



# CITY OF TOCCOA

## CITY COMMISSION

### MINUTES • FEBRUARY 27, 2025

**Regular Meeting**

**City Commission/Court Room**

**6:00 PM**

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm

### INVOCATION

Reverend Paul Garrison gave the Invocation.

### PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

### ROLL CALL

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Hellenga, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson

### I. CONSENT AGENDA

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Hellenga, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson

A. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2025 Commission Meeting

### REPORTS

Commissioner Jamieson reported Keep Toccoa-Stephens County Beautiful met and they are starting to do a clean up on Currahee Mountain. Commissioner Jamieson reported that Crystal Roesch is the new 4H Director for Stephens County. Commissioner Jamieson stated GDOT has

taken soil samples on the By-Pass to see about planting flowers for spring, the samples came back not as good as what they wanted them to be and will bump it into summer.

Vice-Mayor Hellenga gave an update on the Humane Shelter Stats; there were 145 intakes, 78 adoptions, 11 return to owner, 88 transferred, 17 euthanized, 1 died. The live release rate was 88%.

Commissioner Matheson reported on the Main Street Awards for the Downtown Merchants. Most Original Newcomer - The Farmer and The Butcher; Mainstreet Newcomer - Bearded Bean Coffee and Provision; Volunteer of The Year - Jeannie Nuey; Downtown Anchor - Troup's. Commissioner Matheson congratulated the winners.

Mayor Carter thanked Phoenix Carroll for taking care of a lot of things and doing a great job.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Third Public Hearing: Consideration to Opt Out of House Bill 581**

Attorney John Dickerson opened the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m. for the third Public Hearing for House Bill 581 for anyone that would like to make a comment or have any questions. No one spoke on HB 581, Attorney Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

Vice-Mayor Hellenga stated the property owners have spoken and they want and need Property Tax relief.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Fry to Opt-In to HB581. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Hellenga, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson

**C. Consideration of Tobacco and Vape Shop Ordinance**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fry, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve the first reading and schedule a Zoning Procedure Law Hearing to be held on March 24, 2025 and extend the Moratorium pending second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Hellenga, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson

**D. Consideration of Ordinance to Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Section for Designated Areas for Consumption During Special Events and for Other Purposes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Fry to amend the Alcohol Ordinance to allow alcohol in designated areas of Licensee holders property. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Mayor Hellenga opposed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Matheson, seconded by Mayor Carter to hold a second hearing on March 24, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [4 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson
<b>NAYS:</b>	Hellenga

E. Consideration of FY25 Rollout Purchase

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Fry to approve FY 2025 Rollout purchase from Otto. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Gail Fry, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Hellenga, Jamieson, Fry, Matheson

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Ms. Colleen Rich, 70 Felton Drive, Toccoa Ga - Ms. Rich discussed the Regency Apartments.

**V. ADJOURN**

Mayor Carter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:26 pm



*M. Carter*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor

*Beth Ruder*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Clerk