the property tax process and ensure tax bills are issued on time.
5. Mayor Haywood attended the spring GMA Board meeting. He is one of 60 Board Members representing GMA's 538 cities who gathered to discuss issues affecting local governments. Haywood serves as GMA Region 7's Vice-President and will move up to President for the coming fiscal year that begins in July.
6. Haywood also attended the Gas Authority's Annual Meeting May 6-8 and was elected to a three-years' term on the Authority's 12-member Board of Directors. It was reported during the meeting that Southern Pipeline is expanding pipeline capacity in the region to help improve gas supply and support future growth.
7. The city received a \$54,777 rebate (membership profit share for 2025) from the Gas Authority. The rebate was the largest amount the city has ever received. The funds will help support maintenance, training, equipment purchases and future improvements to the city's gas system.
8. The Family Connection/CIS meeting was attended and information was shared about a summer camp organized by Lainey Lewis at the CJE Foundation. The camp will run from June 1 through June 26 and costs \$40 per student, which includes meals and activities. Donations are being accepted to help sponsor children who wish to attend.
9. Contact was made with Officer Nasser Thompkins' wife regarding upcoming funeral arrangements for the late police officer. Haywood has been asked to say a few personal words to be shared during the service. Thompkins is remembered as a valued member of the police department, and condolences are extended to his family during this difficult time.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A. Approve MOU Between Atlanta Humane Society & City of Sparta

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve MOU between Atlanta Humane Society & City of Sparta; Councilman Nolley seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod voted “no.” No discussion. Vote 3 to 1. Motion passed.

City Hall Will Be Closed Monday, May 25 in Observance of Memorial Day

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday June 9

Mayor & Council Regular meeting at 5pm Tuesday, June 9

Historic Preservation Commission 5:30pm Thursday, June 11 in City Hall

Citizens’ Input

1. Dip Polatty, a city resident, announced that a training session for potential Preservation Commission members will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall. He encouraged anyone interested to attend the 2026 training session.
2. Lillie Tripp, a city resident, spoke about the Parkway Drive project being done by Pyles. She said the area at the entrance looks unfinished and has been that way for several weeks. She asked that it be cleaned up.
3. Karen West, a city resident, stated that May is both Historic Preservation Month and Small Business Month. She encouraged everyone to attend the Sparta Farmers Market on Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
4. Della Smith, a county resident and city business owner, stated she appreciated the departmental visual presentations and suggested placing signs on the doors to minimize noise.
5. Wilmertine Tolbert, a resident of the city, thanked the city for providing trash pickup service.

Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Councilman Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council Nolley seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod refused to vote (which is counted as a “yes” vote). No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.