

CITY COUNCIL
LESLIE MCPHERSON, MAYOR
STEPHANIE WARMOTH MAYOR PRO TEM
SHIRLEY MARCHMAN
MATTHEW MOMTAHAN
TYLER L. BARR
DOMINIQUE CONTEH

City of Villa Rica

INTERIM CITY MGR: JENNIFER HALLMAN
CITY CLERK: THERESA CAMPBELL
CITY ATTORNEY: NICOLE SMITH

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VILLA RICA, GA 30180 |
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Holt-Bishop Justice Center, 101 Main Street
Tuesday, July 14, 2026 | 6:00 pm

Meeting Call to Order (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

Mayor Leslie McPherson called the meeting to order

Present: Mayor Leslie McPherson, Councilwoman Shirley Marchman, Councilman Matthew Momtahan, Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth, Councilman Tyler L. Barr and Councilwoman Dominique Conteh

Invocation was led by City Clerk Theresa Campbell

Pledge of Allegiance was led Ofc. Rebekkah Morrell

Ceremonial Presentations

- Police Department Annual Report Dedication to Danny Carter
- Certificate of Achievement- Matthew Momtahan

Public Comment (We ask that you sign in for Public Comment before the meeting begins. Please state your Name and Address for the record and limit your comments to three minutes.)

Peg Taylor- mentioned Kelly Silva and wants her to be involved with Cultural Arts Center.

Kelly Silva- has met with Brecca Carter and has compassion for youth and W. Ga. She wants to help grow the arts and be part of the Cultural Arts Center.

Amanda Gikes- Spoke in favor of Kelly Silva and how she is a talent agent and they have worked together for years.

Victoria Brum-read from a prepared speech, supporting Cultural Arts Center and Kelly Silva

Robert Webber-Mentioned wanting Hannukah decorations downtown.

Kim Hargrave- in support of Cultural Arts Center as she believes the City needs a place to have productions.

Roderick Dobbs- questioned how many people in the meeting are hearing impaired and read from a prepared speech, mentioning the Constitution and the first 2 Ten Commandments, and that the City is not ADA compliant.

Charles Palmer- he mentioned he writes for Villa Rica News and Views, and he supports Kelly Silva and the Cultural Arts Center. He commends the Council for wanting a Center.

Julie Stratton- supports Kelly Silva and the board she has developed. She believes a creative arts center could be profitable.

Aleta Farmer- City should have an Arts program, Villa Rica has over 20+ properties and less affordable housing. She mentioned the City keeps buying property and questioned why Anderson Cleghorn is not mentioned in the Hazard Mitigation plan.

Vanessa Powell- addressed the Mayor and mentioned development over safety is not leadership. She is disappointed and has lived here for 62 years. She does not understand how the Council sleeps at night. A road should not come just for dogs and golf carts.

Lisa Conner- she mentioned the City owns 87 properties not 20+ and listed several properties and the amount they were purchased for. She questioned what the use is for the properties.

Scott Shivers- questioned the Council about a specific property and how his home was sold with forged documents.

Josh Evans- he mentioned he has health problems and will no longer be coming to public comment. He is moving to Cartersville and told the Council to ride their wards and check for trash. He claims the Mayor called him and told him to erase his messages and he wished everyone the best of luck.

Ken Denney- mentioned being the former PIO and in late May 2024 a Council member no longer on Council asked him to prepare a report and presented the report to each of the Council at the time. That report was never made public, and the Mayor called the report "propaganda". He had a 50+ year professional career and never once produced propaganda. He mentioned the public relations contract on the agenda for \$35,000 per month and he did the job as the City's PIO for 32,000 per year.

Pam Whyte- mentioned a statement Mark Teal made during the work session. She denied the claim was ever said by anyone in her community. She wants accurate information put out and seeks accountability. She mentioned Jennifer Hallman and Mark Teal working together in Douglas County.

Council Updates (Subjects of General Interest and Concern)

Councilwoman Conteh thanked everyone for the Juneteenth Celebration especially, Karina and Tracie and all involved with making the event great. She thanked the citizens that participated and mentioned the GMA Conference she attended. She thanked the Council for supporting the Juneteenth celebration and looks forward to next year's event. She is having a town hall on August 6, from 6:30-7:30 pm for Ward 5

Councilwoman Warmoth mentioned the Juneteenth celebration and thanked staff. She had a prior engagement and could not attend but saw photos and it looked like a great time. She gave a shout out to staff for July 3rd. She loved seeing the passion for the Arts during public comment and believes Kelly Silva will be fantastic for the center.

Councilwoman Marchman mentioned the Thomas Dorsey Festival and how it has been an event for 32 years, and though it was not as well attended as the Juneteenth event, it was still an amazing time. She thanked everyone who has continuously supported the event.

Councilman Momtahan mentioned he has gratitude for staff and citizens who participated in the July 3rd event.

Councilman Barr thanked staff for all their hard work and dedication for all the events. He supports the Arts and mentioned attending GMA Conference and recognized Matthew Momtahan for receiving his awards.

Mayor McPherson mentioned July 3rd and the country's 250th birthday, and the veteran's that were recognized. She mentioned Tracie, Karina, grounds maintenance and the building department. She also mentioned a few sponsors, Caliber 1, Peach State Trucking, Sunbelt, Graddick Communications and Ingles. She also thanked Jay Collins for allowing the City to use his logo.

Adoption of the Agenda (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

Councilwoman Shirley Marchman moved to approve the agenda as presented

RESULT:	ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
AYES:	Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

Consent Agenda (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

The Consent Agenda is a single item that encompasses all things the City Council would normally approve with little comment. Each of these items were discussed at the Council Work Session, and it was the unanimous consensus of the Governing Body to place the following items on the Consent Agenda.

1. Adoption of Carroll County Hazard Mitigation Agreement
2. Approval of the Intergovernmental Lighting Agreement between Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Villa Rica
3. Payment of excess interest (positive arbitrage) on 2021 SPLOST Bonds totaling \$35,6289.72
4. FY26 Budget Amendments #139-146

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

RESULT:	ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
AYES:	Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

A. Governing Body (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

1. Mayoral Appointment- Phil Blair, Housing Authority
2. Resolution for Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan for a Proposed Villa Rica Community Arts Center at 206 North Ave.

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth moved to approve the resolution authorizing the City to conduct a feasibility study and develop a conceptual plan for the adaptive reuse of the City-owned property located at 206 North Avenue as the proposed Villa Rica Community Arts Center (parcel ID V0S-0030012, +/- .2S ACRES); directing staff to present its findings, recommendations and implementation plan to the Mayor & Council for final approval and providing for related matters.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Dominique Conteh, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

3. Approval of June 2, 2026, Work Session Minutes and June 9, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth moved to approve the minutes as presented.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

4. Parade and Public Assembly Ordinance

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth moved to remove item until further notice.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Dominique Conteh, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

B. Community and Economic Development (Brecca Carter, Director)

1. ABL-05-26 Chevron Commerce Dr. LLC-Retail Package Malt Beverages and Wine and Public Hearing

No one came forward for public hearing

Councilwoman Dominique Conteh moved to approve the alcohol license application for

Chevron Commerce Dr. LLC located at 157 Commerce Dr., Villa Rica, GA 30180.

RESULT: **ADOPTED**
MOVER: Dominique Conteh, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh
NAYS: Marchman

2. ABL-0626 KAZ786 LLC-Retail Package Malt Beverages and Wine and Public Hearing

No one came forward for public hearing

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth moved to the alcohol license application for KAZ786 LLC located at 408 Rockmart Rd., Villa Rica, GA 30180.

RESULT: **ADOPTED**
MOVER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Dominique Conteh, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh
NAYS: Marchman

C. Public Works, (Josh Smith, Director)

1. Sidewalk Projects 2026

Councilwoman Stephanie Warmoth approve the unit prices submitted for a period of one (1) year, award the downtown sidewalks project to DAF Concrete based on the unit prices submitted at a total cost of \$252,200 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager to sign all documents after legal review.

RESULT: **ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER: Stephanie Warmoth, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

D. Finance (Amanda Long, Interim Director)

1. Financial Update- June 2026

Interim Finance Director Amanda Long provided an update via PowerPoint Presentation

E. City Manager (Interim City Manager, Jennifer Hallman)

1. Strategic Communications Proposal

Councilman Tyler Barr moved to approve the extension of the existing for 2.5 additional months and authorize the Financial Committee and the Haley Communication Group to renew and develop a strategic communication proposal for 2026/ 2027.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Tyler Barr Councilman
SECONDER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

E. Executive Session (Nicole Smith, City Attorney)

Councilman Matthew Momtahan moved to enter Executive Session meeting to discuss or vote to enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(E) at 9:09 PM

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
SECONDER: Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Barr, Conteh

Councilwoman Shirley Marchman moved to return to Regular Session at 9:43 PM.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh

Councilman Matthew Momtahan moved to approve the purchase of Parcel # V050150044

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
SECONDER: Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Barr, Conteh

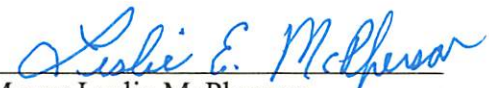
Adjournment (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

Councilwoman Shirley Marchman moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilman Matthew Momtahan and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Leslie McPherson adjourned the meeting.

RESULT: ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Shirley Marchman, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Matthew Momtahan, Councilman
AYES: Momtahan, Marchman, Warmoth, Barr, Conteh


City Clerk Theresa Campbell




Mayor Leslie McPherson