

AGENDA MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING ^{June 18} ~~JULY 16~~, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes for April 14 & May 12, 2026 Regular Meetings
7. Clerk's Report
8. Department Reports
9. Mayor's Report
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - A. Adoption of Resolution for Joint City-County 5-Years Comprehensive Plan
 - B. Resolution for Moratorium on Large Scale Utilities Connections
 - C. Resolution for Moratorium on Planning & Zoning Applications
 - D. Approval to Accept AARP \$15,000 Grant for Pocket Park
 - E. Approval to Accept AARP \$2,500 Walkability Study Around Pocket Park
 - F. MOU with Colgate to Provide Free Dental Services for Community Events
 - G. Approval for SS4A Grant Contract for Planning All Streets in Sparta (This is required to get federal grants for road replacement/work/etc. \$160,000 total--\$32,000 City Match & \$128,000 Federal Funding)
12. City Hall Will Be Closed Friday, June 19th in Observance of Juneteenth
13. City Hall Will Close at 2pm Friday, July 3rd and Be Closed Until Reopening at 8am Tuesday, July 7th in Observance of July 4th Holidays
14. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday, July 14th
15. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, July 14th
16. Historic Preservation Commission 5:30pm Thursday, July 9th in City Hall
17. Citizens' Input
18. Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters
19. Adjournment

**CITY OF SPARTA
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING
5pm THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026**

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

Councilwoman Sandra Sherrod was absent from the meeting but listened by telephone.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5pm by Mayor ProTem Roberts followed by a moment of silence, the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts stated that a couple of additions needed to be made to the agenda. He requested that the Chief of Police Report be added after Item No. 6. He also requested that under New Business, Item H be added as Appointments to the Land Bank Board and Item I be added as Appointments to the Historical Preservation Board.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve those suggested corrections; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Adoption for April 14 & May 12, 2026 Regular Meetings

Councilman Nolley motioned to approve April 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes; Councilman Johnson seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Councilman Nolley motioned to approve May 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes; Councilman Johnson seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Police Report

1. Chief Tommie Walker, Jr. informed the Mayor and Council that Officer Larry Chapman had been promoted to Captain and Officer Brian Etheridge had been promoted to Sergeant.

Clerk's Report

1. The City currently has three temporary workers through a WorkSource Development grant. Two workers are assisting the Public Works Department, and one worker is

- assisting the Gas Department. The program has been extended through Wednesday, July 15, 2026.
2. City Hall has undergone several improvements. The exterior of the building has been painted, and new shrubbery has been planted, enhancing the overall appearance of the facility.
 3. The Boys & Girls Club, in partnership with the Hancock County Parks & Recreation Department, will offer a summer camp from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. The camp will run from Monday, June 1, 2026, through Friday, July 17, 2026, and will be closed Monday, June 29, 2026, through Friday, July 3, 2026. The \$60 fee includes registration, meals, and field trips. The camp will be held at 12560 Augusta Highway, Sparta, GA, for rising K–8th grade students. For more information, contact 478-457-6244.
 4. We are continuing preparations for the delinquent property tax sale. The tentative date of the sale is Tuesday, November 3, 2026.
 5. An updated training session for clerks was held in Washington, GA, on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The Clerk attended the training to learn about upcoming election changes.
 6. Measures are being implemented to reduce costs across all departments. Items being reviewed include diesel, gas, uniforms, water and ice.
 7. Treasurer Debbie Butts has continued working with auditors to complete the annual closeout for Fiscal Year 2025.
 8. Staff training sessions were held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, covering personnel practices and trenching and excavating safety. Both trainings are recommended for municipalities that are members of GIRMA, the City's insurance provider through the Georgia Municipal Association, and were provided at no cost.
 9. Municipal Court for June was cancelled. The next court date will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hancock County Courthouse. For information regarding citations or court-related questions, contact the Sparta Police Department at 706-444-5777. The Sparta Police Department is located at 9535 Jones Street, Sparta, GA 31087.
 10. City Hall will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026 in observance of Juneteenth and will reopen on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. For emergencies, contact the Sparta Police Department at 706-444-5753. City Hall will also be closed on Monday, July 6, 2026 in observance of the Independence Day holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Department Reports

Water Plant Report

1. The Water Plant reported the following general operations: 34.51 MG of water was withdrawn from the Lake, averaging 1.11 MGD. The Distribution System used 28.19 MG, averaging 0.91 MGD. All testing requirements, including TOC (Total Organic

- Carbon), Fluoride, Bac-T (Bacteriological), NPDES Permit, and DPB2 (Disinfection Byproducts), were completed with no violations.
2. Regarding plant upgrades, Filter 2 was tested independently for six hours without Filter 1 and was successful. Filter 2 has a 700 gpm limit but requires 800 gpm during repairs. A two-month variance request was submitted and approved by EPD. The lighting replacement project is ongoing, with most indoor lights upgraded. Only the office lights remain, and approval is pending for the basin lights.
 3. Maintenance updates include the repair of the generator low fuel alarm by JT Service, which required a battery replacement. Valves for the high-service flow meter are scheduled to be installed using an insert-a-valve process. A decrease in high-service pump flow was investigated, and a leak was discovered on the line entering the plant. The annual backflow certification has been scheduled for July 2026.

WasteWater Plant Report

1. Upgrades are ongoing, including the CDBG project for the installation of two VFDs and two soft starts for Pumps 1-4. The plant is also transitioning internet service to Connexion.
2. An EPD inspection is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The plant received five permit violations due to a pH probe failure during sampling. A replacement probe has been ordered. Quarterly sludge testing was completed, with BOD removal at 96.1% and TSS removal at 97%.
3. Maintenance included clearing trees, cutting grass, general repairs and upkeep at the plant. The Wastewater Plant staff also assisted other departments, including the Animal Shelter and City Hall.

Water Distribution & Sewer Collection Report

1. The Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Department completed 34 work orders, including service line repairs, sewer blockage clearing, air relief valve repairs, water meter re-reads, lift station repairs, meter installations, curb stop replacements and communication repairs at the Tin Man Water Tank. The department also assisted the Gas Department with a 1.25-inch line and assisted with preparation for the Tin Man water tank insertion valve.
2. A sewer overflow occurred on Jones Street, resulting in approximately 1,500 gallons.
3. Upcoming projects include the Tin Man insertion valve, Jones Street main line repairs, the Parkway insertion valve and the replacement of 134 water meters.

Natural Gas Report

1. The Natural Gas Department completed system maintenance, including work on 16 residential meters, 14-meter indexes, and one-meter replumb. The department also

completed 68 locates during May and scheduled the replacement of underground lines at the take station.

2. Regulatory compliance activities included right-of-way patrols and leak surveys. Staff also completed training in pipeline safety, obtained gas certifications, and participated in drone operations for pipeline monitoring.
3. The Natural Gas Department assisted the Water Distribution Department with four repairs involving emergencies or work near gas lines.

Animal Shelter Report

1. In May, the Animal Shelter collected eight dogs from Dyer Drive, including one mother and seven puppies. Six puppies were transferred, one was adopted, and the mother remains at the shelter. The shelter also received a \$100 donation in May 2026.
2. In June, two puppies and one adult dog, Lucy, were transferred. One dog, Rock, was collected from the Sparta 7 Motel.
3. The Lake Oconee Humane Society veterinarian visited the shelter and provided annual rabies vaccinations for eight dogs. Each dog also received DAPP vaccinations, Bordetella vaccines, heartworm testing, and routine deworming, flea, and tick treatments. All heartworm test results were negative.
4. Staff continues working to meet the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Atlanta Humane Society grant totaling \$32,000 for shelter upgrades. The shelter also applied for \$1,000 in public assistance through the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program.
5. The shelter continues efforts to fill two additional part-time Animal Shelter Caretaker positions. Six candidates were interviewed, and two were selected for internships. Staff continues providing routine veterinary care, pursuing grant opportunities, making facility improvements, and building partnerships with local rescue organizations to support future shelter needs.

Fire Department Report

1. The Fire Department reported the following responses for May 2026: one EMS assistance call, two structure fires, two alarms, five landing zone (LZ) responses, three brush fires and three auto wreck responses.
2. The department applied for grants through Drip Drop for hydration packets and the Hero Fund for \$1,500 in fire hoses.
3. The department was awarded an Emergency Drinking Water grant with an estimated value of \$600.

Administration Report

1. The Administration Department reported upcoming events and ongoing projects. The Back to School Event is scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2026.
2. The City was awarded AARP funding for a \$15,000 Pocket Park project and a \$2,500 Downtown Walkability Study. The City also finalized the SS4A project, which includes \$128,000 in federal funding with a \$32,000 local match for a road and sidewalk study to support future federal funding opportunities. EMI was the only engineering company to submit qualifications, and the project was posted through Georgia Procurement.
3. Trenching and excavating safety training was completed for all field staff. The City also continued working with EMI on GEFA, FEMA and GIRMA projects, including Parkway Drive insertion valve needs, isolating the original water plant from the system, replacing a section of line at the Jones Street Bridge, water plant improvements involving the filter, high-service pump, and lighting, lift station projects at Highway 22 and wastewater facilities, drought-related water reduction efforts and fire hydrant improvements.
4. The Temporary Worker Program has been extended from June through August. The City's internship program will reopen on Wednesday, July 1, 2026. WorkSource Georgia held a state meeting, and Sparta was selected to participate as a speaker.

See Additional Reports pages (10-13)

Mayor's Report

1. Gas rates are back down after increases experienced in January and February. The higher rates affected utility systems throughout the Southeast.
2. Mayor Haywood was elected to serve on the Gas Authority Board, which governs the Gas Authority. The board also includes three non-voting members representing Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Alabama.

A Gas Authority Board training in Atlanta, completing five hours of training on Tuesday, June 16 and an additional five hours on Wednesday morning, June 17 was attended. All related expenses, including meals and mileage, were covered by the Gas Authority.

3. Mayor Haywood reported that a ribbon cutting was held Friday, June 12 to open Truck Route 15 east of the city. The event was attended by representatives from Georgia Department of Transportation, the City, the Sparta-Hancock Development Authority, and other community partners.

Feedback received indicates that the new route has already reduced truck traffic on Broad Street, which was one of the project's goals. Plans are underway to install signage promoting downtown Sparta businesses and highlighting the area's history.

4. A retirement celebration for Irene Holsey, who has served over 40 years with the Health Department was held June 12th. Mayor Haywood recognized her years of dedicated service and expressed appreciation for her contributions to the community.

5. Mayor Haywood was appointed to Senator Ossoff's Rural Ambassador Committee. He noted that the committee is focused on discussing the needs and concerns of rural communities and is not political in nature. Two virtual meetings have been held to date.
6. The location of EV superchargers, which will be installed behind the two red buildings on Broad Street adjacent to Monument Square, has been approved. The project will include designated parking spaces for the charging stations.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A. Adoption of Resolution for Joint City-County 5-Years Comprehensive Plan

Councilman Johnson asked what is a comprehensive 5 year plan.

Mayor Haywood explained that the City's five-year plan is required in order to apply for funding and other opportunities. The plan serves as a guide for the City and requires a vision that addresses current challenges, future needs and planned improvements. Public hearings will be a part of the process.

Councilman Johnson continued and asked whether the jail expansion will be addressed in the comprehensive plan. He questioned whether the City would have any negotiation leverage through the comprehensive plan process. He expressed concern that the topic had not been discussed.

Mayor Haywood further explained that the comprehensive plan primarily addresses economic development and other long-term planning needs. He stated that a current comprehensive plan is required by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to apply for various funding opportunities, including GEFA and federal funding. He noted that the City participates with the county to prepare the plan jointly and that this will be the third comprehensive plan completed during his involvement.

Councilman Johnson motioned to adopt the resolution for joint city-county 5-years comprehensive plan; Councilman Nolley seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

B. Resolution for Moratorium on Large Scale Utilities Connections

City Attorney John Hitchcock explained that there are still issues to be addressed regarding large-scale projects located outside the city limits, including how such projects would be managed and funded. He stated that work on the matter is ongoing and

requested that Council grant a four-month extension to allow additional time to complete the process.

Councilman Nolley motioned to extend the moratorium on large scale utilities connections; Councilman Johnson seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

C. Resolution for Moratorium on Planning & Zoning Applications

City Attorney John Hitchcock explained that the proposed extension relates to the same planning and zoning matter currently under review by Council. He stated that the document is approximately 200 pages long and is being reviewed and organized into an outline for Council's consideration. He requested an additional four months to complete the process and allow for Council input.

Hitchcock further explained that the extension would not affect any applications that are currently pending. It would only prevent the filing of new planning and zoning applications during that period.

Councilman Nolley motioned to extend the moratorium on planning and zoning applications; Councilman Johnson seconded. Vote unanimous. No discussion. Motion passed.

D. Approval to Accept AARP \$15,000 Grant for Pocket Park

Councilman Johnson motioned to accept AARP \$ 15,000 grant for the Pocket Park; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

E. Approval to Accept AARP \$2,500 Walkability Study Around Pocket Park

Councilman Johnson motioned to accept the AARP \$2,500 walkability study around Pocket Park; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

F. MOU with Colgate to Provide Free Dental Services for Community Events

Utilities Administrator Amanda Martin Akins explained that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a five-year agreement that would allow the organization to participate in community events, subject to advance notice and availability. The organization would provide free dental cleanings and hygiene services and assist with coordinating additional dental care when needed. She noted that the organization had

previously assisted a community member by covering the cost of a dental procedure. The agreement is being renewed for an additional five-year term.

Council Johnson motioned to approve MOU with Colgate to provide free dental services for community events; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

G. Approval for SS4A Grant Contract for Planning All Streets in Sparta (This is required to get federal grants for road replacement/work/etc. \$160,000 total– \$32,000 City Match & \$128,000 Federal Funding)

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts explained that the study is required for the City to remain eligible for certain federal grants, including funding for road improvements and replacement projects. He stated that the study will evaluate the City's streets, sidewalks, pavement conditions, and other infrastructure needs and provide recommendations for future improvements.

Utilities Administrator Amanda Martin Akins added that the project is essentially a comprehensive engineering study that will be used to support future federal funding applications. She noted that the study must receive federal approval before it can be used for future grant proposals.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the SS4A grant contract for planning all streets in Sparta; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

H. Appointments to the Land Bank Board

Councilman Nolley motioned to appoint Councilman Glen Johnson and James Clark to serve on the land bank board; Mayor ProTem Roberts seconded. Councilman Johnson abstained from the vote. No discussion. Vote 2 to 1. Motion passed.

I. Appointments to the Historic Preservation Board

Councilman Johnson motioned to appoint Pam Haskins and Rakyah Watkins to serve on the historic preservation board; Councilman Nolley seconded. . No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

City Hall Will Be Closed Friday, June 19th in Observance of Juneteenth

City Hall Will Close at 2pm Friday, July 3rd and Be Closed Until Reopening at 8am Tuesday, July 7th in Observance of July 4th Holidays

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30 pm Tuesday, July 14th

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5 pm Tuesday, July 14th

Historic Preservation Commission 5:30pm Thursday, July 9th in City Hall

Citizens Input

1. Jamie Baggett, representing the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Group, expressed support for the City's recent grant awards for the pocket park and walkability projects. She stated her interest in working collaboratively with the City, the Chamber of Commerce, and other stakeholders to support the ongoing development efforts and requested future meetings to discuss the projects.
2. Lillie Tripp, a resident of the city, expressed concern regarding debris that had accumulated on Parkway Drive and asked about plans for cleanup.

Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters

Councilman Johnson motioned to go into executive session; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Back to Regular Session

Councilman Nolley motioned to go back into regular session; Councilman Johnson seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

There were no motions made concerning discussion in the executive session.

Adjournment

Councilman Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.



CITY OF SPARTA

POLICE

9535 JONES STREET - SPARTA, GEORGIA - 31087
OFFICE: 706-444-5777 / FAX: 706-444-0827

Tommie Walker, Jr.
Chief of Police

Inv. Timothy Legette
Investigations

Lt. Lakeshia Baker
Admin. Assistant,
Clerk of Court
TAC, Chief Dispatcher

Valisha Lawrence
Deputy Clerk
Dispatcher

JUNE 2026

OFFICER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

79 - CALLS AND CITATIONS 911 CALLS

32 - CITATIONS

3 - SPEEDING

10 - EXPIRED REGISTRATION

6 - SEAT BELT

1 - DUI

8 - ARRESTS

44 - STATE WARRANTS

BENCH WARRANTS

CRIMINAL TRESPASS

RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY

THEFT BY TAKING AUTO

POSS. OF FIREARM BY CONVICTED FELON

ENTERING AUTO

THEFT BY TAKING

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT A CRIME

Street Department Report

June 18, 2026

- Crew cleared both sides of fence line at Waste Water between irrigation ponds and spray fields. Sprayed fence lines at Waste Water to help with weed control. Crew worked several days at facility to help with upcoming EPD inspection. Grass was cut in sprayfields 1-5. Will work on cutting grass in fields 6-10 as weather permits
- Crew removed tree & cut grass at Tin Man water tower located on Lewis Street
- Crew cleared vegetation from hillside on Jones Street Ext for water line repair near railroad crossing
- Crew was “called-in” to close off Elm Street due to fallen tree on power line. Tree was cleaned up & removed from road the following day
- Coordinated purchase & delivery of 2 storage containers located at Main lift station on Hancock Street. Containers will be used for additional storage space. Also, monitored installation of fence and gate at the front of property at same location.
- Obtained permission from Presbyterian church use their parking lot for additional parking during the week for city employees. to trim dead tree limbs hanging over city property and allow additional parking . Obtained quotes for removal. Monitored dead limbs being removed to prevent further damage to city owned property
- “Clean Up Day” was held Thursday, June11. Several items were picked up throughout the city.

City of Sparta, Georgia

Planning and Zoning Department

May–June 2026 Activity Report

Reporting Period: May–June 2026

1. John Chatman – Debris Cleanup

Property Address: 8664 Broad Street

Demolition cleanup activities resumed on June 12, 2026. Work is currently underway to complete the removal of remaining debris and finalize site cleanup operations.

2. Billy Reddick – Water Service Restoration

Property Address: 365 Spring Street

On June 12, 2026, the contractor retained by Mr. Reddick contacted City Hall regarding the installation of separate water meters for the property. The contractor advised that all required work would be completed by June 15, 2026, allowing for the restoration of water service upon verification of compliance.

3. Tripp-Hunter / Green Properties Development

Property Address: 1042 E. Hamilton Street

Development plans submitted for review are currently being evaluated for compliance with applicable City Ordinances, Health Department requirements, and Fire Department regulations. Approval will be contingent upon meeting all applicable standards and requirements.

4. Rocky's

Property Address: 31 Wiley Street

The plans submitted for this project were hand-drawn and do not meet the City's requirements for plan review and permitting. The property owner must submit professionally prepared and engineered construction plans for review. Upon receipt, the plans will be evaluated for compliance with City Ordinances, Health Department requirements, and Fire Department regulations. .

Plan Review Information

Property owners, developers, and entities within the City of Sparta, Georgia, may elect to utilize a third-party Certified Plan Reviewer for the review of building plans. Once plans have been reviewed and approved by a certified reviewer, they may be submitted to the City Planning and Zoning Department for final processing and consideration. In addition all applications must have all required documentation attached to be considered complete.

End of Report

Cedrick Moreland
Code Enforcement Officer