



City of Kingston
30 West Main St., Kingston, GA 30145
COUNCIL MEETING – CITY HALL
August 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers in Attendance: Mayor Michael McFarland, Mayor Pro Tem Payton Silvers, Councilman Reggie Applin, Councilwoman Patresha Northgraves, Councilwoman Kate Posey.

Staff in Attendance: Kelly Ensley, City Clerk, Chief TJ Sosebee, Sargeant Jonathan Cordell, Officer Mason Ferrel, Officer Chris Barnes, Kevin Cardinal, Community Development, and Charlie Pecchio, Finance Committee

Attendees: Twelve (12)

The Regular Session Meeting for August 20, 2026, Mayor Michael McFarland called meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Payton Silvers

Presentation

- Mayor formally thanked Patrol Officer Mason Farrel for his service and commitment to the police force and community.
- The council recognized and thanked Sargeant Jonathan Cordell for 5 years (plus prior part-time service) Of leadership, integrity, and public service; well-wishes were offered for his future.

Sign in to Speak-No one signed in

Approval of Minutes

- Patresha Northgraves made a motion to approve May 26, 2026, work session and Council meeting minutes for June 1, 2026. Kate Posey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda

- Patresha Northgraves made a motion to add first read of the Zoning Ordinance amendment Payton Silvers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DDA Report

- DDA update noted active event schedule and preparations with marketing and entertainment support.
- The Kiddy Car Show (Kingston Kiddy Car Show) is scheduled August 22, 3:00-8:00 PM with live bands (Donny Hammonds Band, No Chaser), strong advertising, and fast-moving vendor slots.
- Event included adult car prize categories and a kids category, a parade component for bikes, scooters

Assisted by Summary AI

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or facilities are required to contact the ADA Coordinator at 770-336-5905 promptly to allow the city to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

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- and power-wheels will be included.
- Merchandise is available and orders can be placed now.
- Planning is also underway for Trunk or Treat (Oct 17) and the Christman/winter event; DDA is actively seeking trunks, volunteers and sponsors.
- Outlook: DDA expects a high-impact season and asked council and community to help recruit trunk vendors, volunteers and sponsors.

Unified Zoning Board proposal of rezoning application Z-26030; The applicant Kingston Downtown, LLC, 51 West Main Street.

- Jeanette Perkins-Graves of the Unified Zoning Board met July 30 and recommended changing the parcel zoning from C-1 (downtown commercial, requested by applicant) to C-N (commercial neighborhood) from R-1 (Residential Single Family). A favorable zoning-board recommendation to change from R-1 to C-N.

Review, select and approve Employee Insurance for 2027

- Council reviewed insurance options and cost deltas across plan designs; discussion focused on deductibles and ancillary benefits.
- Payton Silvers made a motion to retain the \$500 deductible option and add on Employee Assistance Program (EAP) priced at \$1.85 per employee per month.
- The EAP was described as covering mental health, financial and caregiver guidance, childcare/eldercare coordination, and other support services to increase employee well-being. Patresha Northgraves seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

First Read of Zoning Ordinance Amendment

- First reading covered ordinance text additions including the formal definition of "data center" (technology/information systems, hosting, processing, storage, related services).
- The amendment adds data centers to the use table: permitted in A-1 (agricultural) and L-1 with a special use permit where applicable; related A-1 district rules and lot/height/setback standards were also read.
- Council discussed potential complications for subdivision/development and noted possible need for development agreements and community benefits language to avoid past subdivision issues.
- Decision path: ordinance is on first reading and will move to the next meeting; council requested the draft be returned to the city attorney for additional drafting and to incorporate any added testing/conditions prior to final consideration.

Mayor, Council Comments

- Mayor McFarland thanked council members and staff, noted the team effort to advance community initiatives.

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Adjournment

-Payton Silvers made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30 pm. Patresha Northgraves seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael McFarland, Mayor

Kelly L. Ensley, City Clerk

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