



**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING  
4040 SOUTH BERKELEY LAKE ROAD  
BERKELEY LAKE, GEORGIA 30096  
FULL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 11, 2025**

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## **ATTENDANCE**

**Mayor: Lois Salter**

**Council Members: Barbara Geier, Scott Lee, Chip McDaniel, and Rebecca Spitler**

**City Officials: Leigh Threadgill - City Administrator, Dick Carothers – City Attorney**

**Members of the Public: 13**

**Members of the Press: 0**

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Salter called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. A quorum of council members was in attendance.

Salter took a moment before proceeding with the business on the agenda, to introduce the new precinct commander and his lieutenant who made time to be here tonight. Eric Penn has already been and visited with our staff and he's here and wants to speak to you for just a couple of minutes.

Salter acknowledged Eric Penn.

Eric Penn introduced himself and stated he has been with the Gwinnett County Police Department for 27 years and is being appointed Precinct Commander of the West Precinct on December 20. He is enthusiastically excited about the challenges that he faces coming down to the West Precinct. He is currently assigned as the watch commander of the North Precinct near the Mall of Georgia.

Penn continued, "What you should expect from me and the officers of the West Precinct moving forward is to reduce crime and improve community relations. I want to pick up where Major Griffin left off and will reduce crime and improve community relations within the City of Berkeley Lake. I started policing in 1998 and was assigned at Central Precinct which is near this area. It has changed a lot, and I haven't been down here in twenty years. This City is a special place, and I look forward to working here and want to continue the great job that Major Griffin

has done. I want you to feel confident that the staff and I are going to be attentive to your needs. I know what it takes to keep a community safe. I have a proven track record from the cities of Buford, Sugar Hill and Dacula. This place is special. There isn't a lot that goes on here, and I want to keep it that way. That is my promise to you. Penn asked if there were any questions."

Salter thanked the Precinct Commander and noted the great job that they do and acknowledged the city likes to support them in return with things like back-to-school supplies and Christmas toy drives.

Penn introduced lieutenant John Cleland who is the watch commander of the West Precinct.

Penn stated that he also plans to attend the council meeting in January.

He noted his office is at 6160 Crescent Drive, which is the office where all the West Precinct officers work from. They are well staffed.

## **AGENDA**

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Salter solicited a motion regarding the agenda.

**Lee made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Spitler seconded the motion. All council members were in favor and the motion passed.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

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Salter noted that there are no public hearings tonight.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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Salter noted the following as items on the consent agenda and solicited a motion:

- a) Minutes of November 20, 2025, Council Meeting
- b) Minutes of November 20, 2025, Council Work Session
- c) Financial Statements of October 2025 – Unaudited

**Geier made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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- a) O-25-259 – 2026 Proposed Budget

Threadgill: O-25-259 is the proposed budget for 2026. This measure as presented anticipates no increase in the real property tax millage rate for 2026 over the rollback rate for 2025. The measure is presented for adoption.

**Spitler made a motion to adopt O-25-259, an ordinance to establish the budget for the year 2026, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes. Geier seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**b) O-25-260, Amendment to Section 46-2, Discharge of Weapons**

Threadgill: Following the City Attorney's recent review of state law relating to hunting, staff prepared O-25-260, an amendment to Section 46-2 of the Berkeley Lake Code of Ordinances to allow the discharge of bows in certain situations in compliance with state law. The ordinance is up for second read and adoption.

**McDaniel made a motion to place O-25-260, an ordinance to amend Section 46-2 regarding discharging weapons, to repeal conflicting ordinances, to provide for an effective date and for other purposes on second read and adopt the measure. Lee seconded the motion.**

Spitler stated she isn't thrilled but knows we have to comport with state laws. She is concerned about the safety of our citizens and increased poaching in our city.

**All were in favor and the motion passed.**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Public Works: Waste Management Contract Addendum – 2026-2028 Services**

Threadgill: The current contract with Waste Management for both commercial and residential waste collection services expires at the end of the year. Under the current contract, there is an annual rate adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. The proposed contract amendment continues the practice of annual rate adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index with no additional change to rates and extends the term until December 31, 2028. I ask that you accept the addendum and authorize the Mayor to sign it subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

**Geier made a motion to accept the Amendment to the Exclusive Agreement for Services between Waste Management and the City of Berkeley Lake and authorize the Mayor to sign it subject to review and approval by the City Attorney. Spitler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**b) Intergovernmental Agreement with Gwinnett County for Tax Collection Services**

Threadgill: The city's agreement with Gwinnett County to bill and collect the city's taxes expires at the end of the year. Before you is an amendment to the agreement for the county to continue providing tax billing and collection services for a three-year term ending December 31, 2028, which includes a rate change from \$1.80/parcel to \$3.10/parcel. The annual cost for this service is increasing from \$2,594 to \$4,467. As outlined in the contract, the cost will substantially approximate the cost to the county of providing the service to the city. I ask that you accept the

agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign it subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

**Spitler made a motion to accept the First Amendment to Agreement for Ad Valorem Tax Billing and Collection and authorize the Mayor to sign it subject to review and approval by the City Attorney. McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Salter noted that she wanted to comment before opening for public comment. She thanked Scott and Barbara noting this is their last meeting as city council members and both of them have worked long and hard in our community, not just for our city, but for the community itself in various other ways.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Scott served multiple terms on the Berkeley Lake Homeowners Association in roles as President, Vice-President, Security, and Events Chairman. For many years he has provided patriotic music for our city's annual 4th of July parade and helped orchestrate the kids' games afterward. He has always been generous in providing support and music for community events, and has helped with our city's memorial flags and crosses honoring veterans. Scott has continued to serve as Council's liaison to the BLHA and held our city's board position for the SW Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

Like Scott, Barbara served on her homeowner association's board in Berkeley Walk for a number of years and was a member of their Covenants Committee. She was an officer of the Chapel board for 5 years, serving as their secretary. She led a successful initiative to rewrite the Chapel by-laws, led a group to completely redo the Chapel website and was instrumental in accomplishing a number of fencing and electrical improvements for the Chapel property. As a Master Gardener she helped maintain the flower gardens around the Chapel property and currently leads a team that created and maintains a pollinator garden at BL Elementary School, writing and submitting annual grants that fund it. Before her time on Council, Barbara served on our city's Planning & Zoning Commission.

Salter concluded by saying, "I very much appreciate all the efforts of these two very generous public servants, for our city and for the larger community. I know they will continue to find ways to serve."

Chip McDaniel stated "I would like to personally thank these council members for all the work they've done over the years. Scott always shows up volunteering for anything and everything that needs to be done, not just as a city council member. Sixteen years is well over 100 council meetings and countless BLHA meetings. It's also been great to have met and worked with Barbara over the past year."

Bill Lacy, 147 Lakeshore Drive, stated he has worked with both of these people in various capacities and echoes what has been said. They have gone above and beyond.

Clay Keller, 20 Lakeshore Drive, thanked both for all their efforts and leadership.

Becky Kaffezakis, 490 Lakeshore Drive, speaking on behalf of herself and George, shared how much they appreciated all that these two have done for city council. George worked with Barbara on the Planning & Zoning Commission, and they've known Scott for over 20 years. She thanked them for their service.

Lesley Pendleton, 385 Lakeshore Drive, noted that she is here to say thank you to Barbara and Scott. She spoke about Barbara's contributions not only to city council but also for her contributions to the pollinator garden at BLES. During Covid, while displaced from her office, Pendleton noted how especially grateful she was for the pollinator garden. She enjoyed looking out her window every day at the beautiful blossoms. Pendleton thanked Geier for her service to the city.

Pendleton continued, "Scott, you have the gift of gab. You have the very best stories and are never at a loss for words, well, maybe the right words. It was challenging for me to think about a word that I would use to describe you, but it would be generous. Scott is enormously generous with his talent, his resources, and especially his time. There have been many, many times I have pressed him into DJ services whether at fundraisers or birthday parties, many a Halloween party, but especially for events at the elementary school. My favorite event was our end of year bash in the spring of 2020 right in the throes of Covid when we were trying to make school work. We piled into Scott's basement in masks and had the most awesome end of year dance party over zoom with literally hundreds of children. We sang and we danced, and we forgot that the world was turned upside down and we didn't know when it would be right side up again. Many of the families at the school didn't have much connection with the city, didn't even know there was a lake here. When Scott came to the school to DJ events, he was an ambassador for the city and knitted the city and school communities together. Thank you, Scott, for your many years of official service as a member of city council but most especially for your generosity of time and spirit. Whether you play Son of a Preacher Man or the Cupid Shuffle, you will always be my favorite DJ and one of my favorite humans."

John Pendleton, 385 Lakeshore Drive, noted it's hard to follow Lesley. He continued, "I have lived here 21 years. A few things were apparent about Scott right away. He has deep roots in Berkeley Lake and intended to serve the community. It was obvious to me from the beginning. He's been on council or BLHA the whole time I've lived here, but that's been a small fraction of the contributions he's made. Once I got to know him it became clear that Kay was the brains of the operation and that he was slavishly devoted to her. Whenever I showed up at a

get together, Scott was usually always there or was running home to get a connector and would be right back. I have an indelible image of Scott leading the July 4<sup>th</sup> parades with all those speakers bungeed to Kay's car coming down the way here. Here's the thing. Scott participates. He doesn't think government is something someone else does. What Scott knows is that we are the government ourselves. It's not a spectator sport or some abstraction or something we can make jokes at or target. He cares and rolls up his sleeves just like you - Lois, Rebecca, Chip and Barbara. And I want to thank all of you. This wonderful little city that we live in owes all of you a great debt. Since Lesley indicated that you are a great ambassador for the City, I will henceforth call you Ambassador Lee. Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much. And I've been proud to call you friend."

Spitler expressed her appreciation for Scott and Barbara and how much she enjoyed getting to know them both as partners on the city council. She continued "I didn't get to know you, Barbara, until you were on the planning and zoning commission, and I've really valued growing our friendship and getting to know you and working with you in a professional environment. Scott, you've heard it all from everyone else and ditto on all of that. I'll miss working with both of you but thank you very much."

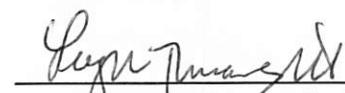
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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**There being no further business to discuss, Lee moved to adjourn. Geier seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Salter adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Submitted by:

  
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Leigh Threadgill, City Clerk

