

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Graham Reiney, Mayor Pro Tem
Michael Smith, Commissioner
Luis Suazo, Commissioner

Members Absent: Lyda Steadman, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney
Karina Reyna, City Clerk
Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry Branch, Deputy Chief of Police
Brittany Marmol, Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Marcel Jackson, Director of Public Works, Parks and Sanitation
Ellen Powell, Creative, Marketing & Communications Director
Adriana Holt, Senior Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Isabella Salazar, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to adopt the meeting agenda. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Luis Suazo stated that although he had not yet completed the Centennial Celebration survey, he had reviewed the survey on his phone and planned to complete it that evening. He encouraged everyone to do the same.

Commissioner Michael Smith stated that he was very pleased with the work being done at the Dewey Brown Plaza, particularly the clearing of the bushes, which has made the monument visible, and he thanked Public Works for their continued efforts in beautifying the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney thanked the Police Department and Public Works Department for their efforts during the weekend winter storm, noting that the city fared well and thanked staff for being out on the roads and supporting the community.

Mayor Jonathan Elmore also thanked those who were present during the ice storm, expressing relief that everyone remained safe, and noted that he had no additional comments.

City Manager Updates:

City Manager stated that he was returning after being ill with the flu since the previous meeting and reminded everyone that it is still important to get a flu shot.

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Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Michael Smith motioned to approve the following meeting minutes:
January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026 Work Session Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Atlanta Regional Commissioner Green Communities Recognition

The Mayor introduced a guest from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) regarding Green Communities recognition. Crystal Jackson, Planning Manager for Climate and Sustainability at ARC, presented information on the Green Communities program, a voluntary certification program established in 2009 to recognize and encourage sustainability efforts by local governments in metro Atlanta.

Ms. Jackson noted that the City of Avondale Estates began participating in the program approximately two years ago, worked through the required policies, programs, and documentation, and achieved Bronze-level Green Communities certification. She highlighted several sustainability initiatives undertaken by the City, including environmental resiliency requirements for new development, a year-round farmers market, recycling and reuse programs, a curbside compost pilot project, and the Northwoods at Lake Avondale Rain Gardens project. She congratulated the City and presented the Bronze certification, noting the City's intention to pursue Silver-level certification in the future.

The Board thanked Ms. Jackson and ARC for their recognition as well as staff for their efforts. Mayor Elmore emphasized the City's commitment to building a sustainable community. Commissioner Luis Suazo also noted the extensive documentation required for certification and recognized the significant achievement given the City's small staff size compared to other participating jurisdictions.

Consideration of a Resolution Approving a Multi-Year Audit Services Agreement with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

The City Manager expressed appreciation for the firm's professionalism, timely performance, and respectful working relationship with staff, and noted that the proposed costs reflect minimal increases and average less than the original contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to adopt a Resolution Approving a Multi-Year Audit Services Agreement with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

First Read of an Ordinance to Establish a Franchise Agreement with Google Fiber

City Manager Patrick Bryant noted that the Georgia Municipal Association consults with municipalities on these agreements, and this agreement follows standard practices for

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similar cities. He explained that Google Fiber infrastructure will provide additional competition and reliable, high-speed internet service for residents.

City Manager Bryant highlighted that Google Fiber will primarily use existing infrastructure, including pre-existing poles, to minimize disruption and reduce costs. The agreement also includes provisions requiring the franchisee to repair any damage to utilities or public infrastructure caused during any installation. The Board discussed the agreement, noting that installation is intended to be above-ground unless city code or ordinances require otherwise, and emphasized the potential benefits of offering an additional utility option to residents. Members expressed support for increased competition and lower internet rates. No vote was taken, as this was the first reading.

Consideration of an Agreement with Groundtech LLC for debris clean up at Lake Avondale

The Mayor introduced a contract between the City of Avondale Estates and Groundtech LLC in the amount of \$29,873 for work on the Lake Avondale Rehabilitation Project, which is part of the city's capital program.

City Manager Patrick Bryant provided additional context, noting that this project represents the first step in improving the lake's appearance and functionality. He stated that Groundtech LLC is a trusted contractor with a successful track record on City projects, including work at Fletcher Park and at the Dewey Brown Plaza. City Manager Bryant expressed confidence in the contractor's ability to complete the cleanup efficiently and effectively, ensuring quality results for the community. No further questions or comments were raised.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to approve an Agreement with Groundtech LLC for debris clean up at Lake Avondale. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute Documents Necessary to Invest in the Georgia Fund 1 Account

City Manager Patrick Bryant explained that each new Georgia Fund 1 account requires a resolution from the governing board. While the City already invests some funds in Georgia Fund 1, this resolution establishes an additional account specifically for SPLOST funding. City Manager Bryant noted that creating this account allows the City to earn additional interest on these funds, which can be reinvested back into City operations and projects.

Commissioner Michael Smith motioned to adopt a Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute Documents Necessary to Invest in the Georgia Fund 1 Account. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Public Comment

1. Jeff – 3222 Wynn Dr

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2. Kathy Kingsbury – 817 Stratford Rd

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Karina Reyna, City Clerk