



CITY OF TOCCOA
CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES • FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Regular Meeting

City Commission/Court Room

5:00 PM

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Hellenga called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Reverend Paul Garrison.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Evan Hellenga	Mayor	Present	
Michelle Jamieson	Vice-Mayor	Present	
Ron Matheson	Commissioner	Present	
Terry Carter	Commissioner	Present	
Gail Fry	Commissioner	Present	
Fredda O. Wheeler	City Manager	Present	
Beth Rider	City Clerk	Present	

Attorney Jay Doss was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michelle Jamieson, Vice-Mayor
SECONDER:	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
AYES:	Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

I. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michelle Jamieson, Vice-Mayor
SECONDER:	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
AYES:	Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2026 Planning Meeting
- B. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2026 Commission Meeting

REPORTS

Commissioner Matheson reported last week he attended the City Employee lunch; in early February Commissioner Matheson attended the DDA meeting. Commissioner Matheson thanked Public Works Director Randy Smith for getting a company to re-stripe Doyle Street between Alexander and Pond Streets. The parking spaces are now regulation size and we have motorcycle spots, it was very much needed.

Commissioner Carter stated he would like to recognize and honor former Mayor L.J. Harrison, our community has lost a legend, he gave so much to the community and we appreciate his sacrifice over the years and service to the Community. Commissioner Carter read an excerpt from his obituary. Commissioner Carter reported from the Chamber of Commerce, there will be a Town Hall Meeting Monday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m. regarding the upcoming election. The meeting will be held at the Tugaloo Center at the High School Campus. Commissioner Carter gave an update on the chair replacement at the Ritz Theatre. Commissioner Carter stated it will be late March or early May before the seats will be installed.

Commissioner Carter gave an update on the Ritz Theatre addition, streets will be closed beginning first week of March until the end of November or first of December. The Bond financing will be finalized this week and should close on Thursday.

Commissioner Carter stated he sent an email regarding Milestone Towers, with whom we have an existing land lease with at Alewine Park. They are looking to see if we have interest in partnering on other City properties. One that was obvious, we have an existing tower lease with a TV tower above Lake Toccoa, it already has a tower and may be something to explore; the other one is above Patterson Pump we have a water tower up there and may be a natural place. Commissioner Carter stated he was looking for feedback so he could get back to Milestone Towers if there is any interest.

Mayor Hellenga stated we can get to that at the next meeting.

Commissioner Fry reiterated what Commissioner Carter stated regarding Mr. Harrison stating not only was Mr. Harrison well known in the City, he was a well-known educator, he left a legacy. Commissioner Fry stated she has always heard "you preach your own funeral while you are living" and Mr. Harrison did and what a great day it was.

Commissioner Fry reported she attended Keep Toccoa-Stephens County Beautiful meeting they will be sponsoring a Yard of the Month, and will be doing a Butterfly Garden at the Depot.

Mayor Hellenga stated when he looks at the back wall there were a lot of history and influential men and women who carved the path for the City of Toccoa. Mr. Harrison was quite a leader and so much history back there it is overwhelming at times.

Mayor Hellenga reported he attended the Humane Shelter meeting on February 17th, the shelter is a bit overcrowded; the shelter is working on the budget for the next fiscal year. Mayor Hellenga reported the shelter stats had 100 intakes in January, 59 adoptions, 5 return to owners, 100 animals transferred out, 20 euthanized and 3 died for a live release rate of 89% which is exceptional.

Mayor Hellenga reported on February 18th he attended the Development Authority meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

- C. Proclamation for Toccoa Masonic Lodge 309 150Th Anniversary

Mayor Hellenga presented a Proclamation to the Toccoa Masonic Lodge 309 for their 150th Anniversary. Mayor Hellenga welcomed

RESULT: PRESENTATION

D. Proclamation for Black History Month

Mayor Hellenga read the Black History Proclamation and proclaimed February as Black History Month.

RESULT: PRESENTATION

E. Consideration of FY27 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Fry to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 budget calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Terry Carter, Commissioner
SECONDER: Gail Fry, Commissioner
AYES: Hellenga, Jamieson, Matheson, Carter, Fry

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Recognition of Visitors Wishing to Speak on General Items. **(Limit 3 Minutes)**

Commissioner Fry reminded everyone the TAM's will be at the Ritz Theatre on Saturday Night.

V. ADJOURN

Mayor Hellenga adjourned the regular meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Evan J. Hellenga

Mayor
Beth Riden

City Clerk

