



CITY of POOLER
— GEORGIA —

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

January 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. | 100 US Highway 80 SW, Pooler, GA 31322

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Karen Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Karen Williams, Mayor
Wesley Bashlor, Councilmember
Michael Carpenter, Councilmember
Aaron Henry, Mayor Pro Tem
Tom Hutcherson, Councilmember
John Wilcher, Councilmember
Shannon Valim, Councilmember
Craig Call, City Attorney
Heath Lloyd, City Manager
Chris Lightle, Chief Finance Officer
Kiley Fusco, City Clerk

Absent:

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry introduced Reverend Dr. Nelle Bordeaux of Wesley Monumental, noting that she had recently received her Doctorate. Reverend Dr. Bordeaux gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Dr. Bordeaux led the pledge.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Karen Williams reminded those in attendance that the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on Monday, January 19. She also announced that the City of Pooler is excited to launch an art contest for elementary and middle school-aged children, ages 8–14, who reside in Pooler. Selected artwork may be featured in the City’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan update. The contest flyer and submission forms are available at www.pooler-ga.gov and on the City’s social media platforms. The submission deadline is February 2, 2026.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025

B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Jim N Nicks Management, LLC DBA Jim `n` Nick's Bar-B-Q at 147 Traders Way (Restaurant; Existing License, Change of Licensee)

C. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Aldi, Inc. (Georgia) FBA ALDI #89 at 152 Traders Way (Supermarket/Grocery Store; Existing License, Change of Licensee)

D. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Logans Roadhouse Enterprises, LLC DBA Logan's Roadhouse #522 at 220 Pooler Parkway (Restaurant; New License, Change of Ownership)

E. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Costco Wholesale Corporation DBA Costco Wholesale #1485 at 202 Mosaic Circle (Supermarket/Grocery Store; Existing License, Change of Licensee)

F. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Ruby Tuesday Operations, LLC DBA Ruby Tuesday #4274 at 110 Pooler Parkway (Restaurant; Existing License, Change of Licensee)

Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Conditional Use Request to Allow for Rental and Leasing Services Specifically for Golf Carts within the C-2 (Heavy Commercial) Zoning District at 1018 West US Highway 80, Suite 501 (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the request for consideration. The petitioner was present. Mayor Karen Williams opened and closed the public hearing without comment. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Conditional Use Request to Allow for Rental and Leasing Services Specifically for Golf Carts within the C-2 (Heavy Commercial) Zoning District at 1018 West US Highway 80, Suite 501, subject to the following conditions:

1. That there be neither outdoor parking, nor outdoor storage, of any carts/equipment

The petitioner verbally agreed to the conditions.

Motion to Approve with Stipulations; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

B. Variance Request from Appendix A, Article III, Section 27 – Zoning Buffer Requirements to Construct Stormwater Detention Facilities and Install Underground Storm Drainage Infrastructure within the Required 50-foot Buffer Along the Rear Property Line for a Proposed Multi-Building Commercial Development for Property Known as the Lanier Tract Located at 1323 East US Highway 80 (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the variance request for consideration. Petitioner Ben Wall and Engineer Greg Coleman were present. Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing, and members of the public Bryce Hudgins, Uma Nagaraj, Renee Higgins, Michael Maher, Debra Power, Latricia Brown, Jenny Watkins, John Boutwell, Lauren Werks, Alden Strandberg, and Kathy McIntosh commented. Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing, and Councilmember Michael Carpenter, upon review of the criteria, moved to deny the Variance Request from Appendix A, Article III, Section 27 – Zoning Buffer Requirements to Construct Stormwater Detention Facilities and Install Underground Storm Drainage Infrastructure within the Required 50-foot Buffer Along the Rear Property Line for a Proposed Multi-Building Commercial Development for Property Known as the Lanier Tract Located at 1323 East US Highway 80.

Motion to Deny; PASSED (4-3-0)

MOVER: Carpenter

SECONDER: Henry

AYES: Carpenter, Henry, Wilcher, Williams

NAYS: Bashlor, Hutcherson, Valim

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Major Subdivision Plan Approval for Forest Lakes Phase 13 Consisting of 54 Single-Family Residential Parcels

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the plan for consideration. Dillon Powell of Coleman Company was present on behalf of the petitioner. Councilmember John Wilcher, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Major Subdivision Plan Approval for Forest Lakes Phase 13 Consisting of 54 Single-Family Residential Parcels, subject to the following criteria:

1. The issuance of Certificates of Occupancy for dwelling units within Forest Lakes Phase 13 shall be contingent upon the completion of the Forest Lakes Access Road project, specifically the establishment of a secondary fire apparatus access road connecting the Forest Lakes Subdivision to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, in accordance with the International Fire Code (IFC), Appendix D, Section D107.
2. Notwithstanding the independent permitting of these projects, the completion of the secondary access road is a prerequisite for the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy for Forest Lakes Phase 13, as mandated by the City of Pooler to ensure compliance with life safety requirements.

The petitioner verbally agreed to the conditions.

Motion to Approve with Stipulations; PASSED (5-1-0)
MOVER: Wilcher
SECONDER: Bashlor
AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher
NAYS:

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public Cindy Fear commented.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember John Wilcher moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (6-0-0)
MOVER: Wilcher
SECONDER: Valim
AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher
NAYS:

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and are approved on this

_____ day of _____, _____.

CITY OF POOLER, GEORGIA

Karen L. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST

Kiley Fusco, City Clerk