



CITY of POOLER
— GEORGIA —

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

March 2, 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 Karen Williams gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Karen Williams led the pledge.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Karen Williams announced that the "Partner with Pooler to Plant a Tree for Free" event will take place on March 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pooler Recreation Complex. She also informed attendees that GDOT 2025 Congressional District 1 Update brochures are available on the table in the council chambers.

A. Comprehensive Plan Update Art Contest Winners

Rachale Lavoie, a member of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee, announced the 11 winners of the Kids Art Contest and presented certificates to those in attendance.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Workshop Minutes of February 17, 2026

B. City Council Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026

C. City Council Executive Session Minutes of February 17, 2026

D. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for BPR Savannah Airport Hotels, LLC DBA Element Hotel Pooler at 100 Davol Street (Hotel/Motel; New License)

Councilmember Wesley Bashlor moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

MOVER: Bashlor

SECONDER: Valim

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

NAYS:

VII. SPECIAL EVENTS

A. Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for St. Patrick's Shuttles on March 17, 2026, at 1565 Pooler Parkway

Mayor Karen Williams presented the event application for consideration. The petitioner was present. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to approve the Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for St. Patrick's Shuttles on March 17, 2026, at 1565 Pooler Parkway.

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

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Valim

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

NAYS:

B. Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for Pooler Juneteenth Celebration Run on June 19, 2026, at 200 Preston Stokes Drive

Mayor Karen Williams presented the event application for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry, petitioner, was present. Councilmember Michael Carpenter moved to approve the Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for Pooler Juneteenth Celebration Run on June 19, 2026, at 200 Preston Stokes Drive.

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

MOVER: Carpenter

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

C. Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for Pooler Juneteenth Festival on June 20, 2026, at 200 Tanger Outlets Boulevard

Mayor Karen Williams presented the event application for consideration. Herbert Singleton, petitioner, was present. Councilmember John Wilcher moved to approve the Special Event Permit Application (No Alcohol) for Pooler Juneteenth Festival on June 20, 2026, at 200 Tanger Outlets Boulevard.

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

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Valim

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

NAYS:

VIII. ORDINANCES, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance O2025-12.A – Tree Fund Ordinance Revisions (Second Reading)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the ordinance for consideration. Councilmember Wesley Bashlor moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance O2025-12.A – Tree Fund Ordinance Revisions.

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

MOVER: Bashlor

SECONDER: Henry

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

NAYS:

B. Ordinance O2025-05.A – Special Events (First Reading; Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the ordinance for consideration. Mayor Karen Williams opened and closed the public hearing without comment. Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance O2025-05.A – Special Events.

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

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Hutcherson

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

NAYS:

C. Ordinance O2025-12.C – Fire Hydrants (First Reading; Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the ordinance for consideration. Mayor Karen Williams opened and closed the public hearing without comment. Councilmember Tom Hutcherson moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance O2025-12.C – Fire Hydrants.

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

MOVER: Hutcherson

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

D. Ordinance O2026-01.B – Speed Zone Revisions (First Reading; Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the ordinance for consideration. Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing, and members of the public Latricia Brown and Abishek Seshappa commented. Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing, and Councilmember John Wilcher moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance O2026-01.B – Speed Zone Revisions.

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

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Bashlor

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

NAYS:

E. Resolution R2026-02.A – Appointment of a Director to the Pooler Development Authority

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the resolution for consideration. Member of the public Uma Nagaraj commented. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to approve Resolution R2026-02.A – Appointment of a Director to the Pooler Development Authority.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (5-1-0)

MOVER: Henry
SECONDER: Bashlor
AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim
NAYS: Wilcher

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone Six Parcels from R-1-A (One-Family Residential) to R-4 (Townhouses and Condominiums) to Allow for Marketing the Sale of the Property at 328 Old Pine Barren Road (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the amendment for consideration. Joyce Doonan was present on behalf of the petitioner to request postponement of the public hearing and action on the item. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to postpone the Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone Six Parcels from R-1-A (One-Family Residential) to R-4 (Townhouses and Condominiums) to Allow for Marketing the Sale of the Property at 328 Old Pine Barren Road until the April 6, 2026, City Council Meeting, with the petitioner to bear the cost of the public hearing readvertisement. The petitioner verbally agreed to the conditions.

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

B. Zoning Map Amendment to Remove the Two Existing Zoning Conditions That Were Previously Placed on the I-1 Zoning Approval of the Property, and Add Six New Zoning Conditions to Allow for the Establishment of Industrial Warehouse Buildings and a New Access Road at 200 Jesup Road (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the amendment for consideration, and Councilmember Wesley Bashlor recused himself. Harold Yellin and Kevin Forbes were present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing, and members of the public Greg Chafin, Holly Lewis, Latricia Brown, Gene Polk, Ian Jeffers, Christopher Box, Uma Nagaraj, Rez Ali, and Earl Davis commented. Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing, and Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to postpone the Zoning Map Amendment to Remove the Two Existing Zoning Conditions That Were Previously Placed on the I-1 Zoning Approval of the Property, and Add Six New Zoning Conditions to Allow for the Establishment of Industrial Warehouse Buildings and a New Access Road at 200 Jesup Road until the April 6, 2026, City Council Meeting with the petitioner to bear the cost of public hearing re-advertisement if a second hearing is required due to unresolved deficiencies in the current application. Harold Yellin verbally agreed to the conditions.

Motion to Postpone; PASSED (5-0-0)
MOVER: Henry
SECONDER: Carpenter
AYES: Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher
NAYS:

C. Conditional Use Request to Allow for a Multi-Use Development, Self-Storage Facility, and Assisted Living Facility for a 21-Acre Parcel at Merlot Lane and Cheval Lane (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the request for consideration. The petitioner was present. Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing, and members of the public Charles Archer and Uma Nagaraj commented. Mayor

Karen Williams closed the public hearing. Councilmember Michael Carpenter, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Conditional Use Request to Allow for a Multi-Use Development, Self-Storage Facility, and Assisted Living Facility for a 21-Acre Parcel at Merlot Lane and Cheval Lane, subject to the following conditions:

1. The site shall not have access from Pine Barren Road, other than any required for emergency access, except as part of any future curb cut on the extension of Cheval Lane.
2. The applicant shall work with the City in contributing to improvements for the Pine Barren and Pooler Parkway intersection.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (5-1-0)

MOVER: Carpenter

SECONDER: Bashlor

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Henry, Hutcherson, Valim

NAYS: Wilcher

D. Site Development Plan Approval for a Childcare Facility at 500 East Marketplace Way

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the site plan for consideration. Laukik Patel, petitioner, was present. Councilmember Wesley Bashlor, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Site Development Plan Approval for a Childcare Facility at 500 East Marketplace Way.

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

MOVER: Bashlor

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

E. Site Development Plan Approval for a One-Story Commercial Building to Establish a Restaurant (The Chop House) at 200 Tanger Outlets Boulevard

City Manager Heath Lloyd presented the site plan for consideration. Travis Burke was present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Site Development Plan Approval for a One-Story Commercial Building to Establish a Restaurant (The Chop House) at 200 Tanger Outlets Boulevard.

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

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public Sami Strickland, Charles Archer, and Uma Nagaraj commented.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no further public business to conduct, Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Henry moved to enter Executive Session. Executive Session was entered at 8:29 p.m.

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

MOVER: Henry

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

Mayor Karen Williams called the meeting back to order at 8:57 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wesley Bashlor moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

MOVER: Bashlor

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 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